

Rocklands Parish Council (RPC)
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in Rocklands Village Hall
7.00pm on Monday 3 September 2018

Present: David Howie Chair
 Shirley Colenutt
 Cath Jones
 Ian Scholes
 David Witt
 Kim Austin Clerk
 William Smith District Councillor

Also present: 32 members of the public.

The meeting opened at 19:01.

1. To consider accepting apologies for absence

It was agreed to accept apologies from Cllr. Richard Harrison who was at a conference, Cllr. Nickie Southgate who had broken her collar bone and County Cllr. Ed Connolly.

2. To record declarations of interest from members in any items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To approve the minutes of the last council meeting on Monday 9 July 2018

The minutes that had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting were duly signed by the Chair, Cllr. David Howie.

4. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes (9 July 2018) not on the agenda.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. To adjourn the meeting for public participation

The meeting adjourned at 19.03 and opened to the public. David Jones said that he was dismayed at the pockets of ill-feeling that seemed to be developing in the village. He had been a councillor in the past and admired the Parish Councillors for all the work that they do. He hoped that at this meeting, people would step back and look at the bigger picture.

The meeting re-opened at 19.05.

6. To report on finance.

6.1 Financial position

The bank account balances as at Monday 3 September 2018

Barclays Community Account	£ 13357.21
Barclays Saver (Reserve) Account	£ 2330.13
TOTAL as per bank	£ 15687.34

Summary

RPC Rocklands Parish Council	£ 4102.08
RNP Rocklands Neighbourhood Plan (RG)	£ 200.60
Rocklands Play Park (KR)	£ 11384.66 (-£415 ex vat)
TOTAL as per bank	£ 15687.34

6.2 Money in since last meeting (9 July 2018)

3/9/2018 Barclays - Saver A/C Interest	£ 1.16
TOTAL IN	£ 1.16

Signed

Date

6.3 Cheques out (to sign)

CHQ 638	Earth Anchors Ltd. (Play Park) (£415.00/83.00)	£	498.00
CHQ 639	K&M Lighting 2 months maint. (Aug & Sept 2018)	£	27.56
	TOTAL OUT	£	525.56

VAT.

The Clerk has submitted a Vat return for £1993.88. The bulk of this is the vat element of the deposit paid for the play park equipment and the new bench and replacement dog poo bins bought by the Parish Council.

7. To consider planning applications (DH)

7.1 Planning outcomes since last meeting

3PL/2018/0486/HOU Randall/Appletree Lodge, Brays Lane/Extn. Bed, Dining, Garden room, Cart lodge (142). PERMISSION granted.

3PL/2018/0645/HOU Charville/Lark House, Bell Road/Single storey rear extn. (143)
PERMISSION granted.

3PL/2018/0203/O Ridgeon/Thieves Lane/6 self/custom builds (139) REFUSED.

7.2 Applications pending outcome

3PL/2018/0740/F Dunning/Model Farm, Chapel Street/1 new dwelling & upgrade access (144)

This application has been deferred to the Planning Committee.

7.3 New applications since last meeting

3PL/2018/0794/F Upstone/Foxhill Sandy Lane/Agri to 2 bed, cartshed (145)

The Councillors agreed unanimously they had NO OBJECTION to this application. The Clerk would post this comment on the Breckland planning website.

3PL/2018/0036/UC Douglas/Magna Lane, Magpie Lane/Agri to 2 dwellings (146)

The Councillors agreed unanimously they had NO OBJECTION to this application. The Clerk would post this comment on the Breckland planning website.

7.4 Planning enforcement issues:

Enforcement Order ENF-19-18-PAR erection of five pig rearing sheds at Peels Farm, Whitings Lane. The nearest residents are experiencing problems with noise and smell due to the sheds being erected closer to their properties than approved on the planning application. Under investigation by Breckland Planning and the Environment Agency.

Enforcement Order ENF-194-17-CAS to request occupier/Annison to vacate land off Mill Lane was issued from 1/10/217 - 1/7/2018. Ian Williamson is the officer dealing with this at Breckland Council. Apparently, an appeal against the refusal of planning application 3PL/2017/1225/F was registered on 22nd May 2018. Case Reference Number: 3203158, but as yet there is no information and no paperwork. This case has been referred to Breckland lawyers.

