



# REDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

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

held at 7.00pm on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at the All-Saints Church, Redgrave.

**Present:** Chair Cllr Andy Warnes, Councillors Brian Andrews, Elaine Brown, Mike Denmark, Frank Gillett, Ann Preston, Alison Spouncer (Clerk), and four members of the Public.

1. **Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair for the Year 2023/24.** Cllr Warnes was re-elected as Chair with Cllr Denmark re-elected as Vice-Chair.
2. **To receive the Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.** Signed and countersigned by Cllr Warnes and the Clerk.
3. **Chairman's Welcome and Introduction.** A welcome was extended to all at the meeting.
4. **Apologies** Cllrs Charlotte Giddings, and John Giddings. **Declarations of Interest** – None. **Delegated Declaration of Interest Dispensation decisions or dispensation requests where required** – None.
5. **Minutes of the last meeting**  
**APPROVED** - the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2023 (previously circulated) were signed as a true and accurate record.
6. **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**  
Three members of the public were in attendance to discuss item 13 on the agenda (Traffic issues on Hinderclay Road). There have been two serious accidents in the same location in the last three months. It has caused great concern to the residents. One incident required medical assistance to one of the drivers, the other caused a telegraph pole to be destroyed following a head on collision, leading to a full replacement and repair, leaving one resident with no landline or internet connectivity for the past three weeks since the incident. Both accidents saw major damage to all cars but thankfully no serious injuries to the drivers, however the urgent concern held is that there will be another which could prove far more serious. Gressingham were informed due to staff being involved. It was mentioned that this concern has been brought to the attention of Suffolk Highways (SH) by residents and Gressingham previously but there has been no progression. The residents are worried for the safety of themselves, their properties and fellow walkers and drivers who utilise the road. The PC agreed to discuss further under the agenda item.
7. **Ward and District Councillor's Report**  
Neither Cllr Fleming nor Cllr Morgan were able to attend. Cllr Fleming sent apologies on behalf of them both due to a clash of meetings with another Parish. Cllr Fleming retrospectively reported of her endorsement of the Road Safety Signage proposed for Half Moon Lane. Cllr Fleming supplied the new District Councillor's email address:

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

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[Gilly.Morgan@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Gilly.Morgan@midsuffolk.gov.uk) for anyone wishing to contact her. Jessica remains the Parish's County Councillor, Hartismere Division, her email address being [Jessica.Fleming@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Jessica.Fleming@suffolk.gov.uk)

## 8. Planning

No new applications were received, the council **NOTED** four planning decisions:

- DC/23/00984 The Priory, Half Moon Lane **GRANTED**
- DC/23/01562 The Old Forge, The Street **NO OBJECTIONS**
- DC/23/01357 Prospect Green, The Street **NO OBJECTIONS**
- DC/23/01040 Juniper Cottage, The Street **NO OBJECTIONS**

## 9. Parish Clerk's Report

The Council **RECEIVED** an update on actions still outstanding prior to the meeting, among those:

- Action 171.10.6 – stile on footpath 1 – the stile has now been installed to British Standards. However, the Council has received several comments and complaints. This is being followed up by Cllr Warnes.
- Action 199.12.2 – Work on the maintenance of the oak benches around the village is hoped to start early June.
- Action 205.7.1 – St Botolph's CEVCP School Decarbonisation Project. **AGREED** to pay the proposed amount of £4,810 to the school following payment of CIL funds.
- Action 207.12 – SH proposal for road safety signage on Half Moon Lane for the OSPF. Under Item 21 of this meeting, the Council **AGREED** to support the proposal for two signs to be placed at either end of Half Moon Lane following notification provided to residents affected.

## 10. Responsible Financial Officer Report

**10.1 RECEIVED** - Financial reports provided prior to the meeting. These included the AGAR report, end of year accounts, variances, and bank reconciliation. Cllr Warnes requested all councillors made themselves familiar with the reports.

