

RAYDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12 MARCH 2019

Present:	Jane Cryer - Clerk (JC) Christine Hempstead (CH) Keith Lovering (KL) Sue Newton - Chairman (SN) Amanda Pyall - Vice Chairman (AP) Jayne Tann (JT)
In attendance:	Gordon Jones, Suffolk CC (GJ) John Ward, Babergh DC (JW) 2 parishioners
Apologies:	Nev Davenport (ND)

19.3.1 APOLOGIES

See above - apologies were accepted from ND.

19.3.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

19.3.3 PUBLIC FORUM

Two parishioners were present, one of whom drew attention to the very poor internet speed in the village (*see also minute 19.3.5.4, below*), especially prior to the Christmas period. He had checked his computer and there was no fault with the equipment; an engineer had attended and found that there was a fault outside which he had corrected - however, shortly afterwards the speed dropped again. This appeared to be due to the fact that the cable terminated at the end of Acacia Lane, just too far away from the property in question. The new properties being built in the village would also have an impact. The second issue raised was the poor state of the tarmacked area outside The Green; the PC would discuss this at a future meeting.

19.3.4 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2019

It was proposed by KL, seconded by AP and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12 February 2019 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

19.3.5 ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Most of the actions were either ongoing, or were on the agenda; there was an update on the following:

19.3.5.1 Defibrillator

The replacement door had still not been received; JC would continue to chase the supplier.

19.3.5.2 Electricity supply to Pavilion

SN confirmed that the Trustees were happy that the readings and bills were correct.

19.3.5.3 Banking arrangements

JC was looking at alternative banking arrangements; this would be an agenda item for the AGM in May.

19.3.5.4 Broadband

SN had contacted the Chairman of Holton St Mary PC to suggest a joint working party; this would be discussed at Holton's meeting on 13 March.

19.3.6 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

19.3.6.1 Babergh DC

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which was filed with the minutes. The budget for 2019-20 had been approved on 19 February; council tax would increase by £5 for a Band D property (3.15%). Babergh would be making a further £25m investment in its property company, which JW said would form an integral part of the council's medium-term financial planning. The budget included a discount of up to 100% on council tax for care leavers. The second empty property premium would be increased in line with legislation announced in the government's 2017 budget. JW said around 50-60 properties in Babergh had remained empty for at least two years. The planning application in respect of Corks Lane would be going to committee on 25 March. In response to a question from JC, JW said the application by the Sudbury Society to have the whole site listed had been unsuccessful. Babergh and Mid Suffolk's Exacom database had won a bronze award in the Intelligent Council category in the iESE Awards presented in Westminster on 6 March.

19.3.6.2 Suffolk CC

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which was filed with the minutes. GJ said the Cabinet meeting held earlier that day had discussed the council's response to the Suffolk Power Renewables proposal for additional wind farms and EDF's Sizewell C consultation, which did not include as much detail as expected. He felt it likely that the issue of the Bramford to Twinstead connection project - and pylons - would come back onto the agenda. In response to a question from KL about the 'Plug-in Suffolk' initiative, GJ said the first location had been unveiled in Beccles; he would report back on the timescale for other locations.

19.3.7 FINANCIAL MATTERS

19.3.7.1 RFO's report

It was proposed by CH, seconded by KL and agreed unanimously that the finance report for 12 March 2019 should be accepted; payments of £626.79 were approved, together with direct debits to Anglian Water totalling £312.56.

19.3.7.2 Internal audit - earmarked expenditure

It was agreed that the cost of new grit bins during 2019-20 should be included in the list of earmarked reserves; also the agreed S106 expenditure of around £6000, as the PC would need to spend this first, before claiming it back.

19.3.8 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

19.3.8.1 BDC Town & Parish Liaison Meeting

SN's report on the meeting held on 5 March was noted. With regard to Babergh and Mid Suffolk's property investment management company, CIFCO, SN expressed concern about the level of risk. JW said a stress test had been carried out; the Section 151 Officer was happy with the result and had signed off on this. He said there was a good spread of properties in the portfolio, with long-term, secure tenancies in place. In response to a question from SN, JW said the two non-executive directors of CIFCO were Councillors Nick Ridley and Dave Busby; they were appointed, not elected. A draft Communities Strategy was expected shortly.

19.3.9 ASSET REGISTER

Additions to the Asset Register were noted (eg the BT telephone box, defibrillator and cabinet). The new council would review the Asset Register for 2019/20 during the summer; in the meantime, SN would check that the cost of the KGF Pavilion was accurate.

19.3.10 PLANNING

19.3.10.1 DC/18/05017 - Land at Upper Street, IP7 5LG

It was noted that the application had been approved for change of use from agricultural land to equestrian use, creation of menage and erection of stable block; it was further noted that the Conditions attached referenced several points raised by the PC.

19.3.11 VILLAGE HALL

Work to repair the roof of the Village Hall had been carried out in November 2018 and the VH Committee had settled the bill for £810, which they had now passed to the PC for reimbursement. The PC had not been made aware of these repairs and the Committee had not contacted JC to check whether funds were available from the annual allowance of £1500. It was agreed that JC would write to the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee to remind him that the PC required a formal invoice from the contractor, made out to the PC, before payment could be made. She would suggest to the Committee that the simplest solution would be for the contractor to repay the money they had paid to him, and then invoice the PC direct so that the invoice could be settled.

19.3.12 ANNUAL LITTER PICK

A provisional date of Saturday 8 June was agreed; this would be confirmed at the AGM in May.

19.3.13 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The draft agenda for the APM on Tuesday 9 April was agreed; JC would contact the various external organisations to invite them to submit reports. If it had been agreed to work with Holton St Mary PC to look at Broadband issues (see 19.3.5.4, above), this would be announced at the APM.

19.3.14 CORRESPONDENCE

19.3.14.1 Lorries using Woodlands Road

A parishioner had contacted JC to report that the number of lorries using Woodlands Road appeared to be increasing. This issue was part of the ongoing discussions with Suffolk Highways and it was hoped that appropriate signage would shortly be in place. This would be an agenda item for the May meeting.

19.3.15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Annual Parish Meeting - 7.30pm on Tuesday 9 April 2019, in the Pavilion.

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