Cllr. Howie had received an email from Mr. Annison which he read out:

- 1. It would seem, from comments made in the September edition of The Rocklander, that Rocklands Parish Council is happy to continue to misinform/mislead villagers about (amongst other things) the actual siting of our planning application; Breckland Council's website quite clearly and correctly states that it is 'Land at Mill Lane' - it is not and never has been 'at the rear of The White Hart Public House'. Perhaps, you would have the courtesy to address this at tonight's Parish Council meeting.*
- 2. An appeal has, indeed been submitted and we have been given a reference number. I imagine that The Planning Inspectorate inform concerned bodies, on a 'need to know' basis.*

Signed

Date

Cllr. Howie apologised to Mr. Annison saying that the Parish Council would never knowingly misinform or mislead anybody, and they would make sure his name was spelt correctly when mentioned in the future.

8. To update on Chapel Green Meadow

Carolyn Emblen gave a report on behalf of the Chapel Green Committee:

We undertook the end of summer cut on Saturday 11th August. On behalf of the Management Committee I would like to thank our volunteers for their hard work on a very hot day. On the downside we suffered harassment once again. We have reported previous issues to the police and would be forced to report it again if it continues. It is such a shame that there is such discord when the overwhelming vote was to retain the meadow both for the enjoyment of the village and to support the environment. On the bright side, we spotted Common Blue Butterflies which are not now very common and Essex Blues which are now quite rare. The meadow includes nearly 50 species of native flowering plants, all typical of Norfolk meadows, including the common spotted and bee orchid. These flowers support many butterflies and bees which are vital to pollination.

We will continue to keep the meadow cut until the beginning of winter, but we do not have a mower at the moment that can deal with the uneven surface. If anyone has a spare mower with a grass box that they would like to donate to us we would be very grateful! We can be contacted via any member of the Parish Council.

Thanks to 2 of our committee members we have a lovely sign which is ready to be placed on the meadow which gives information about the types of flora and fauna that one might see on our meadow. This will be erected very shortly in accordance with the wishes of the Parish Council. Do take time to come and have a look.

Thinking ahead (and missing out winter) we expect to be removing non-native species as they come up once again next spring. These non-native species swamp out the natural meadow flowers and so it is important to eradicate them.

Finally, once again I would like to thank not only the volunteers on our meadow management committee but also other volunteers who give up their time come and help us manage the work on the meadow and of course the Parish Council for their support. Carolyn showed the new information board to the audience.

Cllr. Cath Jones thanked Carolyn and the team for all their hard work. The new board looked very nice, was vandal proof and could be easily updated with seasonal changes. Need to decide where it should be displayed.

Parking at Chapel Green. Traditionally it would have been horses and carts that were allowed to park there when visiting the Chapel to worship. The Chapel was sold over 20 years ago, and residents were allowed to use the area for temporary parking. It was never intended to be used as a permanent parking area. The sleepers currently in situ will be moved nearer to the road to allow domestic cars but not the larger commercial vehicles to park there. It was reported that even the mobile library van hasn't been able to park because the area has been full of domestic vehicles. A few extra sleepers will be added to fill the gaps between existing sleepers to prevent cars driving between them and parking on the green itself. A parking sign, perhaps saying 'Please Park Considerately' - Rocklands Parish Council, might do the job. If this doesn't work, then may have to consider no parking whatsoever. We will see if this works and discuss again.

9. To update on Hastoe (CAN) Housing survey &

10. To update on the Rocklands Neighbourhood Plan (RNP) & Local Plan (LP) - (RG)

Richard Golke (RG) gave a summary of the Housing Needs Survey carried out by Community Action Norfolk (CAN). The response rate was 27% (81 no.) - This was a little disappointing compared to the Rocklands Neighbourhood Survey (RNP) carried out in 2016.

The report concludes that '**No clear housing need was identified in the Housing Needs Survey**'.