**10.2 NOTED** – current balance £44,988.17

**10.3 APPROVED** –

Grass Cutting (Knoll) (bi-weekly)	£120.00
Hire of All Saints May – Aug 2023	£ 88.00
SALC Membership 2023-24	£281.19
Fuel costs for brush cutter (PC asset)	TBC (Less than £10)
Tree Warden attendance for Conference	£15.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£554.19</b>

**10.4** It was **NOTED** the Internal Audit had been undertaken on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023 with no recommendations for this year, with the six from last year met. The report is now finalised and has been circulated previously to the Council. There will be a requirement for an external audit by PKF Littlejohn later in the year.

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## 11 Correspondence

- 11.1 **NOTED** – East Anglian Air Ambulance offer Community Training in CPR and defib use. It was AGREED to consider this for Council members and if applicable any residents who may be interested. It was further **AGREED** that Cllr Brown would include a summary of this offer in the RPC bulletin.
- 11.2 **NOTED** – Thanks have been received from SARS, EAAA, and RBR PCC following payment of the grants agreed by the council.
- 11.3 **NOTED** – Neighbourhood Watch thanked the Council for their offer of a grant, not finding it necessary, it was **AGREED** to offer recompense of £10 for time and facilities utilised for the very effective communication that is offered to the village residents.

## 12 Resident's Correspondence

- 12.1 **NOTED** - A resident in Half Moon Lane has written of their disappointment of SH not considering the Lane to become a 20mph zone. It was **AGREED** there would be further investigation into the 'Quiet Lane' option.
- 12.2 **NOTED** – A resident has asked for acknowledgement of the tireless work that is undertaken by a member of the village to ensure the village is 'blooming'. This was endorsed by Cllr Preston and all those present and it was **AGREED** to send thanks and an offer of a grant of £50 to help with the costs that are obviously incurred without expectation. It was **AGREED** the actions taken by the resident is much appreciated by all and should be recognised.
- 12.3 **NOTED** – Residents' request for the vegetation on the pavement along Hall Lane to be cut back to ensure safety whilst walking on the pavement. It was **NOTED** the Clerk has responded that work will be undertaken soon, with the Green Redgrave Group having started work, with further work to be carried out in the coming weeks. If anyone wishes to volunteer, they would be most welcome. They will be working alongside supervisors trained under the Suffolk Community Self-Help Scheme.
- 12.4 **NOTED** – A complaint had been received by a resident regarding the dog bin located on The Green, it was requested for the collection times to change or for a larger facility. It was **NOTED** the Clerk has been in touch with BMSDC and is awaiting information and costs on a larger bin option. Collection intervals are previously set.

## 13 Traffic Issues on Hinderclay Road

Discussion continued following the public forum. It was **AGREED** to pursue the concern with Suffolk Highways with Cllr Warnes proposing a meeting between SH, Police, Gressingham and the Parish Council. Suggestions to be put to SH are to include 'dangerous bend' and 'pedestrian' warning signs and extending the 30mph limit beyond Gressingham foods.

## 14 End of Year Accounts, CIL report, Annual Governance and Accountability Return Statement for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

The documents were provided in advance to the Council for consideration. **APPROVED.**

## 15 Internal Audit Report 2022/23.

Report was circulated previously to Councillors. Cllr Warnes informed of a positive meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023. A good report has now been received with the AGAR report and year end figures agreed by the Auditor. The six

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recommendations from last year have been met, with no further recommendations for this year. An external audit will now have to be undertaken by PKF Littlejohn.

## 16 Code of Conduct (CoC)

Resulting from the internal audit report a suggestion was made to adopt the NALC version of the CoC rather than the Suffolk CoC. The Council **AGREED** that the NALC CoC would be adopted whilst continuing to accept and comply with the Suffolk CoC.

## 17 General Power of Competence (GPoC)

As the Council no longer has a CiLCA-qualified clerk then it **NOTED** that it was no longer eligible to exercise GPoC. The Council **AGREED** to put its GPoC into abeyance until such time as the Clerk may be CiLCA qualified.

## 18 Footpath FP001

The new stile has now been placed to British Standards, however, there have been a number of comments and complaints from various residents. It was **AGREED** to pursue these concerns on behalf of the residents.

