

RAYDON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 13 April 2021 via Zoom

Present: Stephen Coe (SC)
Jane Cryer - Clerk (JC)
Keith Lovering (KL)
Jim Lowe (JL)
Sue Newton - Chairman (SN)
Amanda Pyall - Vice Chairman (AP)
Trevor Sayer (TS)
Sigi Steer (SS)

In attendance: John Ward, Babergh DC (JW)

Apologies: Faith Backhouse
Clive Duddridge
Geoff Horrex
Gordon Jones - Suffolk CC
David King
Jayne Tann
Simon Tennent

21.1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

See above. SN welcomed everyone to the meeting.

21.2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING / MATTERS ARISING

No meeting had been held in 2020, due to the pandemic. It was proposed by KL, seconded by AP and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 9 April 2019 should be approved.

21.3 REPORTS

21.3.1 Suffolk County Council

JC summarised the report submitted by Councillor Jones. Some key points included winning £830,000 of funding to develop an outline business case to improve the A12 east of Ipswich; a summary of actions taken to support residents during the Covid 19 pandemic; Suffolk 2020 Fund bids approved (eg £300,000 to provide 100 fast charging points for electronic vehicles in rural parts of the county, £228,000 for tree planting, protecting hedgerows and verges, £400,000 for the ANPR speed camera trial); Better Broadband for Suffolk had reached its 100,000th customer; successful booking system for household waste recycling centres; Freeport East approved. Councillor Jones had also highlighted some ongoing issues, including the National Grid proposals for upgrading the Bramford-Twinstead line and the proposed new ATNC line from Bramford into Essex. In response to a comment from SS, JW confirmed that MPs James Cartlidge, James Cleverly, Bernard Jenkin and Dan Poulter had written a letter to the minister asking her to suspend the consultation until all the proposals and alternatives could be considered. JW and the leader of Mid Suffolk DC had also written, as had Polstead and Little Cornard parishes. It was noted that Councillor Jones had decided not to seek re-election in May 2021; Councillors asked that a vote of thanks be recorded.

(full report held on file with the minutes)

21.3.2 Babergh District Council

Councillor Ward's report was noted. Since the start of the pandemic, Babergh DC had distributed a large amount of government support to businesses, distributed its own community grants and worked with partners to support the vulnerable. The 'Home but not alone' free phonenumber had helped thousands of people across Suffolk. With regard to rolling out the vaccination programme, Suffolk was currently the best performing county in England.

The Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan had been approved in November 2020 and had been submitted for examination. Both councils had also published their Five Year Housing Land Supply position statement, providing evidence that government housing requirements could be met until 2025 and beyond. The councils had also responded to the Planning white paper and consultation document on changes to the current planning system. Businesses from across Babergh and Mid Suffolk had been shortlisted in the Business Innovation Awards in November 2020, held virtually - of the 11 winners, 2 were from Hadleigh: Challs International (Most Innovative SME) and Ferguson's Deli (High Street Innovation award). Cabinet had approved several environmental measures, including action plans for sustainable travel and biodiversity, running its vehicle fleet on HVO to cut carbon emissions, and the installation of micro-generation and electricity storage solar carports in Sudbury and Stowmarket. In response to a question from JL, Councillor Ward said the CIL framework remained in place and was not impacted by the Joint Local Plan; the framework would be reviewed later in the year. The Joint Local Plan had been submitted to the Secretary of State but would not be a primary planning document until final approval later in 2021.

(full report held on file with the minutes)

21.3.3 Village Hall

JC said that, due to the pandemic, the Village Hall had been closed for much of the past year. Councillors were aware that it had been sold subject to contract and a planning application for change of use had been submitted, which had been discussed at the planning meeting held on 8 April 2021.