Signed

Date

89% of respondents were in favour of continuing to adopt a policy of reflecting the views of the majority of residents in respect of planning applications that could adversely affect the traditional rural character of the parish or establish an unwelcome local planning precedent that might subsequently pave the way for larger housing development.

69% of respondents were in favour of a small development of affordable homes specifically for people with a local connection to the parish.

Only one respondent indicated a desire to relocate to an affordable home on the basis that their current home was not suitable (said to be retired, 65+ and living alone and not already on the local Housing Register).

Notwithstanding the final conclusion, the report still recommends that five affordable homes might be built in Rocklands - or adjoining parishes - to address local needs. However, it should be noted that 'local needs' includes for several other nearby areas. Currently two households in Rocklands are on the local Housing Register (i.e. applying for social housing) plus eight households in Gt. Ellingham, Scoulton, Shropham and Stow Bedon. The inference is that at least some of the five affordable homes built in Rocklands would need to be utilised by persons relocating from elsewhere.

Obviously, social housing is already being built as an integral part of larger developments in Attleborough, Gt. Ellingham and elsewhere (and in this context, the report records that 30 new housing association dwellings were started in Breckland during the year ending 31 March 2018) so it must be considered that the housing needs discussed above could conceivably be met via these other resources. A few other interesting statistics: Based on the 2011 census returns, 39% of Rocklands residents are under the age of 40 and 80% are under the age of 65 (so not a village of old foges !); average property price is given as £418, 333 based on three property sales in the last year; we have about double the number of detached homes in our parish than the average for the rest of Norfolk (74.5% versus 38.3%); our weekly household income is above the average for the rest of Norfolk (£650 versus £605) but below the average for England as a whole (£673).

In summary, there is no discernible need for affordable housing in the village. RG recommends that they do nothing further until the LP is in place. Then any houses built would contribute to the housing policy. RG will prepare a draft but still can't do anything useful until LP in place.

Hastoe had asked to come back to speak at a PC meeting but Cllr. Howie had delayed this, but may consider for a future PC meeting. The PC had been invited by Hastoe to look at a development in Newport.

District Councillor Bill Smith said the LP is still being reviewed and thinks it will not be implemented until the new year earliest. He has met the inspector who is very methodical.

The Housing survey and report can be viewed on the Rocklands website www.rocklands.org.uk

11. To update on Rocklands New Play Park

Cllr. Howie gave an update in Kirsty's absence. The play park was officially opened on 3 September 2018 with cakes and squash. It is being used a lot and is receiving good feedback. It is a delight to hear the children playing.

12. To update on Neighbourhood Watch

JB mentioned phone scams and said all should be wary of cold callers.

SNAP (Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel) are meeting on Thursday, so may get more information then. Next SNAP meeting will be attended by JB, DH, Al Bainbridge and highways. Cllr. Howie has a list of things to broach with Highways. Highways should be running the SNAP meetings and not the police who only run them because Highways are not present. Cllr. Howie will ask for speeding and parking and speed on bend in Chapel Street to be on the agenda.

13. To update on Highways

All pot holes have been reported. Mill Lane still blocked.

Signed

Date

14. Flooding

Not much rain recently so no problems. However, there had been a collapsed drain in Mill Lane. The 'wet patch' had been reported. Anglian water had visited to fix the leak in the rain so couldn't actually find the leak. Also, they couldn't find the stopcock as a sign had been placed on top of it. Road surface has been repaired.

15. To discuss any correspondence.

There was no correspondence.

16 AOB

Drones were reported in Chapel Street on Sunday, coming from the Bell Road direction. No idea what they were doing but it was suggested maybe Google street view ? There are lots of rules and regulations surrounding the use of Drones. Cllr. Howie said he could bring up at the SNAP meeting if anybody finds out who was flying them.

A recent cold snap meant the leaves had fallen and a resident had spotted **27 dog poo bags** in the hedges near Chapel Street.

Syringe. A hypodermic syringe had been found and reported to the police. Within 20 minutes, Breckland environmental had been to collect it.

17. Date of next Meeting

Monday 5 November 2018, 7pm, Rocklands Village Hall - Parish Council Meeting

The meeting closed at 19:51.

Signed

Date