

Rocklands Parish Council (RPC)  
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in Rocklands Village Hall  
7.00pm on Monday 4 November 2019

Present:	David Howie	Chair
	Nickie Southgate	Vice Chair
	Shirley Colenutt	
	Sarah Eagleton	
	Tim Ford	
	Richard Harrison	
	Kim Austin	Clerk

Also present: 21 members of the public.  
The meeting opened at 19:00

**1. To consider accepting apologies for absence**

RESOLVED to accept apologies for absence from Cllr. Sarah Martin who was unwell and County Councillor Ed Connolly who was attending another Parish Council meeting elsewhere.

**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 2 September 2019**

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 (2 Sept 2019) not on the agenda.**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**5. To adjourn the meeting for public participation**

The meeting adjourned at 19:02. There were no comments from the public and the meeting re-opened at 19:03.

**6. Update from our Norfolk County Councillor, Ed Connolly**

There was no update from Cllr. Ed Connolly who had sent his apologies.

**7. Update from our Breckland District Councillor, Sarah Suggitt**

There was no update from Cllr. Sarah Suggitt.

**8. To receive village reports**

**8.1 Village Shop and Post Office (Dave Seaton DS)**

Village shop is gearing up for Christmas:

There is a Christmas Wine Tasting in the shop on Thursday evening from 7pm - all are welcome, and there will be a range of goodies to taste and order.

Christmas stock is now in the shop, including luxury tinned biscuits, mulled wine, chocolates, Christmas cards, and much more...

Christmas meat order forms from DJ Barnard are now available in the shop.

Hingham Bakery Christmas cakes will be available to order from 1st December.

Christmas wreaths available to order from 30th November.

Letters to Santa post box now in the shop - deadline to get a reply is 6th December.

There will be a Christmas raffle for a luxury hamper - £1 per strip - coming soon.

Newsletter will be delivered over the next few days. Also to mention, Marion has suffered a nasty back injury and is currently unable to work - we wish her well and hope to see her back in the shop soon.

Signed .....

Date .....

**8.2 Village Hall (Sarah Good SG)**

Village Hall Committee had a meeting on 30 October. Their financial position is stable with income covering expenditure. Best position they have been in for a long time. Cyril Ruffles had stepped down but was thanked for caretaking the Village Hall. They were now advertising for a new caretaker/handyman. A reminder to recycle bottles in the bottle bank as this raises money for the Village Hall. The cleaning cupboard/storeroom is to be converted to a 'museum'. Just waiting for quotes from the builder. The Village Hall is creating a Facebook page and will update the Village Hall section on the Rocklands website. The next meeting is on 29 January 2020.

**8.3 Parent & Toddlers Group (Sharon Brown).**

Number of children attending is holding at 10-12 per week. Children are from Rocklands and further afield. Sometimes as many as 19 attending. Not the same children every week. A Toddler Group committee has been established and now have more excellent volunteers. Book fair supported by buying books for the group. Pudsey event planned for 15 November. Cake Fair and children's' tombola planned for December. Thank you for all toys that have been donated. Plastic plates required. So, all good.

**8.4 Rocklands Primary School (David Jones DJ)**

A thriving small school. Rocklands is federated with Great Ellingham School, sharing a Head and Deputy across both schools and served by the same governing body of 14 full governors and 3 associate governors. Excellent SATS results. Standard of care is excellent, is not advertised but is very important in a small school. There are reports of additional funding for schools, but this remains to be seen. Extra financial responsibilities, pensions and salary increases etc. creates a real challenge. There have been staff reductions at Great Ellingham school and maybe some at Rocklands. Picking away at the teaching assistants is a real shame. Larger schools also have the same problems and must make even bigger savings. DJ said he was privileged to be chair of governors, never knowing 2 stronger schools. DJ thanked the Parish Council for supporting the future of the school.

**8.5 Rocklands Playing Fields (SG)**

A meeting will take place in the next 2 few weeks. The football season has started. The bar is run by volunteers. The bar has been used after the fun run and for cocktail parties and is suitable for many events. Cllr. Howie said he had met a visitor who had lived in the village and went to the village school. He visited the Playing Field and facilities and thought them brilliant.

