



REDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Alison Spouncer
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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

held at 7.00pm on 7th March 2024 at the All Saints Church, Redgrave.

Present: Chair Cllr Andy Warnes, Cllrs Ann Preston, Elaine Brown, Frank Gillett, Charlotte Giddings, John Giddings, Mike Denmark, Alison Spouncer (Clerk) and County Councillor Jessica Fleming. There were no members of the public.

- 1. Chairman's Welcome and Introduction.** A welcome was extended to all to the meeting by Chair Cllr Andy Warnes.
- 2. Apologies** Cllr Brian Andrews. **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 (1st February 2024) 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 comments were made.

5. County and District Councillor's Report.

County Cllr Fleming discussed the main points of her report provided before the meeting. County Council Budget. The budget has been agreed for 2024/25 at full council on 15th February 2024; some difficult decisions had to be made to respond to the cost pressures. Effects are being felt on arts and culture and the proposal to consolidate Suffolk archives resulting in the closure of the Bury St Edmunds branch. It is hoped the digitalisation process, which is progressing, will make these records more accessible. Cllr Fleming invited anyone with an interest/comment in the proposal to contact her.

Cllr Warnes asked about the status of Suffolk Highways funding given the poor state of potholes, signage, and pavement clearing that Redgrave and the county are experiencing. Cllr Fleming noted this.

SEND Services. Suffolk's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) services are provided through a Local Area Partnership which includes both Suffolk County Council and its NHS health service partners. An inspection was carried out jointly for the first time by both Ofsted and the CQC (Care Quality Commission) last November; their report has been recently issued and is critical of how the service is delivered (<https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50238584>). SCC has a working party initiated jointly with health professionals to investigate the points raised including the timeliness of care plan delivery. Cllr Fleming is a member of the working party.

Devolution Proposals. A 10-week public consultation on SCC's proposed devolution deal with the Government is to be held from 18th March to 26th May. The consultation will be available through SCC's website; www.suffolk.gov.uk/devolution and via social media.

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Cllr Warnes thanked Cllr Fleming, on behalf of the Parish Council, for agreeing to meet the cost of the replacement projector for Council Meetings.

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/24/00969 – Works to Trees in a conservation area – No1 Willow, cut back to last reduction approx. one third. The Old Rectory, The Green, Redgrave. **NO OBJECTION.**

DC/24/00757 – Full planning application for 2No dwellings and associated garaging – Adjacent to The Cottage, The Green, Redgrave. Cllr Warnes recused himself from the meeting for the discussion on this application because of personal interest. The remaining Councillors discussed the application and decided unanimously to **OBJECT** due to there not being a need for such properties and they are not being included in the neighbourhood plan. **OBJECTION.**

DC/24/00558 – Notification of works to trees in a conservation area – Fell 1No Golden Cypress – 4 The Green, Redgrave. **NO OBJECTION.**

DC/24/00983 – Planning Permission Application for the erection of a shed/log store in the back garden - Priory Barn, Half Moon Lane, Redgrave. **NO OBJECTION.**

DC/24/01130 - DC/24/01130 – Fenestration alteration to ground floor front elevation of existing HMO - The Grange, Hinderclay Road, Redgrave. **NO OBJECTION.**

6.2 To NOTE any planning decisions received.

DC/22/04600 – Erection of four new chalets and a new access, expanding existing chalet site. Land at Moneypot Hill, Redgrave IP22 1SF – **REFUSED.**

DC/24/00101 – Replacement of 7No windows and 3No doors – The Old Cart Lodge, The Street, Redgrave – **GRANTED.**

DC/24/00558 – Fell 1No Golden Cypress – 4 The Green, Redgrave – **NO OBJECTION.**

A resident ecologist professional will advise the Parish Council for any tree works and building planning permissions.

7. Parish Clerk's Report

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

7.1 243-9.2 The Clerk is awaiting information and costs from Glasdon regarding the requirements for a 60l dog litter bin, i.e., would it be possible to reuse the post and brackets currently being used for the existing smaller bin.

7.2 245-15 The Council **AGREED** to continue with the installation of the 2 new benches. Cllrs Gillett and Warnes suggested that the two benches be on the Churchway end of the Knoll facing the properties adjacent to the Knoll. It was further **AGREED** that Cllr Gillett should mark out the proposed positions of hard standing for the benches for review by councillors before starting the project.

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7.3 219-7.7 Discussed under Item 10.

8. Responsible Financial Officer Report

RECEIVED - Financial reports were provided before the meeting.

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

Administration costs	£603.85
Replacement Projector for RPC use*	£762.99
PCC RBR All Saints Hire 13/2 CfN Trustees, 25/4 APM	£ 47.00
Suffolk Highways, 2 pedestrian signs for Half Moon Lane**	£1,016.68
TOTAL	£2,430.52

* Full reimbursement to be received from Cllr Fleming Locality Budget

** £500 reimbursement agreed from Cllr Fleming's Locality Budget

8.2 Accounts for **Approval**:

TOTAL £ 0.00

8.3 Monies in: NONE

Bank Account as of 18th January 2024: £48,384.56 (which is £39,205.98 in reserves, including £14,705.98 as CIL).

