



REDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Alison Spouncer
E: clerk@redgrave-pc.gov.uk
P: 01379 890613

227

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

held at 7.00pm on 21st September 2023 at the All-Saints Church, Redgrave.

Present: Chair Cllr Andy Warnes, Cllrs Brian Andrews, Frank Gillett, Ann Preston, Mike Denmark, Alison Spouncer (Clerk), and forty-six members of the Public.

- 1. Chairman's Welcome and Introduction.** A welcome was extended to all to the meeting. The Chair called this Extraordinary Parish Council meeting following 7th September Parish Council meeting and the decision made to continue as the Appointing Authority for the Charity for the Needy (CfN), the Little Ouse Headwaters Project (LOHP) and the Redgrave Amenities Trust (RAT) respectively.
- 2. Apologies** Cllr Elaine Brown, Cllr Charlotte Giddings, Cllr John Giddings. **Declarations of Interest** – None. **Delegated Declaration of Interest Dispensation decisions or dispensation requests where required** – None.

3. Public Forum

The Chairman to invite members of the public to indicate if they wish to speak at this meeting, either on an item on the agenda or on a general matter.

One member of the public gave his feedback on the proposed Policy* for Redgrave Parish Council as the Appointing Authority. Whilst he considered the Policy to be “over-kill” with the inherent difficulty there is to find volunteers without the newly proposed policy including an interview process, he agreed except for two points:

- Within point 2, the addition of “and the job/person specification” should be added:
- Within point 7, “phased to always remain quorate”. This was requested to ensure that not all trustees were up for nomination at the same time.

Cllr Warnes asked the member of the public in which capacity he was speaking; he said that he was speaking as a member of the public but with long links to the RAT. The Council noted these suggestions but made no comment on them at this point. A member of the public wished to thank RAT for its work looking after the recreation ground facility but wanted to hear more about its activities which were not well communicated to the village. In a recent meeting with a RAT representative, he indicated that it might be possible to improve such communications.

Cllr Warnes noted the RPC minutes showed that the RAT had not approached the RPC since 2018 to ask for nomination of any trustees.

Cllr Warnes explained that the RPC had received complaints about the RAT's activities from a parishioner who wished to remain anonymous but who had asked the RPC to pursue it on his behalf. The RPC accepted some of the points and agreed to take forward to the RAT with the understanding that the RPC had become the complainant. Part of the complaint included the

DRAFT UNTIL SIGNED

Signed/initialled.....(Chair)./...../2023

This Page 1 of 3



REDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Alison Spouncer
E: clerk@redgrave-pc.gov.uk
P: 01379 890613

228

lack of appropriate trustee nominations. In addition, the apparent lack of transparency and information being provided by RAT on its activities on the recreation ground (including that of the fencing off the area to the village in general). The RAT had refused to engage with the RPC on these issues.

A parishioner with links to the RAT advised that there will be a meeting held by the RAT to provide an update to the village, with all welcome to attend. This was welcomed by those present. He also commented that the lease with Llanover has been “de facto” since April 2023 but that it is still not signed.

Cllr Warnes questioned the quote from Llanover suggesting the football pitch is being used solely for a “private football club”. This was disputed by a member of the public with links to the RAT. Cllr Gillett questioned the contents and the status of the lease in relation to the timing of a public meeting. It was suggested the lease will be signed prior to the public meeting with no details of the lease to be divulged before its signature.

Discussions continued throughout the forum including the observation that communication lines have broken down between RPC and RAT over the last few years and there is a need to work together for the good of the beneficiaries of the charity. It was suggested that the Neighbourhood Plan had caused issues in communications but this was refuted by the Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Cllr Warnes stated that the RPC as a whole wished for harmony and working together.

A member of the public asked who has paid for all the fencing on the recreation ground and queried whether it came from RAT funds; no answer was given.