**8.6 St. Peter's Church (Sharon Brown SB)**

Christina Mason is the priest in charge of both St. Peters and All Saints. She says, everyone who has ever experienced Rocklands is aware of the special nature of the village. It is a close-knit community but where newcomers are welcomed and quickly made to feel at home. There is a lot going on in this village, some is very obvious, other things less so. I have always been enormously impressed by the support that people give to each other. This support is invaluable to so many people and it goes on behind the scenes without very much drama and show. Shopping is purchased, papers are dropped off, visits are made to the housebound and lonely, transport to hospital and other care services is given. All these examples and much more enhance the quality of life of people who live in and around the village. Looked at from my point of view, it is **Christian love in action**. The Sunday and other services which are held in the two churches are well supported and we have a "menu" to suit different preferences and age groups. We are always open to ideas and suggestions; I and the individual PCCs always take these seriously and are happy to speak further. We are PART of the village community and not separate from it and we hope that this can develop even more in the future.

**8.7 Rockland All Saints' Church (Cath Jones CJ)**

There is not a lot of progress on the fitting of the telltales on the tower, except that another engineer has been to have a look and we are waiting for him to come and fit them. In the meantime, the tower is still standing, although the bells cannot be rung for safety reasons. Our new wildflower meadow was cut in September ready for the winter (thanks to a local farmer) and the cuttings raked up and taken away. Our Wildflower 'guru' keeps an eye and tells

us what he has observed .... early days but already he has spotted a significant variety of wildflowers we hadn't known grew there! We are very grateful to Chris for giving this advice and keeping us on the right track!

Since the last PC meeting, we have had a Harvest Festival in aid of the Leprosy Mission and held another successful Harvest Supper. Ticket sales seemed to be slow at first but eventually we had over 50 people who enjoyed a lovely meal together, all home made using local ingredients where possible, followed by entertainment by the Roskettes. The proceeds of the raffle amounted to over £150 and this was donated to the Cancer Research UK fund via Julie and Victoria who walked from the Dead Sea to Petra during half term to raise funds for the charity in memory of dear friends who have died. Ticket sales profits and donations at the supper came to over £400 which was excellent, but actually represents less than 7% of the amount we have to pay to the Norwich diocese annually! On top of that, we have the usual repairs and maintenance to the church, Victorian schoolroom and churchyard, insurance etc, which is why we always seem to be looking to raise money! Keeping medieval buildings going is a costly business.

Our next fundraising effort takes place in conjunction with St Peter's church and is the Advent Lunch, here in the Village Hall on November 30th. This is a three-course meal, starting from 12pm and tickets can be booked from me, Barbara Scase or Joan Dove.

We have regular services each month, which are advertised in the Rocklander and outside both churches, but we have a couple of special festive services at All Saints in December that you may be interested in. The first is the Christingle service on December 8th when children make their Christingles in the old schoolroom from 2.30 in time for the service at 3pm. It is an informal and lively service, with lots of participation as the children set up the Nativity crib before the candles on Christingles are lit and they sing 'Away in a Manger' whilst trying not to set themselves and each other alight!! It is a truly magical moment each year and I thoroughly recommend it!

The second is the traditional service at 10pm on Christmas Eve, which is a candlelit communion service, with all the traditional carols you would expect at this time of year. It is always well attended and again, I urge you to give it a go, even if 'church' is not really your thing !!

That's all for now .... except to wish you all a peaceful and Happy Christmas from all of us at All Saints. See you in 2020 !

#### **8.8 White Hart Public House (Dave Thomas DT)**

DT announced that £2500 had been raised at Gina's Day. £1000 was donated to the paramedics, the remainder was donated to various animal charities dear to Gina and local village groups. There is a Sunday carvery this weekend with a complimentary meal for Veterans. Thursday 21 November is a quiz with proceeds to Rockland's School. Saturday 23 November is a bingo night. Christmas events/menus to be advertised.