21.3.4 King George's Field

The chairman's report was read out by SN. He thanked the other three Trustees: Sue Newton (Treasurer), Nev Davenport (Secretary), and Stephen Daldry for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. Brantham Athletic Football club continued to rent the premises for their Saturday football matches, using two pitches on the field for both men's and boy's football teams. Brett Vale Football Club, the ladies' adult team now had close to thirty regular players. Both Brantham and Brett Vale used the facilities during the week for training. Until the first lockdown in March 2020, there was a regular income from Raydon Club, which met every Wednesday evening and used the bar facilities in the main building. The annual bonfire and fireworks, the main fundraising event, could not take place in 2020. The Trustees, together with the Parish Council, had secured money from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which had enabled re-surfacing of the car park. CIL funding had also contributed to the refurbishment of the Pavilion. The field was a free to use facility; during the summer months particularly, the field was used for private exercise by several local residents. King George's Field and the Pavilion continued to play their role in providing valued recreational and sporting facilities for the parishioners of Raydon; the Trustees were grateful to Raydon Parish Council for its continued financial contribution.

(full report held on file with the minutes)

21.3.5 Community Speed Watch

JL said there had been a long delay because of the pandemic and he felt that instances of speeding had increased during the last six months. However, he was pleased to report that training for the volunteers would soon be able to take place, enabling the scheme to start.

21.3.6 PCC

JC read out the report submitted by Geoff Horrex and Simon Tennent. The Church had been closed in March 2020 for three months, following which it was only permitted to open on Sundays, from 10.00am - 4.00pm for private prayers or quiet time only. Numbers were limited to eight, with only the Chancel open. Face masks had to be worn inside the building, hand sanitising gel and wipes were supplied and people had to sign on entering for Track & Trace purposes; few people felt safe to venture out. Once the second lockdown finished, a Harvest Festival (October) and a Remembrance Sunday service (November) were held, followed by a Christmas morning service. The third lockdown was introduced on Boxing Day and lasted until Easter. One service per month with limited numbers was now allowed, with only thirty mourners allowed at funerals. All fund raising events during the year were cancelled and the Church stall was also closed. The wall between the churchyard and the village area known as 'The Green' had been damaged and was in danger of collapse. The PCC had set up a funding scheme for people to purchase a brick for £5. This was starting to generate a generous response; because of the possible danger, a builder had been appointed to commence work as soon as possible. The PCC also hoped to return the church clock to working order. A new grass cutting contractor had been appointed.

(full report held on file with the minutes)

21.3.7 Gardening Club

The Gardening Club’s events had also been put on hold during the pandemic. However, it was hoped to resume activity in late June / early July, with the Flower Show planned to take place on 14 August. JL said four new members had been recruited.

21.3.8 Neighbourhood Watch

JC read out the report submitted by Helen Durrant, who was unable to attend the meeting. There were currently 31 members. The only crimes reported by local residents during the past 12 months were:

- August 2020 - reports of items stolen from Church stall (unfortunately not proven so no action taken);
- December - 2020 - resident of The Street reported a driver stopping and stealing presents left out for the bin men (reported to Police);
- January 2021 - resident reported two men trespassing in an empty house, no damage or anything taken (reported to Police).

There had been several reports of internet scams - these were ongoing, but there were no reports of any residents being affected directly. All NHW information was circulated to members within a few days of receipt. Members were encouraged to register on the Police Connect website: <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/services/police-connect>. Helen urged people to be vigilant and beware of door to door salesmen, always asking for identification.

(full report held on file with the minutes)

21.3.9 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. It was agreed that the communications working group would look at ways to increase participation.

21.4 MATTERS RAISED BY PARISHIONERS

There were no parishioners present.

21.5 CHAIRMAN’S CLOSING REMARKS

SN said she was looking forward to being able to return to face to face meetings, hopefully in the summer, after a year of virtual Zoom meetings. She was grateful to her fellow Councillors and the Clerk for their hard work during the year - in particular, Jim Lowe (Community Speed Watch), Jayne Tann and Amanda Pyall (Quiet Lanes Suffolk initiative), Keith Lovering (resurfacing of the car park and church lay-by, and Better Broadband). She also thanked Councillors Jones and Ward for their support.

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Chairman

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Date