## 19 Land Options

An update was **NOTED**: Land along the street is considered not suitable for a recreation area but could be considered for energy initiatives discussed in Item 23. There may be an option for further discussion later in the year for another area of land following a decision by the landowners.

## 20 CIL Payments

Information regarding the question of CIL payments against current planning permissions was circulated prior to the meeting for consideration. An email has been sent to the Chief Planning Officer at BMSDC asking for clarification of the position. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Warnes would continue to pursue the issue with BMSDC.

## 21 Signage and road markings on Half Moon Lane in relation to the OSPF Play Area.

It was **NOTED** that the residents of the area affected had been provided with the Suffolk Highways plan for the positioning of warning signs. There had been one response which was referred to SH. The Council **APPROVED** SH's proposal and agreed to pay the costs estimated at £750.

## 22 Redgrave Community Forum/APM.

The Council **AGREED** that the evening was a success; it was good to see so many residents attend and stay for the APM with some good constructive feedback. The Council **AGREED** that the format will remain for the next year.

**Kings Coronation Event.** The Council **AGREED** that a great day was had by all on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May and expressed its thanks to Cllr Brown for her leadership to ensure the day ran smoothly with many positive comments by those who came along. Special thanks to the 'Happy Redgrave Helpers' and to those who helped on the day, fencing and gazebo placing, all items donated, cakes made and to the live music that helped start the event and punctuate with their sounds during the afternoon. Special thanks go to those who freely provided their facilities on the day. All the

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efforts really helped the day to be a success. With thanks to the community, the cake stall raised an impressive £265 and, in addition, well over £200 was raised by the raffle. The exact donations to EACH and The Big C will be provided by the respective organisations shortly.

**22.1** The Council **AGREED** to consider a similar day next year such as a May Day similar to those which the village had previously enjoyed.

## 23. Suffolk Green Cluster and Climate Emergency

- Cllr Warnes stated that Green Redgrave Group has been involved in the formation of a 'Suffolk Green Cluster (SGC)' with the aim of creating parish-level action plans across Suffolk to address the Climate Emergency and to mitigate its worst effects. He explained that Suffolk County Council (SCC) had declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and had established a series of policies and plans to mitigate this emergency and to achieve Net Zero (decarbonization) by 2030; District councils have supported the Suffolk County Council initiative by also declaring a climate emergency and putting in place its own Climate Action Plans, and some parishes (e.g., Hopton) have followed suit. The SGC has been formed to coordinate and implement actions at the lowest tier of government in support of these County and District Council plans.
- The SGC currently includes the villages of Hopton, Hinderclay, Blo Norton, Ixworth and Thelnetham whilst other villages, such as Risby, have expressed an interest in joining; SCC is also represented. The SGC intends to hold quarterly meetings to coordinate plans to improve the environment and to help SCC towards the zero-carbon target for 2030. Hopton has received lottery funding to create a Climate Action Plan that will potentially be shared nationally.
- The five main action areas are; biodiversity, green energy, green transport (being headed by Cllr Warnes), green food production and green planning. Specific actions may include free insulation and finding land for green energy generation. Interest was noted for Listed Buildings of which there are 40 in the village.
- The Council **AGREED** to:
  - Support Suffolk County Council and related initiatives by declaring a Climate Emergency (a draft statement to be prepared for subsequent agreement and publication)
  - Work with the SGC to create action plans to help mitigate the effects of the climate emergency (RPC would be updated on activities to allow for a vote on each proposed action)
  - Work to help Suffolk County Council meet its aims of making the Suffolk carbon neutral by 2030
  - Join the NALC Climate Emergency Network of councils trying to tackle the Climate Emergency

## 24. Items to be proposed for the next Agenda

- It was confirmed that the radar in the VAS system is faulty and will be replaced without charge. Many thanks were expressed to the resident who voluntarily ensures the upkeep of the units and for help received by a resident to confirm the fault.

**25. AGREED** as Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023, 7pm, All Saints Church.

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.13 pm.**

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