#### **8.9 To update on Chapel Green Meadow (Chris Sharpe CS)**

##### **Meeting with Norfolk County Council to request funding for Chapel Green pond**

Subsequent to the RPC meeting of 2 September 2019, through the good offices of Councillor Edward Connolly, a meeting was held with Norfolk County Council on 8 October 2019 to discuss the possibility of funding for restoration and management of Chapel Green pond. Ed Connolly kindly arranged the meeting with John Jones, Head of Environment, and Ed Stocker, Consultant Ecologist, and provided transport from Rocklands to NCC for Sarah Martin of Rocklands Parish Council and Carolyn Emblen and Chris Sharpe of RPC's Chapel Green Management Committee.

Both John Jones and Ed Stocker were sympathetic to the proposal for an initial ecological assessment (required due to the historical presence of Great Crested Newts), removal of reed-mace and perhaps some further dredging of building rubble to deepen the pond. This would restore open water and prevent the pond turning into a marsh. It would greatly assist the work of the Chapel Green Management Committee which already has a considerable workload in maintaining the green, and the experience could potentially be used to support follow-on work at the pond adjacent to the telephone box. The amount requested was £8000 and we were told

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Date .....

to be optimistic about the prospects for success. The decision was to be notified by the end of October but as yet we haven't heard. We remain optimistic.

Cllr. Howie said he was concerned about the willow trees at the pond as the bank erosion had exposed their roots. He was concerned about their stability in high winds.

#### **Rocklands wildflower meadow map**

A draft map of land managed as wildflower meadows has been prepared by the Chapel Green Management Committee to be finalised in the CGMC meeting of 6 November. The map currently comprises ten wildflower meadows and we are aware of others that are not yet included (pending permission from their respective owners). Given the loss of more than 97% of the UK's wildflower meadows and the rapid declines in insect numbers over the past few decades, the existence of these areas in our parish is to be celebrated.

Cllr. Howie confirmed that the 'no parking of commercial vehicles here' sign on the Green was now sited thanks to Cllr. Martin at no cost to the Parish Council. Chris Sharpe hadn't seen the sign as it was hidden behind a commercial vehicle !

#### **8.9 Rocklands Play Park (Kirsty Daynes KD)**

KD was not able to attend this meeting but had sent an update. The old swings have been removed with help from some fabulous parents, saving money on installation costs. The swings and flooring were then sold for £150 which has gone back into playground funds. The new swings are in and look excellent. The trim trail had a rotting post replaced. This was looked over by our playground supplier and the trail, was deemed to have a lot of life left in it, therefore, safe to continue to use.

### **9 To report on financial matters**

#### **9.1 Financial position**

##### **Bank account balances as at Monday 4 November 2019**

Barclays Community Account	£	9570.44
Barclays Saver (Reserve) Account	£	2334.77
<b>TOTAL as per bank</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>11905.21</b>

##### **Summary**

RPC Rocklands Parish Council	£	5404.61
RNP Rocklands Neighbourhood Plan (RG)	£	200.60
Rocklands Play Park (KR)	£	6300.00
<b>TOTAL as per bank</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>11905.21</b>

#### **9.2 Money in since last meeting (2 Sept 2019)**

10/9/2019	Rocklands Play Park - to hold on Account	£	1470.00
26/9/2019	Breckland Council - Precept 2 <sup>nd</sup> payment	£	3100.00
21/10/2019	Rocklands Play Park - to hold on Account	£	50.00
	<b>TOTAL IN</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>4620.00</b>

#### **9.3 Money out since last meeting (2 Sept 2019)**

##### **9.3.1 Standing Orders/Direct Debits**

16/9/2019	Eon-Electricity (DD)	£	35.62
16/10/2019	Eon -Electricity (DD)	£	34.46
1/10/2019	Clerk's wages (SO)	£	273.87
1/11/2019	Clerk's wages (SO)	£	273.87
	<b>TOTAL OUT</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>617.82</b>

##### **9.3.2 Cheques out (to sign)**

CHQ 671	*PKF Littlejohn. Accounts - Externa audit fee	£	240.00	ALREADY SIGNED
CHQ 672	Joe Bacon - Grass mowing	£	90.00	ALREADY SIGNED
CHQ 673	All Saints PCC - Annual donation	£	85.00	
CHQ 674	St. Peters PCC - Annual donation	£	85.00	
CHQ 675	Rockland Playing Fields - Annual donation	£	120.00	

Signed .....