Further points were made including the general feeling that the RAT was a “secret society” with residents not knowing what is planned for the land nor understanding who had placed all the fencing. Cllr Warnes stated the RAT has been responsible for the fencing, not Llanover, except for the piece of land identified in the Neighbourhood Plan as the potential site for about 8 houses. Cllr Warnes advised that the RPC have had nothing to do with the actions of the RAT and that a meeting to hear about the plans would be very welcome to clarify the situation.

Several residents expressed the same concerns about children and grandchildren not being able to play on the recreation ground. The return of the football club is welcome, and it is seen as positive, however, there was sadness that there is not access for all children to play. Others argued that RAT’s blame of the Neighbourhood Plan is a distraction, while another member of the public suggested that the issue of the Neighbourhood Plan is not necessarily “a distraction”; it could be argued there are issues with it that the RAT is trying to work through.

The RPC’s position was questioned as to whether it should be looking into the provision of additional recreational areas for the children of the village. The RPC concurred with this and indicated that discussions were ongoing as to what might be possible.

4. To DISCUSS the situation of and possible options for the future of the Old Recreation Ground.

DRAFT UNTIL SIGNED

Signed/initialled.....(Chair)./...../2023

This Page 2 of 3



REDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Alison Spouncer
E: clerk@redgrave-pc.gov.uk
P: 01379 890613

229

Cllr Warnes provided the requirements of the RPC as Appointing Authority to the respective charities. There are five trustee positions for the RAT, two nominative trustee positions for CfN and one trustee position for LOHP.

A summary of the negotiations between RAT/RPC and Llanover was provided by Cllr Warnes. Negotiations faltered when Llanover refused to meet with RAT/RPC in May 2022. Shortly after this Llanover terminated the “tenancy at will” agreement. Since then, the RAT has been negotiating with Llanover for a new lease to cover the football pitch and Green Hut area, as a result of which fencing and signage has been erected around the recreation ground; the Llanover representative claims that Llanover did not specify the requirement for this fencing and signage. A member of the public with links to the RAT disputed this statement by Llanover. The RPC is unaware of details of discussions between the RAT and Llanover and has not been able to speak with the RAT due to a refusal to engage.

Llanover has now mooted its agreement to discussions again with the RPC with Cllr Warnes asking the councillors present if they would be happy to respond to this suggestion. Cllr Gillett wished to know what Llanover were offering before agreeing to engage. Cllr Warnes proposed that the RPC should offer to meet with Llanover to discover its position and thoughts and to return to a Parish Council meeting to discuss publicly prior to any further discussions. The question was put to the Council and it was **AGREED** that it would engage with Llanover alongside the RAT once trustees have been properly appointed. It was confirmed Cllr Warnes would inform Llanover of the decision, given the invite to the RPC was extended to him. Future communications from Llanover would come through the Clerk. (Proposed by Cllr Gillett, seconded by Cllr Andrews, unanimously voted by all the councillors present).

4. To DISCUSS and AGREE the contents of the Policy Document for the Parish Council acting as Appointing Authority for the aforementioned charities.

Following on from the Council’s decision at its meeting of 7th September 2023 to continue as the Appointing Authority for the Redgrave charities, a draft policy document has been produced. The document has used information directly from the Charities Commission guidelines and the governing documents of the respective charities. In summary, the charities will inform RPC when a vacancy is available, an appointment panel will look at all nominees with everyone attending an interview process, if there are more than required applying there will then be shortlisted candidates, conversely if there are not enough candidates the charities will be asked to appoint their own trustees. The Council **APPROVED** the Policy Document: proposed by Cllr Preston, seconded by Cllr Andrews and agreed unanimously by all those councillors present.

***Copy of the Policy document is available in draft form on the Council’s website.**

5. Date of Next Meeting. AGREED as Thursday 5th October 2023. All Saints Church, 7pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.00

DRAFT UNTIL SIGNED

Signed/initialled.....(Chair)./...../2023

This Page 3 of 3