8.4 Higher Interest Accounts: The Council had previously **AGREED** to consider the transfer of reserves to interest-bearing accounts and to investigate appropriate accounts. As a result of these investigations, it was recommended that the £9,000 of general reserves should be transferred to a Unity Bank 'immediate access' account with the remainder of the reserves and CIL funds to be transferred to a 6-month access account. This would allow some interest payments on the funds. It was **AGREED** to transfer the suggested funds by opening the relevant accounts with Unity Trust Bank.

9. Correspondence

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

9.1 Hedgehog Highway Project – it was **NOTED** that Redgrave is already extremely active in hedgehog projects with successful introductions of rescue hedgehogs and an increasing number of hedgehogs appearing. The Council therefore **AGREED** not to take part in this initiative.

9.2 Suffolk County Council Transport Strategy Team – a public consultation available at <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/ltp4> from 12th February for 8 weeks, open to all who wish to comment. The Council **AGREED** that it would provide input to the consultation on behalf of the village. Councillors should provide comments to the Clerk for collation.

9.3 Digital Exclusion – the Parish Council is awaiting feedback from the Botesdale and Rickinghall Parish Councils.

9.4 Gressingham Foods Power Generation Project – a meeting was held with Gressingham Foods, with Cllrs Warnes and Andrews present, to discuss its proposals for a power generation project on its land. Gressingham Foods intended to make a planning application for a 17-acre solar farm on the field opposite its property and also for solar panels on its roofs. The proposal includes hedging around the entire site and a wildflower meadow inside the site to meet its Biodiversity Net Gain obligations and to provide a new footpath to connect 2 existing footpaths.

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This proposal would provide approximately 3.5MW of power that would be utilised only by Gressingham Foods. It was **NOTED** there would be no mandatory compensation provision direct to the village as such developments are not eligible for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds or Section 106 compensation. The Joint Local Plan (JLP) notes, however, that proposers of such power generation projects should consult with communities and compensate the village if applicable. It was also **NOTED** that breeding pairs of Skylarks, registered on the RED bird list of concern, were present on the field under discussion; Gressingham Foods would therefore be required to show that it could provide or find a suitable replacement site for the birds to relocate. It was further **NOTED** that such developments should not be on high-grade agricultural land; this field was graded 3a/3b which is considered a good level. The Council **AGREED** to hold an Extraordinary Parish Meeting to allow Gressingham Foods to present its proposals and allow Council and residents to review the company's plans. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Warnes would write to Gressingham Foods proposing that the meeting be held during the week commencing 18th March 24.

10. Redgrave Parish Council Welcome Pack

The Clerk previously provided a copy of a welcome pack requesting feedback on the document. Councillors provided feedback which the Clerk will include before publication. The Council **AGREED** to consider the cost of production and method of circulation of the document, including a .PDF version to be distributed to estate agents active in the village.

11. To DISCUSS and APPROVE the date for the Annual Parish Meeting (APM).

It was **AGREED** the APM would continue in the same format as the previous year with a 6 pm start for the Redgrave Community Forum, where local organisations and businesses will have space to provide information on their activities, and a 7.30 pm start for the APM. There are currently 10 tables required for various parties. The Council **AGREED** to consider a guest speaker(s) for the event. It was also agreed that the Clerk would request reports from groups in receipt of grants from the Council and other relevant bodies.

12. Appointment of Trustees

12.1 The Redgrave Appointments Panel met to consider prospective trustees for the Charity for the Needy (CfN) on 13th February with CfN Trustee Bob Hayward present. The Panel subsequently recommended Mrs Helen Migliorato to the Council as its Nominative Trustee. The Parish Council **AGREED** this recommendation and appointed Mrs Migliorato as its Nominative Trustee in accordance with the terms of the CfN's Governing Document and the Redgrave Parish Council Charity Trustee Appointment Policy; this appointment would be for 4 years with effect from the date of this Parish Council Meeting. It was further **AGREED** that the Clerk would notify the CfN Trustees of this appointment in accordance with the terms of the CfN's Governing Document.

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12.2 The Parish Council acknowledged the correspondence received from the Redgrave Amenities Trust (RAT) regarding its recommendation of two options for the appointment of trustees; those being 1) for the Charity Commission (CC) to permit RAT to amend its governing document for the PC to no longer act as appointing body or 2) the PC could advise the RAT that it no longer wished to remain as the appointing body and the RAT to subsequently change its governing document accordingly. It was **AGREED** unanimously to **REJECT** these two suggestions. Discussion continued for the next steps with estimates of legal advice provided. The Council **NOTED** the RAT's refusal of a second invitation for mediation and **AGREED** to write to the CC to inform it of the RAT's rejection of its requirement for mediation.

13. Any Items to be proposed for the next Agenda.

13.1 To **DISCUSS** the Children's Playground Risk Policy review and Play area safety inspection.

13.2 To **DISCUSS** the disposal of tissues throughout the hedgerows in the village.

15. Date of Next Meeting. **AGREED** as Thursday 4th April 2024. All Saints Church, 7 pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.32 pm

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