Date .....

CHQ 676	Rocklands Village Hall - Annual donation	£	120.00
CHQ 677	Central Norfolk Methodist - Annual donation	£	70.00
CHQ 678	K&M Lighting - 2 months maint. (Oct/Nov 2019)	£	27.56
CHQ 679	Green Modular Ltd. - Plans for Rocklands School	£	954.00
Held on AC	Rocklands Play Park - Donation towards equip	£	1003.00
	<b>TOTAL OUT</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>2794.56</b>

**\*Annual Accounts**

The annual review of accounts has been completed by external auditors, PKF Littlejohn.

On the basis of their review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in their opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is **in accordance with Proper Practices** and no other matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

This information has been displayed on PC notice board and on the Parish website.

**10. To consider planning applications**

**10.1 Planning outcomes since last meeting**

3PL/2019/0868/F Francis/Land adjacent Coach House/Dwelling and garage (170) **PERMISSION**

3PL/201/0044/UC Douglas/Magna Farm/Change of use Agri build to one dwelling (173) **PERMISSION**

This was the third application. This time to build one dwelling instead of two. The other applications had been refused, so finally have now been given permission.

**10.2 Applications pending outcome**

3PL/2019/1058/VAR Shadrack/Peels Farm/ Amend condition 2 (174)

3PL/2019/1091/F Shadrack/Peels Farm/Retrospective planning, erection of agri storage building (175)

Retrospective application. Pig Shed 5, already built, is the one nearest the road and the dwellings. Will be used as a store for hay and farm equipment instead of a pig production unit.

**10.3 New applications since last meeting**

**3PL/2019/0971/F REVISED** Woodroffe/Allison's Farm 82 The Street/New dwelling with one bed annex (172,177) (Comments for revision by 8/11/2019)

**3PL/2019/1039/HOU REVISED** Woodroffe/Allison's Farm 82 The Street/New dwelling, one bed annex (176,178) (Comments for revision by 8/11/2019)

This application was discussed at the last PC meeting and comments posted on the Breckland Planning website. There were no further comments from the public or the Parish Councillors except a neighbour explained that the new dwelling is not being built on the same footprint but will be 61% larger than the original footprint. A Breckland Council representative had now visited. The case officer Mr. Donnolly was surprised at the increase in footprint. The Parish Council's previous comments would stand.

**APP/F2605/W/19/3236051, 3PL/2018/1533/O** Corcoran/Land south of the street/1 dwelling, parking, turning/access (157) **REFUSED** and then **APPEALED** (Comments to PI posted by 1/11/2019.)

The Parish Council had posted comments to the PI by the deadline. The owner of the Rookery, next door instructed Purcells to produce a historic report regards the Rookery and its surroundings. The writer of the report felt there would be considerable harm done to the 'greenness' and seclusion of the Rookery, a substantial affect, should the application be approved. We are waiting for the PI's decision.

Cllr. Howie said he had looked at the report and the information from the archives and it was very interesting, where footpaths used to be etc. The owner of the report would be asked if he would allow it to be put on the Parish Council website.

**3PL/2019/1299/HOU** Anna Lightening/5 Chapel Street/Rear flat roof extension (180)

It was thought the neighbouring property would not be overlooked as there were no windows facing towards it. All councillors agreed **NO OBJECTION** to this application. However, Cllr. Southgate would talk to the neighbours directly before commenting before the 18 November deadline.

**11. To update on First Time Sewerage System for Rocklands St. Peter**

Signed .....

Date .....

Cllr. Howie had spoken to Claire but there was currently no update. Still waiting for the primary determination from Ofwat, early December. PC will receive a letter December/January. She asked Cllr. Howie to call again mid-January if had not heard anything by then.

