



REDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

held at 7.00pm on 2nd February 2023 at the All-Saints Church, Redgrave.

Present: Chair Cllr Andy Warnes, Councillors Brian Andrews, Elaine Brown, Mike Denmark, Charlotte Giddings, John Giddings, Frank Gillett, Jason Walker, Alison Spouncer (Clerk), one member of the Public.

1. **Chairman's introduction and welcome.** The Chairman, Cllr Warnes, welcomed all to the meeting.
Cllr Warnes invited Cllr Walker to lead the Council's tribute to Joyce Orves who passed away peacefully at the end of 2022. Memories of her life in Redgrave included the time she spent as Chair of the Parish Council from 1994-2008 and her tireless involvement in many clubs including needlecraft, cycle cross and luncheon. Along with the instigation of the Redgrave Amenities Trust, the 'green hut', playing field and her involvement in the community shop.
2. **Apologies – None. 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
A resident who kindly maintains the Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) signs on the B1113 at both ends of the village, reported one as out of action due to a part needing to be replaced. A payment to the cost of £118.00 for the replacement part was requested of the Council. **APPROVED.** with thanks to the resident for his ongoing help and maintenance of the signs.
4. **Minutes of the last meeting**
APPROVED - the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on **12th January 2023** (previously circulated) were signed as a true and accurate record.
5. **Ward and District Councillor's Report**
Councillor Fleming wished to **NOTE** the very successful opening of the new Play Area, she enjoyed attending the event on 30th January and wished to congratulate everyone involved in a very positive project.
Cllr Fleming continued by highlighting areas of interest from her report provided prior to the meeting:
 - Council Leader Matthew Hicks is 'minded to' agree with the Government's 'County Deal' which would lead to provisional devolution of powers and funding, providing new money for sustainable building, regeneration of brown field land with an aim to stimulate the local economy. It could also result in a directly elected County leader. Public consultations will be planned prior to a Council decision.
 - Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has recently been awarded a 'Good' outcome from an independent inspection. There is a proposed spend of £5.3m towards the purchase of 20 new engines (9 being ready for use by the end of 2023) with decommissioned engines being sent to Ukraine and other needed causes.

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- Green Awards are still open for nominations. Cllr Warnes will investigate further with the Green Redgrave Group in mind.
- “When the Sea Came In” – Suffolk Archives/The Hold are commemorating the event of 70 years ago which claimed 2,500 people in Europe. It will be held at The Hold, Ipswich Waterfront.
- Fostering and adoption – there is still a great need for fosterers with links on the SCC website for more information. The need has increased with Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) also.
- Council tax has been frozen for this year by Mid Suffolk.
- Solar Farm Appeal – there has been an appeal mounted against the refusal of the Rickinghall Solar Development. Chair informed the Council of a Redgrave landowner looking into the option of a solar farm within the Redgrave boundary.
- The status of the Essex to Norfolk Pylon plan appears to be going ahead with the 2030 climate pledge target dictating the speed at which the project is moving.

Cllr Fleming confirmed she will be standing down as District Councillor but will continue to visit the Council as County Councillor.

6. Planning

The following planning application was received by the Council.

NOTED: DC/22/05936 Land South of Oak House, The Green, Redgrave has been **GRANTED**.

7. Parish Clerk’s Report

7.1 The Council **RECEIVED** an update on actions still outstanding from previous meetings.

- Action 192.10.2 (Community Transport). The Clerk will be meeting with Rickinghall’s Clerk on 9th February 2023 to discuss. It was **AGREED** the Redgrave Parish Council would be reluctant to own the vehicle and would suggest allowing Gordon Lawrence to continue as per the current arrangement.
- Action 195.10.3 (Land behind Churchway). The Chair reported of his meeting with the Landowner, awaiting a firm response but it was **AGREED** other potential areas of land should be considered. Areas have been suggested and approaches will be made to each respective Landowner.

8. Responsible Financial Officer Report

8.1 **RECEIVED** - Financial reports provided. It was **NOTED** that the current balance is substantially lower than previously. This can be largely attributed to the costs of the new playing area whilst awaiting receipt of monies from MSDC Grants.

8.2 **APPROVED** - Payments approved.

8.3 **APPROVED** – IA Play Solutions; fence install, bench move, posts, gates, timber - £5,257.20 (inc VAT)

8.4 **APPROVED** – Amazon/Drop bolt for gate fixing £14.45 (inc VAT)

8.5 **APPROVED** – Tube Survey £410.00 (ex VAT)

8.6 **APPROVED** – Spend on Playground Opening £50

8.7 **APPROVED** – Office costs/stationery and ink £32.95 (inc VAT)

8.8 **NOTED** – Parish Clerk monthly allowance and salary (Jan 23) £559.26

8.9 **NOTED** – Expected income: Return of posts expenditure £280 (inc VAT) and MSDC grant £9,285.94

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8.10 **NOTED** – A dispute continues regarding the sign for the play area which has not been received; if necessary, a replacement costs £317.52.

8.11 **NOTED** – The 2023/34 Precept confirmed as £24,156 (approved at the last meeting) was signed, to be sent to MSDC by 3rd February 2023.

9. Annual Parish Meeting (APM)

By law, this is a requirement for each Parish Council to hold. It is not to be confused with a Parish Council meeting. Its minutes are to be separate. There is also an Annual Parish Council Meeting (APCM) where a Chair is elected. The APM is entirely open for organisations, clubs, and local businesses to offer reports and provide information on their activities. There is an opportunity to invite a guest speaker; Philip Isbell (Planning Officer) to be **CONSIDERED**. The current suggested date is 6th April 2023, but this coincides with Easter and school holidays so therefore a later date may be optimum. It was **AGREED** to consider the date and format further with the Chair, Cllr Brown and the Clerk working together with further communications with the Council.

10. King's Coronation

NOTED: Project Lead: Cllr Brown (eight volunteers have come forward to help with the proposed day of 7th May 2023, the national day of celebration). A budget will need to be considered. Suffolk Highways have been informed of a potential road closure for the event (the road alongside the Knoll to Churchway). Cllr Brown will continue to update the Council as plans form.

11. Correspondence

11.1 The Council **NOTED** HEADWAY Suffolk will revert to the Council once the format and logistics of the Mobile shop have been finalised.

11.2 **NOTED** – FP001 Stile. The refurbishment of said stile is awaited.

11.3 **CONSIDERED** – St Botolph's CEVCP School have approached Botesdale PC requesting CIL monies for the decarbonisation project that is underway. BPC, in turn, has requested financial input from RPC. It was **AGREED** that further investigation would be necessary prior to a decision.

12. Agenda Items proposed for the next meeting

12.1 **Extension of the April 2019 General Powers of Competence (GPC) to borrow.** The extension of GPC powers needs to be authorised by the PC on an annual basis. To qualify there is a requirement for the correct level of elected and co-opted Councillors and for the Clerk to be trained. **AGREED** to proceed and discuss further.

12.2 **Maintenance of Oak Benches and update of Asset Register.** It was **AGREED** by the Council the maintenance of the oak benches would be carried out in-house with the Asset Register being updated as and when required.

13. Date of the next meeting – AGREED as 2nd March 2023

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.24 pm

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