



REDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Alison Spouncer
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P: 01379 890613

247

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

held at 7.00pm on 18th January 2024 at the All-Saints Church, Redgrave.

Present: Chair Cllr Andy Warnes, Cllrs Brian Andrews, Elaine Brown, Frank Gillett, John Giddings, Mike Denmark, Alison Spouncer (Clerk).

1. **Chairman's Welcome and Introduction.** A welcome was extended to all to the meeting by Chair Cllr Andy Warnes.
2. **Apologies** Cllr Charlotte Giddings and Cllr Preston. **Declarations of Interest** – None. **Delegated Declaration of Interest Dispensation decisions or dispensation requests where required** – None.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting.** Minutes of the last meeting (7th December 2023) previously circulated were agreed as a true record and **APPROVED** by all present.
4. **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.
No members of the public were present.
5. **County and District Councillor's Report.**
No report or communication was received from County Cllr Fleming or District Cllr Morgan. *Cllr Fleming welcomes any communications from residents with queries and concerns. Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk Tel: 07714-597980. X (formerly Twitter): @jesstfleming. Our District Councillor can be contacted: Gilly.Morgan@midsuffolk.gov.uk*
6. **Planning**
 - 6.1 **To CONSIDER any planning applications by the Council for comment, including those received after the publication of the agenda.**
DC/23/05708 – Land Adjacent Knoll Cottage, The Street, Redgrave – erection of a building for equestrian and domestic storage. **NO OBJECTION.**
DC/24/00101 – The Old Cart Lodge, The Street, Redgrave – Replacement of 7no. windows and 3no. doors. **NO OBJECTION.**
 - 6.2 **To NOTE any planning decisions received.**
DC/23/05362 - Tudor Limes Barn, The Street, Redgrave, Diss Suffolk IP22 1RW. Works to Trees in a conservation area. Re-pollard back to previous points 1No Lime Tree (T1) and 1No Ash Tree (T2) as outgrown position. **NO OBJECTION.**
DC/23/05785 – A decision notice of **NO OBJECTION** for 3 Knoll Close, Redgrave. T1 removal of a walnut tree, T2 Oak to raise crown and T3 reduction of a fruit tree.
A resident ecologist professional to provide advice to the Parish Council for any tree works and building planning permissions.

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7. Parish Clerk's Report

The Council **RECEIVED** an update on actions outstanding before the meeting, among those:

7.1 225-9.7 It was **AGREED** the Clerk would seek clarification on the brackets required for the 60l dog litter bin, confirming if the brackets currently in use will be suitable or if a new set is required with new costings.

7.2 244-11 Cllr Gillett had sought advice on suitable shrubs for The Knoll. It was agreed that the option of planting a native tree with a positive impact on biodiversity would be sought. Cllr Gillett and Cllr Warnes would liaise with different options to provide to the Parish Council for consideration. Cllr Denmark noted the banding on the remaining barrel pot on The Knoll has come away. It was **AGREED** this would be investigated by Cllr Gillett to decide if it could be repaired or needed to be replaced.

7.3 211.13 Cllr Andrews reported that Gressingham Foods has agreed to contribute £1,000 to the cost of the erection of a warning sign on the approach to the facility from the village. The cost provided by Suffolk Highways is £1,500. It was **AGREED**, following another accident in the area, that the Parish Council would meet the remainder of the cost (£500). Cllr Andrews to confirm to Gressingham Foods and Suffolk Highways.

8. Responsible Financial Officer Report

RECEIVED - Financial reports were provided prior to the meeting.

8.1 Payments **Approved** and **Paid**:

ICO GDPR Annual Renewal (to 17/1/25)	£ 35.00
Administration costs	£573.52
Paper/printer costs (A Spouncer)	£ 11.98
Bank Service Charge	£ 18.00
TOTAL	£620.50

8.2 Accounts for **Approval**:

RBR PCC All Saints Hire (Jan-Apr 2024)	£ 97.00
TOTAL	£ 97.00

8.3 Monies in: NONE

Bank Account as of 18th January 2024: £51,839.07 (which £39,205.98 in reserves, including £14,705.98 as CIL).

9. Correspondence

To **NOTE** correspondence received, if any (previously circulated)

9.1 BMSDC has confirmed it would be prepared to supply a brush cutter to the Community Self-help Scheme if the training was undertaken. Cllr Warnes has sought offerings, only finding two options. It was **DISCUSSED** and **AGREED** that there may not be a need for a second brush cutter and for Cllr Denmark to ascertain the cost of a replacement harness that is required for the current cutter the Parish Council has.

9.2 Suffolk Highways has stated the downed 30mph repeater sign adjacent to the flat iron is not in their 'intervention criteria'. It was **DISCUSSED** and **AGREED** the Parish Council would look into re-erecting the sign.

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9.3 It was **NOTED** Suffolk Highways will carry out the repair work to a pothole in Churchway in 8 calendar weeks.

9.4 It was **NOTED** Suffolk Highways has refused to repair/replace the plastic bollard at the entrance to Half Moon Lane adjacent to the Flat Iron. It was **AGREED** the Parish Council would ascertain if it could fix the damaged bollard and reinstate it.

