

RAYDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 14 JANUARY 2020

Present:	Jane Cryer - Clerk (JC) Keith Lovering (KL) Jim Lowe (JL) Sue Newton - Chairman (SN) Amanda Pyall - Vice Chairman (AP) Sigi Steer (SS)
In attendance:	Gordon Jones, Suffolk CC (GJ) John Ward, Babergh DC (JW) Parishioners
Apologies:	Jayne Tann (JT)

20.1.1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from JT.

20.1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

20.1.3 PUBLIC FORUM

Three of the parishioners present had expressed an interest in being co-opted onto the Parish Council (see minute 20.1.4).

20.1.4 CO-OPTION / COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL

The three interested parishioners had submitted brief cvs which had been circulated to council members before the meeting. SN explained that meetings were held every month with the exception of August and December and agenda papers etc were sent by email. The length of meetings was controlled and they usually lasted no longer than two hours. From time to time individual councillors might sit on various working groups, and there was always work to be done inbetween meetings. Training for new councillors would be provided. It was agreed that all three parishioners would let JC know after the meeting whether they were still definitely interested; a decision on co-options would be made at the February meeting.

20.1.5 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2019

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

20.1.6 ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Most of the actions were either ongoing, or were on the agenda; there were updates on the following:

20.1.6.1 Grit bins

Four new grit bins had been installed on Sulleys Hill and Higham Hill. KL confirmed they all contained grit/sand and were ready to be used.

20.1.6.2 Inconsiderate parking

SN said the KGF Committee was hopeful that, once the car park had extended to create additional spaces, there would be less of a problem. In the meantime, it was agreed that JC would put a piece in Quartet reminding residents that they should call 101 if they spotted a vehicle parked on the verges or obstructing the pavements.

20.1.6.3 Highways signage

GJ said he would contact David Chenery to request a timescale for the new signage and replacement finger posts.

20.1.6.4 Section 106 funding

In response to a question from KL, SN said the Playing Field Committee was currently updating their records; a draft application would be brought to a future Parish Council meeting for approval.

20.1.7 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

20.1.7.1 Babergh DC

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils had a statutory duty to collect council tax across their districts, which was then divided between Suffolk County Council, the Suffolk Police & Crime Commissioner, the districts themselves, and the local parish or town councils, with the money going towards the cost of the services they provided. Councillors had agreed to adopt the Citizen's Advice council tax protocol and introduce an initial penalty of £70 for anyone refusing to meet requests to supply legally required information, or failing to let the council know about changes in their circumstances which would affect their entitlement to a discount, exemption or Council Tax reduction. In addition to the successful fly tipping prosecutions by Babergh, there had been two recent Food Hygiene prosecutions involving a tearoom in Lavenham and a Chinese takeaway in Sudbury.

20.1.7.2 Suffolk CC

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. Full council was due to meet on 13 February to approve the budget for 2020/21. A 2% increase in the adult care precept was proposed, with an overall increase of 1.98% in basic council tax. GJ said income from council tax collection was higher than anticipated. Two investment funds had been created - for Highways and the Suffolk 2020 fund. Consultation had started on proposals for the future of children's centres. In response to a question from AP about additional special education needs in the primary school sector, GJ said he would obtain further information. He was setting up a working group to look at speeding issues; it had been agreed that SN would represent Raydon. KL drew attention to the gully in the layby outside the church, which had been missed in the last clean, despite a response to his online report that all the drains were in an operational state. GJ said recent heavy rain had contributed to the problem, but he would raise the issue with Highways. AP said the drains in Rectory Close had also not been cleared. JL said there was a problem with surface water on Hadleigh Road; there were no drains beyond the Village Hall.

20.1.8 FINANCIAL MATTERS

20.1.8.1 RFO's report

It was proposed by JL, seconded by AP and agreed unanimously that the finance report for 14 January 2020 should be approved; payments of £2,516.75 were authorised.