**12. To discuss a new Parish Notice Board**

The current wooden Notice Board is letting in water and is now difficult to open and close. Cllr. Howie would like to buy a new one, preferably made of coated aluminium or a recycled plastic for easy maintenance. Elaine and Alan who donated the old board are happy that it is time for it to be replaced. They are expensive. Cllr. Howie is hoping to source one for less than £750. He would also like there to be a solar light so notices are visible in the evening throughout the winter. Cllr. Southgate said it would be good if we could find some one to sponsor the new notice board.

**13. To update on the Rocklands Neighbourhood Plan (RNP) and Local Plan (LP)**

Breckland Local Plan has passed the examination stage by the Planning Inspectorate. Informed that new policies would form material considerations for any new planning applications, even though not yet adopted by Breckland. In the Corcoran appeal document to the PI, the PC did bring the new policies to the attention of Breckland/PI. It will be interesting to see how they respond. Formal adoption of the new policies should be this week. Once fully adopted, the plan will then come into force. RNP committee then can finally work to complete the Rocklands Neighbourhood Plan. There is a meeting at Breckland this week. Breckland wanted to protect smaller villages, but the protective statements may have been diluted by the examining inspector. PC has been assured by the Head of Breckland Planning that the policies will be implemented. Have to wait and see.

**14. To update on Flashing Speed sign SID (RH)**

September 12, volunteers, Dave Frank, Laura and Tim helped put the brackets up on the Attleborough Road and the Street and the speed unit on the Attleborough Road, facing towards Great Ellingham. There were a number of teething problems with groups of LED lights repeatedly failing, not least because, unbeknown to the Parish Council, they had been sold a prototype ! At no time was the PC told this unit was a prototype device. After Cllr. Harrison had discussed with the Managing Director of the manufacturer; we now have a pre-production unit. This will be replaced eventually with a final production unit when they go into production. The unit remained in place on Attleborough Road until 11 October when it was relocated to The Street, facing towards the playing fields.

In one month, there were 41,420 vehicle movements. 32674 (78.9%) were within the speed limit. Of the 21.1% speeding, 3088 would likely have received a speeding ticket according to police guidelines. The highest speed recorded was 70mph at 4am on a Sunday morning. The highest speeds could be emergency vehicles. Police data from November 2018 showed 18% speeding. This has increased to 21% this year. Data collected will be taken to the Police SNAP meetings. The Police can use this to help them prioritise where to put handheld guns and /or the safety camera van. PC Damion Wickes had reported that there had been a number of positive posts on the Attleborough Community Facebook pages, people impressed with the 'Thank You' feature of our sign.

**15. To update on Highways**

There were no comments regards Highways.

**16. To update on Flooding (RH)**

The information leaflet detailing drainage, 'riparian' responsibilities and flooding with regards to ditches, culverts etc. is now finalised and has been OKd by PC and Norfolk County Council Flood Risk Team. Barkers Print have quoted for 300 copies. Now obtaining two other quotes for comparison. This document will form part of the Rocklands Flood control position. The leaflets will be distributed to all households in the Parish and a drainage survey conducted by the agencies. The PC has collected a huge file of flood data.

**17. To discuss any correspondence.**

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An email had been received from Shena Scholes regards holding Victory in Europe Day celebrations on Saturday 9 May 2020 in the village to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE day. A chance to bring the community together. Shena is asking for people to join a working group and to express their interest by 14 November if possible, in order to have a first meeting before Christmas. Shena was thinking of a road closure from shop to the school, a street party with bring your own plates of food and music playing in background. Possible tea and cake stall, pub having some sort of event (open mic) possibility of school having their fete, possibility of youth football having their presentation event etc. There is the possibility of applying for some funding from Breckland. Cllr. Howie happy to arrange road closures. Shena said it would also be nice to do something to commemorate men from the village that lost their lives.

Barclays Bank had announced they would be stopping withdrawal of cash from Post Offices. Many residents were outraged. Julie Howie wrote to Barclays Bank and George Freeman MP and received a reply from George. Barclays have since changed their mind and cash withdrawal will now continue. Well done David and Julie.

**18. AOB**

A reminder that there will be a Winter Market in Rockands Village Hall on 16 November.

**19. Date of next Meeting**

Monday 6 January 2020, 7pm, Rocklands Village Hall

**The meeting closed at 20.19**

Signed .....

Date .....