

# RAYDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting  
held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 9 April 2019 in the Pavilion, KGF

**Present:** Nev Davenport (ND)  
Christine Hempstead (CH)  
Keith Lovering (KL)  
Sue Newton - Chairman (SN)  
Amanda Pyall (AP)

Jane Cryer - Clerk (JC)

**In attendance:** Geoff Horrex (GH)  
Jim Lowe (JL)  
David Luggar (DL)  
John Ward, Babergh DC (JW)

**Apologies:** Clive Duddridge  
Helen Durrant  
Gordon Jones - Suffolk CC  
David King

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## 19.1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

See above. SN welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## 19.2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING / MATTERS ARISING

It was proposed by AP, seconded by CH and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 17 April 2018 should be approved; there were no matters arising.

## 19.3 REPORTS

### 19.3.1 Suffolk County Council

JC summarised the report submitted by Councillor Jones. Key points included:

- Council to deliver 51 new affordable homes for low income families in rural community;
- Suffolk's 2017 Public Health Report won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Association of Directors of Public Health Annual Report competition, from 54 UK entries;
- Plans approved to invest £6million into upgrading Suffolk's recycling centres;
- Suffolk's tourist trade booming;
- Superfast Broadband coverage continuing to grow;
- Suffolk Climate Change Partnership won national award for supporting local communities to be more energy-efficient;
- Work began on the construction of The Hold, to house Suffolk's archives and provide meeting facilities;
- Department for Education recognised outstanding performance by Suffolk students;

*(full report held on file with the minutes)*

### 19.3.2 Babergh District Council

Councillor Ward said the 2019-20 budget had been approved in February and included a discretionary Care Leavers Council Tax discount of up to 100%, to support young people leaving care up the age of 25. The purpose of Babergh and Mid Suffolk's commercial investments was to create an additional net revenue income stream - investments were expected to generate £4.6m net income for each council over the next four years. Planning permission had been granted for the redevelopment of the former Babergh offices in Corks Lane, Hadleigh. Following the closure of the TIC in Lavenham, Babergh had worked with the Parish Council to enable them to take over the building to provide a community hub, aided by CIL funding. Babergh was now able to demonstrate a five-year housing land supply, enabling the council to resist inappropriate planning applications. Babergh and Mid Suffolk's new database enabling the public to access information on S106 agreements and CIL contributions

had won the iESE Bronze Award in the Intelligent Council category. In addition to the main customer access service in Sudbury, there were now two pop-up services in Hadleigh and Shotley, providing support for residents to access the council's online services. JW said that staff turnover during and since the move to Endeavour House had been low; staff morale appeared to be high as people enjoyed working in the new environment. SN commented that Josh Holmes had been very helpful at the recent Parish & Town Liaison meeting.

*(full report held on file with the minutes)*

### **19.3.3 Village Hall**

Geoff Horrex reported on the past year's activities; David King, the Chairman, was unable to attend the meeting. 2018 had seen a decline of use, with only the Garden Club using it regularly throughout the year. Other activities held in the hall included yoga sessions, monthly bingo nights and some church events. The income was, therefore, insufficient to fund the necessary maintenance. During the winter there was a major problem with flooding, and ongoing problems with the roof, contributed towards the need to call a public meeting in March to discuss the possibility of selling the hall while it was still a viable asset; the vote was to sell and confirmation was now awaited from the Charity Commission that the sale could proceed.

*(full report held on file with the minutes)*

### **19.3.4 King George's Field**

Clive Duddridge was unable to attend; his report was read out by ND. The main function room continued to attract lettings from local people, and the Raydon Club continued to provide a valuable source of income. The annual bonfire and fireworks display on 5 November remained a popular event. SN commented that the land had been given to the village in 1951 and consideration would be given to a celebration in 2021. Parking continued to be an issue at weekends - the PC had written to the committee, who had spoken to Brantham FC; the PC was also liaising with Suffolk Highways about reinstating the white lines.

*(full report held on file with the minutes)*

### **19.3.5 PCC**

Mr Luggier said that the Rector, the Rev Rosalind Paul, had left in November 2018 to become Canon Pastor at Wells Cathedral; an advertisement for a new incumbent would be issued shortly. Special services held during the year included Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday, a Crib Service on Christmas Eve and an Epiphany carol service, as well as one wedding and one funeral. Coffee mornings and afternoon teas continued to provide an opportunity for the whole community to get together. The main project during the year had been the major repair work to the Chancel Arch and the electric cabling above the ceiling. The Diocese also gave permission for the PCC to investigate, and subsequently fill in, a large empty vault which had collapsed in the churchyard.

*(full report held on file with the minutes)*

### **19.3.6 Gardening Club**

The Gardening Club was now in its 39<sup>th</sup> year. The club held monthly meetings with guest speakers, and some outings to gardens. Spring and summer flower shows were held, as well as a summer coach outing. Membership remained stable with 45-50 members, and the annual membership fee had not been increased. GH said if the village hall was sold (see above), it was likely the club would move to the KGF Pavilion, possibly using a tent as well in order to accommodate entries for the flower shows.

*(full report held on file with the minutes)*

### **19.3.7 Neighbourhood Watch**

JC read out the report submitted by Helen Durrant, who was unable to attend the meeting. There were now 32 members of Raydon's NHW. The only crimes reported by local residents in the previous 12 months were:

- August 2018 - downstairs window of a house in The Street smashed by a passing car;
- October 2018 - report from local resident re litter and dog excrement at the playing field;
- November 2018 - complaint re cars parking along The Street partially blocking pavements;
- November 2018 - shed and garage break-in, nothing taken.

Residents were encouraged to join the scheme, and to register with Police Connect: <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/services/police-connect>.

*(full report held on file with the minutes)*

**19.3.8 Community email group**

JC asked those present to encourage other parishioners to sign up to the community email group, which provided a simple way of disseminating information as quickly as possible. She stressed that email addresses remained confidential; all community emails were sent out 'blind copy'. Parishioners could also ask her to send out a community email if they wished to publicise an event.

**19.4 BROADBAND PROBLEMS - HELP US TO HELP YOU!**

KL gave a short presentation and explained that, following several complaints in recent months regarding the speed and reliability of the broadband service to Raydon, the PC had contacted Holton St Mary PC, who were experiencing similar problems. A working group had now been set up and the group was due to meet again shortly. It had been suggested that a web-based record should be kept by residents of both parishes of drop-out and slow speeds. This virtual record was in place as a trial and would be reviewed by the working group.

**19.5 MATTERS RAISED BY PARISHIONERS**

David Luggar said overhanging branches from trees were making the footpath difficult to navigate. It was agreed that the PC would flag this up in Quartet.

**19.6 CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS**

SN said she was very pleased with the achievements of the PC during the year, particularly the installation of a defibrillator at the Pavilion, where it could be accessed by the greatest number of residents. AP and KL had run an awareness session highlighting the importance of CPR training. The PC had discussed the purchase of five new grit bins, although this had been put on hold following SCC's guidance that new bins should be made of yellow plastic; a decision on how to proceed would be made at the May meeting. Discussions continued with Suffolk Highways on the provision of improved signage and other related issues. All councillors had received basic training during the year, which SN said was essential for any new councillors. She thanked JC for her work during the year.

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**Chairman**

**Date**