9.5 Community-Led Housing Zoom Events – Zoom meetings were being held to provide information on the ideas behind community-led housing and the forms it can take. Invitations are open to residents as well as Parish Councils. Details of the meetings have been circulated on the bulletin email service and anyone interested can get the information from the Clerk. Cllr Warnes has confirmed his attendance, and it was **AGREED** he would feedback to the Parish Council.

9.6 BMSDC notified of a further update in their bin collection costs equating to c£20 additional from the previous increase of 25%.

9.7 An email had been received from Mr Julian Van Beveren on 11th January 2024 requesting that the Parish Council discuss the points of a previous email of 18th December 2023. It was **AGREED** to discuss this within item 13 Appointment of Trustees. (item 13.3)

10. BMSDC Joint Local Plan

The updated information and a request for 'Call for Site' following the adoption of the BMSDC Joint Local Plan Part 1 2018-2037 Development Plan Document (DPD) in November 2023 was **NOTED**. It was **AGREED** the plan would be added to the Parish Council website for information. It was **AGREED** there were no sites available within Redgrave. It was **NOTED** the plan covers such areas as housing needs, affordable housing options, and sustainable location of developments (directed at more urban areas). Cllr Warnes highlighted the key points affecting Redgrave, namely the alteration in the settlement boundary which has been extended to include the area fenced off for eight houses, specified in the neighbourhood plan. It also provides two community facilities, namely the Redgrave Amenities Trust (RAT) green building and the old children's playground on the old Recreation Ground.

11. To DISCUSS and APPROVE the Budget FY 2024/25 (Documents provided previously)

Following discussions at the December 2023 meeting the final budget figures were presented, totalling £24,139.94 with an increase of 3% on last year. This was unanimously **AGREED** by all those present.

12. To DISCUSS and APPROVE the Precept for FY 2024/25 (documents provided previously)

Following discussions at the December 2023 meeting the final precept figure was provided to the Parish Council. The amount of £25,252.16 was **AGREED** unanimously by all those present. This represented an increase of 4.5% from 2023/24.

13. Appointment of Trustees to Charities.

13.1 Charity for the Needy – The closing date for applications for a position as Trustee is 26th January 2024. It was **AGREED** interviews would be arranged at mutually convenient times

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for those concerned. If the process is successful, it was **AGREED** the Parish Council would then inform the Charity Commission of a new appointment in line with its Governing Document.

13.2 Appointing Authority for Charity for the Needy (CfN) - It was further **AGREED** that once this appointments process had been completed and there were properly appointed trustees in place then the Redgrave Parish Council (RPC) would write to the CfN charity asking that its constitution be amended to remove the RPC from its role as Appointing Authority.

13.3 Email from Mr Julian Van Beveren seeking a response from his email of 18th December 2023 – the content of Mr Van Beveren's email was **DISCUSSED**. It was **NOTED** there were three main points to the email, namely:

- a) The perceived bullying of trustees
- b) Attack on the integrity and honesty of the RAT
- c) RAT to consider actions against the Parish Council against the unwarranted vendetta

The RPC **DISCUSSED** the points and **AGREED** to respond to Mr Van Beveren stating its Code of Conduct had been and continues to be adhered to, including the 'Nolan Principles', and that all communications with the RAT had been conducted in a professional and respectful manner in line with these requirements. It was **AGREED** the RPC could not see that the questions it had raised to the RAT were either bullying or an attack on the RAT's integrity, but rather were valid questions for which it sought clarification. The RPC had still not received answers to these questions that it had raised with the RAT in its formal complaints submitted in September 2023 regarding: 1) the appointment of RAT trustees; 2) the lack of openness/transparency, in particular regarding the charity's Objects being changed without consultation with beneficiaries; and 3) that the RAT appears to be acting for one body (i.e. the football club) rather than the wider group of beneficiaries. The RPC has not received any response at all from the RAT to complaints 2) and 3). The RPC expected that the RAT should have responded to these questions in an open and transparent manner as required by the Charity Commission's Governance Code; the RAT had refused to meet with the RPC to discuss the issue or to engage in a way that was consistent with the above Governance Code. It was **AGREED** the Parish Council would respond to Mr van Beveren's email reflecting the above discussions and agreements. The RPC **NOTED** that it awaits a response from the RAT regarding its two invitations for mediation to resolve the current situation. The Parish Council **AGREED** that should it not receive a positive response to these invitations then it would inform the Charity Commission of the RAT's refusal to undertake mediation as required by the Commission. The RPC also **AGREED** that it would seek an estimate of costs for further legal advice as to legality of the RAT's trustee appointment practices.

14. Any Items to be proposed for the next Agenda

14.1 To **DISCUSS** a date for the Annual Parish Meeting

14.2 To **DISCUSS** arrangements for the 2024 Internal Audit Review

14.3 To **DISCUSS** the benches on The Knoll, to ascertain if the Parish Council has a number.

15. Date of Next Meeting. **AGREED** as Thursday 1st February 2024. All Saints Church, 7 pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.04

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