20.1.8.2 Budget and precept for 2020/21

As agreed at the November 2019 meeting, the precept for 2020/21 would remain at £15,400; the precept form was duly signed and would be returned to Babergh by the deadline of 31 January.

20.1.9 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

20.1.9.1 Outstanding matters

JL's report was noted. It was agreed that JC should write to the owners of Brett Vale Golf Club to ask them to carry out an audit of damaged and overhanging trees on the golf course that were affecting the footpaths; she would copy the letter to Kevin Verlander at SCC. With regard to Speed Watch, it was decided to put further research on hold as this was likely to be covered by the new speeding working group (see minute 20.1.7.2, above).

JL had highlighted that the hedge opposite the Village Hall required cutting back as it was now a hazard to traffic; AP would report this online and JC would write to the owner of the property in question.

20.1.10 PLANNING

20.1.10.1 DC/19/05042 - Land to the north of The Street

It was noted that the application for approval of reserved matters following Outline Approval had been approved.

20.1.10.2 DC/19/03373 - Brett Vale House, Noaks Road

It was noted that the application for the erection of 14 dwellings and part-change of use of clubhouse to shop had been refused.

20.1.10.3 DC/19/05161 - Station Farm, Woodlands Road

Councillors noted that this proposed development was outside the village envelope and also did not fit within section CS2 (Settlement Policy) of Babergh's Local Plan, which stated clearly what would and would not be permitted; it was agreed to object to the application. It was noted that a previous application (DC/19/05160), for the erection of a two-storey rear extension and porch following demolition of an existing outbuilding, had been withdrawn.

20.1.10.4 SALC's planning questionnaire / planning training

It was agreed that JC should respond on behalf of the PC to SALC's online questionnaire about planning, which included a section on planning training and what would be helpful. SALC was currently reviewing its training offer and would take into account the responses to the survey.

20.1.11 HIGHWAYS AND SPEEDING

20.1.11.1 HGVs using Woodlands Road

SN's report was noted. Her proposal that JC should write to Suffolk Highways requesting confirmation of the current lorry route network and a larger scale map of the Raydon area network was seconded by AP and agreed unanimously. She would also request clarification on the existing restrictions on Woodlands Road and the specific locations to be accessed. Once a response had been received the matter would be considered by the working group, which would put forward a proposal for appropriate signage.

20.1.11.2 Lorry Watch

AP had obtained further information on this initiative. However, it was agreed that participation was more appropriate for individuals rather than a body such as the Parish Council. JC would put a paragraph in Quartet explaining what was involved and that anyone interested should contact Lorry Watch direct to register as an observer.

20.1.12 SCC COMMUNITY SELF-HELP SCHEME

KL's scoping document for proposed refurbishment works to the layby outside the church had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that SCC currently maintained the land (ie filling potholes etc), but would not resurface the whole area. It was proposed by AP, seconded by SN and agreed unanimously to accept KL's recommendation that the PC should appoint a contractor to carry this work out under the Self-Help Scheme, and that three quotations should be sought. Following a request from the PCC, KL would ask potential contractors to allow for painting white lines in front of the church's double gates in their quotations.

20.1.13 ASSET REGISTER

It was proposed by AP, seconded by KL and agreed unanimously to approve the updated Asset Register. The ownership of the seat outside the church was unknown, but it was agreed that the PC would keep it in good order.

20.1.14 CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

20.1.14.1 Dogs

A parishioner had expressed concern about ongoing disturbances caused by noisy dogs; as the property in question was owned by Babergh DC, JW said he would look into this

20.1.14.2 Spring Clean

Babergh & Mid Suffolk had sent a letter to all PCs reminding them about the annual Spring Clean. A date for this would be set at the February meeting.

20.1.15 CLERK'S REPORT ON URGENT DECISIONS SINCE THE LAST MEETING

None.

20.1.16 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be on Tuesday 11 February 2020 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion.

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