

Rocklands Parish Council (RPC)
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in Rocklands Village Hall
7.00pm on Monday 8th September 2014

Present: David Howie Chair
 David Witt
 Shirley Colenutt
 Roger Steel
 Cath Jones
 Nicola Southgate
 Kim Austin Clerk

Also present: 1 member of the public.

1. To consider accepting apologies for absence

RESOLVED to accept apologies from Ian Scholes (Webmaster).

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 7th July 2014

An amendment had been made to the minutes following a call to the Clerk from Brian Reynolds who used to live in the village (and who still reads the Parish Council minutes!). Brian has confirmed that the paragraph headed *Glebe Cottage*, should read: *had stood empty for 3-4 years (NOT 30 - 40 years.)*. The Clerk had amended the minutes and re-circulated.

RESOLVED to approve, the amended minutes that had been circulated prior to the meeting as a true and accurate record of the meeting. The minutes were duly signed by the Chair, Cllr. David Howie.

4. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

5. To adjourn the meeting for public participation

Meeting adjourned at 7.07pm and opened to the public.

Cyril Ruffles reported that streetlight 9004 was out. The Clerk would report this to Pearce and Kemp to get it fixed.

The meeting re-opened at 7.08pm.

6. To report on Finance

6.1 Financial position

The bank account balances as at Monday 8th Sept 2014

Barclays Community Account	£ 2279.14
Barclays Saver (Reserve) Account	£ 702.14

TOTAL as per bank	£ 2,981.28
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6.2 Money in since last meeting

7/7 Dividend from Consolidated Stock	£ 0.28
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TOTAL IN	£ 0.28
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Signed

Date

6.3 Cheques out (to sign)

CHQ 527	M C Business Servs - Audit A/Cs Year 2103/2014 (From last meeting - no signatories present)	£	25.00
CHQ 528	Mazars - External audit fee for A/Cs 2013/2014	£	360.00

TOTAL OUT £ 385.00

End of year accounts & Mazars external audit.

Accounts audited by Michaela Canham. Invoice to pay for £25 (Pending signatories from last month) Signed off accounts now back from Mazars with a bill to pay of £360.

Both cheques were signed by Cllr. Nicola Southgate and Cllr. Roger Steel.

The bill for £360 from Mazars was discussed. This year's fee for Rockland's would have been Zero as income is below £10,000. The grants from Sport England have put Rockland's into the £50,001 - £100,000 bracket for fees for a second year. Discussion followed and it was agreed that the playing fields must pay their way and they shouldn't expect the Parish Council to pick up the bills. There were concerns about the amount of Parish Council precept that was being used for Accountancy audit/legal fees. It was agreed that the playing fields are a wonderful facility for the village. Now looking for grants to upgrade the children's' playground.

The Clerk confirmed that the accounts had been signed off by Mazars BUT there was one item that Mazars wanted drawn to the attention of the council. In 2013/2014 the Council received a precept of £4450 and paid at the same time was a council tax support element of £336. The Clerk had recorded these as a combined precept when in fact the £336 should NOT have been included in the precept box but instead should have been included in the other income box on the audit forms with grant money etc. No action required, but noted.

Sport England - Deed of Dedication.

Alison McCann at Fields in Trust has confirmed that she has obtained the necessary consent from their Trustees and has also agreed terms with Sport England for the two deeds to sit alongside each other. She said she would liaise with our solicitor Jackie Raggett direct.

Correspondence just received today. The Parish Council Solicitor confirmed that both parties are very difficult to deal with and said that if we received further grants in the future that required a Deed of Dedication, although not impossible, it may be difficult to add a third component. Sport England are still asking for a vast amount of in depth information!

Legal costs for Sport England Deed of Dedication

A draft completion statement had been received from our solicitors. The Clerk ran through the components that made up the solicitors bill of £639. The solicitors had agreed at the outset, costs of £300 plus vat. And although the costs had much overrun, they were honouring this quote. As three parcels of land were involved in the deed, there were 3 lots of Land Registry search fees @£3 and three lots of Land Registry registration fees @£90. Total £639.

It was suggested and agreed that a letter is sent from the Parish Council to the Playing Fields saying there would be a bill to follow and mentioning that the Parish Council believed there was an amount for legal fees included in the Sport England grant and that this hadn't been passed on.

ACTION Letter to be written to Playing Fields.

