

**RAYDON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 15 JUNE 2021**

Present: Faith Backhouse (FB)
Stephen Coe (SC)
Jane Cryer - Clerk (JC)
Keith Lovering (KL)
Jim Lowe (JL)
Sue Newton - Chairman (SN)
Amanda Pyall - Vice Chairman (AP)
Trevor Sayers (TS)
Sigi Steer (SS)
Jayne Tann (JT)

In attendance: Georgia Hall, Suffolk CC (GH)
John Ward, Babergh DC (JW)
1 Parishioner

Apologies: None

21.6.1 APOLOGIES

See above.

21.6.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

JL declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 21.6.8.4, as a member of the Village Hall Committee.

21.6.3 PUBLIC FORUM

SN reminded the meeting that the Standing Orders had been amended to state that ‘members of the public may speak for a maximum of **three** minutes ...’.

21.6.4 MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON THURSDAY 20 MAY 2021

It was proposed by TS, seconded by AP and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the AGM held on Thursday 20 May 2021 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

21.6.5 ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

21.6.5.1 Standing Orders

As agreed at the last meeting, JC had asked SALC for advice on the proposed new clause requiring members of the public to give notice of items to be raised in the Public Forum. The advice was that this would not be considered good practice; it was agreed not to make any further amendments to the Standing Orders at the present time.

21.6.5.2 Litter Pick

The date had been confirmed: Sunday 18 July 2021 at 10am. The event was being advertised on the noticeboards and in Quartet.

21.6.6 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

21.6.6.1 Babergh DC

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

Hadleigh had been due to host Suffolk's Armed Forces Week celebrations during week beginning 21 June; however, due to the delay in Covid restrictions being lifted, events had been postponed, although flags would still be flown. In response to a question from SN about the Rough Sleeping initiative, JW said rough sleeping was mainly confined to urban areas; following a successful joint funding bid, Babergh and Mid Suffolk were pleased to have received over £400,000 to help address the issue. Fly tipping remained a problem and parish and town councils were urged to remind residents to report this via Babergh's website (<https://www.babergh.gov.uk/waste-services/report-litter-and-fly-tipping/>). JC would arrange for a link to be put on the website.

21.6.6.2 Suffolk CC

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. In response to a question from JL about the level of support for adult social care, GH said she was unable to comment on whether or not the budget was adequate, but said that this would continue to be a key priority for SCC.

Update on outstanding issues

GH had checked on the flooding issue near the church and said this was now showing as 'work completed'. However, KL said he thought the gully might need to be cleared of vegetation in the future; he would monitor this and report it if necessary. JT said the build up of mud in the middle of the road from Shelley bridge towards Lower Raydon had been reported; GH would follow up, and would also check on Wades Lane. The low overhanging branch in Acacia Road would be dealt with in the next few weeks; JC would also write to the owner of Wenham Place Farm to ask him to cut back the grass at the junction of Acacia Road and the B1070. Referring to the landslip on Hadleigh Road, JL said the traffic lights created problems for residents going in and out of their driveways; it was now almost six weeks since the landslip and nothing had been done. GH said it would be necessary for the road to be closed while the repair was carried out; another diversion was currently in place until 14 July, so the work had been scheduled for 15 July. GH said she would also investigate why the damaged 30mph signs, reported in November 2020, had still not been reinstated; in the meantime, another one in Noaks Road had collapsed.

21.6.7 FINANCIAL MATTERS

21.6.7.1 Internal audit report

The key comments and recommendations arising from the internal audit report for 2020/21 were noted and would be implemented during the current financial year. JC said she was aware of the requirement to publish more documents on the website, but felt the site needed to be upgraded. She would research alternatives; this would be an agenda item for the September meeting.

21.6.7.2 2020/21 Annual Return - Section 1, Governance Statement

It was agreed unanimously to approve the Governance Statement, which was then signed by the Chairman and the Clerk/RFO.

21.6.7.3 2020/21 Annual Return - Section 2, Accounting Statements

It was agreed unanimously to approve the Accounting Statements, which were then signed by the Chairman and the Clerk/RFO.

21.6.7.4 RFO's report

It was proposed by SC, seconded by KL and agreed unanimously that the finance report for 15 June 2021 should be approved; payments of £815.21 were authorised.

21.6.8 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

21.6.8.1 Community Speedwatch

The report from the working party was noted; all seven members of the team had successfully passed their Speedwatch training. The five sites were: B1070 outside the Church; B1070 outside Westwold; Woodlands Road outside Charnwood; B1070 next to Heathcote House (towards Hadleigh only); B1070 outside Lavender House. However, the speed gun provided was old, heavy and difficult to hold and the working party recommended purchasing two new guns; the old gun could then be returned to the police and used when training another parish. It was proposed by SC, seconded by TS and agreed unanimously that the Parish Council should purchase two new speed guns, together with cases and batteries, up to a maximum of £550.

21.6.8.2 Better Broadband

KL's update was noted. Over 50 residents had expressed an interest in the 'Fibre to the Premises' (FTTP) scheme and were registered with Openreach. The original intention had been to make an application in July for voucher funding; however, the project manager had now advised that Great Wenham had been announced as the exchange Openreach would be building to; the voucher scheme had therefore been scrapped. The programme would run over several years and the likely dates for implementation in Raydon were not yet known.

21.6.8.3 Grass verges

The report from the working party was noted. Following a site visit with Suffolk Highways in April, it had been confirmed that Highways would not support asphaltting over verges or installing bollards - due in part to the number of underground services, eg Anglian Water covers. The preferred option for stopping parking on grass verges was the installation of planters, which would negate the need for excavation and would improve the overall look of the village; these would require a licence from Suffolk County Council. It was proposed by SS, seconded by JL and agreed unanimously to accept this recommendation, in principle; the working party would meet again and bring more information, including costs, to the next meeting.

21.6.8.4 Village collaboration

KL's paper was noted. When the Village Hall was sold, the VH Committee planned to call a general meeting to consult with residents as to how the proceeds could be best used for the benefit of parishioners in the future. It was agreed to defer any further discussions until after this meeting.

21.6.9 PLANNING

21.6.9.1 DC/21/01465 - Land to the north of The Street

Councillors noted that permission had been granted for variation of Condition 1; reserved matters following outline approval (DC/18/00371).

21.6.9.2 DC/21/01625 - 10 Sulleys Hill

Councillors noted the discharge of conditions (DC/20/02445).

21.6.10 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

Councillors discussed the pros and cons of producing a Neighbourhood Plan (NP). Although parishes with an NP were eligible for a higher percentage of CIL funding, it was agreed that this should not be the main reason for producing a NP. The process was lengthy and time consuming, and expensive. JW confirmed that Babergh's Local Plan did not identify any large development for Raydon; in addition, the current planning process was being reviewed and the outcome could affect NPs in future. Once a NP was produced and approved, it would need to be regularly reviewed. Councillors concluded that producing a Plan would not be appropriate for Raydon at the present time.

21.6.11 GDPR DRAFT POLICY

It was agreed to defer this item to the July meeting.

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

None.

21.6.13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7.30pm on Tuesday 13 July 2021 in the Pavilion, KGF.

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