7 To consider planning applications.

7.1 Planning outcomes since last meeting

3PL/2014/0281/F CHAPMAN/The Old Rectory/2 storey ext (50) **PERMISSION**

7.2 Planning applications pending outcome

3PL/2012/0654/CU BRECKLAND STORAGE/Swanagey/Retail caravans (15)

Signed

Date

7.3 New planning applications since last meeting

3PL/2014/0724/O THACKER/Next to Mon Arch/2 storey dwelling (51)

This is for outline permission only. The Parish Council discussed the possibility that part of this land is outside the envelope. There was a unanimous decision of 'no objection'; so long as all the land was within the envelope. There was concern raised that if allowed to build outside the envelope, this would open the floodgates for other applications.

ACTION Clerk to reply 'no objection if inside the envelope'.

3PL/2014/0779/F CALLOW/The Old Rectory/Park home for 5 years (52)

Wind Turbines. The Clerk had had a telephone call from an agent (?) asking for comments on a wind farm being sited in Rocklands. The Clerk confirmed the Parish Council had not had details of such an application. The agent said the wind turbines would be at Cottage Farm (?) The Parish Council agreed that it may just have been someone 'testing the water'.

8 To update on Chapel Green

Chapel Green always used to be cut annually. Trota cut it in 2013. The cost has been budgeted for in previous years. Chris Sharpe, an environmentalist is very enthusiastic about Chapel Green and is able to give the Parish Council advice on its upkeep. The Parish Council will write a letter to Chris to see if he would be willing to arrange the cutting/clearing of the green and help to maintain its flora and fauna interest in the future. Hopefully this will be seen as an acceptable way forward for those residents who live close to Chapel Green.

ACTION Cllr. Howie/Clerk to write letter to Chris Sharpe.

9 To update on the Defibrillator

Angela Weigh at the Co-op had confirmed that the defibrillator should be donated by mid-October.

10 To update on Village Shop and Post Office (RS). Cllr. Steel gave an update. It is almost one year since the shareholders launch meeting. The financial year end was 31st August 2014. The AGM is scheduled for the end of November (3 months after year end). At this meeting the Shop Committee members will all resign and become an elected body. Stock checks have been carried out. General turnover is on the increase, but mustn't get complacent as turnover doesn't equate to profit. Autumn events in the shop have been organised by the shop managers. Certainly fulfilling community requirements.

11 To receive update on Trees.

Neil who used to be a tree warden has now moved out of the village and is difficult to contact. Richard Smedley has been ill of late. It was agreed to look out for someone suitable to help with any tree problems in Rocklands.

12 To receive update on Playing Fields and Deed of Dedication

Previously discussed at this meeting. See section 6 (Finance).

13 To receive update on Highways

The trod is LOVELY ! Didn't ever think we would say this ! Resurfacing obviously worked. ! Low Lane. Almost unsuitable for any traffic. Need a sign saying one way OR unsuitable for HGVs. Perhaps a sign at each end, access only or no through road.

ACTION Write letter to Highways.

14 To update on flooding

No issues with flooding but drains still blocked at Bell Lane.

Signed

Date

15 To discuss any correspondence

12/8/14 Email from Sonya Cooper. Said Chapel green is an eyesore, overgrown and a safety hazard. The Clerk had replied saying the maintenance of Chapel Green was being addressed.

Leaflet - KeepOurVillageAlive. A leaflet had appeared through peoples' letter boxes recently saying that there was inadequate housing for young people. Not sure where or who the leaflet came from. Their website was keepourvillagealive@rocklandallsaints.org Ian Scholes couldn't trace the owner of the domain. Possibly a developer canvassing. Suggested they might not live in the village as they only delivered to the main street through Rocklands.

Star for Norfolk Email received from a Matthew Bernard. Cllr. Howie asked if the Rocklands Community Shop could be nominated for an award ? The Parish Council would nominate the shop
ACTION PC to nominate shop for Star of Norfolk award.

14 AOB

15 kissing gate but can't get buggies through this. Cllr Steel said the land is owned by Breckland Council and the gate is officially kept locked by them.

White Hart. The Bowls green was to be refurbished.
It was rumoured there may be a desire to have holiday lodges at the White Hart.

Bamboo. There is bamboo poking through the tarmac at Ridgeons.

15 Date of next Meeting - Monday 10th November 2014, 7pm, Rocklands Village Hall.
Cllr. Steel mentioned holding a meeting in October if needed.
The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Signed

Date