



REDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

Present: Chair Cllr Andy Warnes, Cllrs Ann Preston, Brian Andrews, Elaine Brown, Frank Gillett, Alison Spouncer (Clerk), and one member 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 Mike Denmark, Cllr Charlotte Giddings, Cllr John Giddings, County Cllr Jessica Fleming, District Cllr Gilly Morgan. **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 (5th October 2023) previously circulated were **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.

The Tree Warden for Redgrave wished to provide advance notice of his intention to retire from the position soon. The role is a voluntary one, not considered onerous with support from the Suffolk Tree Warden Network which offers meetings and a wealth of experience. There is no formal training although there is some available if anyone wished to undertake it.

The Parish Council wished to thank the Tree Warden for all the work he has undertaken and was heartened to hear he would not be retiring immediately and welcomed the offer to help advise anyone interested in taking up the role. It was **AGREED** Cllr Warnes would approach members of the Green Redgrave Group initially for anyone who may be interested.

5. County and District Councillor's Report.

Neither County Cllr Fleming nor District Cllr Morgan were able to attend due to the worsening weather conditions. County Cllr Fleming provided a report with subjects including:

Flood Recovery – Staff from local authorities and other organisations, co-ordinated by the Joint Emergency Planning Unit, have been responding to flooding problems across the county. Flooding problem areas and blocked drains should be reported on the Suffolk Highways reporting website preferably with a photograph. (<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/report-a-highways-issue>).

Consultation – Council Budget – The Council are seeking views from Suffolk residents, businesses, and local communities, as it decides on its 2024/25 budget this January. An online consultation (https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Budget24_24/) has been launched about the budget and council tax. Participation is welcome.

Consultation – Suffolk Libraries – a 13-week two-part consultation is open until Friday 26 January 2024. A competitive Tender Process will follow with a new contract awarded in November 2024. A key focus in part two is the council's Library Outreach services and the future of the three

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mobile library vehicles which are old and would need replacing. These serve at least 500 stops across rural Suffolk each month and consideration needs to be given to whether or how to replace them. Outreach services also include Pop-up Libraries and a home library service run by local volunteers. Please do respond to this consultation if you value the current services, particularly Outreach Services in rural areas. <https://suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/consultations-petitions-and-elections/consultations/shaping-the-future-of-library-services-2023>

Highways Signage – Suffolk County Council is encouraging reporting of any missing or damaged road signs as there is currently a review. Please report with photographs on the Highways reporting tool: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/report-a-highways-issue>

Pylons Project – It has been noted that exploratory drilling has already been initiated in the Upper Waveney Valley area and Wortham Ling SSSI at potential pylon locations. County Cllr Fleming has raised this with senior officers at SCC and our MP. It was **AGREED** that the Council would register its objections to the plan.

Large Scale Solar Energy Developments – SCC Cabinet Member Richard Rout has written to ministers objecting to the large land-take demanded by land based solar. A list of potential projects by Ethos Energy can be found at <https://ethosenergysolutions.com/projects/>

The Government Network Review - underpins targets for offshore wind, solar and new infrastructure; it assumes a 70% increase in demand by 2050 due to growth, electrification (EVs, heating/ cooling), and desalination. Targets include solar capacity increasing from 14.5 to 70GW by 2035 and wind from 14 to 50 GW by 2030. A Senior Research Associate at Aurora Energy said Britain would have to build as much offshore wind capacity between 2028 and 2030 as it is set to build from 2000 to 2027 to meet the 50 GW target. These targets do not consider the actual output factors for solar and wind, which for solar are around 14.5%, and wind closer to 30% nor the necessary power distribution infrastructure.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/offshore-transmission-network-review/offshore-transmission-network-review-summary-of-outputs#the-offshore-transmission-network-review-conception-objective-and-approach>

Shepherd's Grove, Stanton – Copart has terminated its commitment to the site and will not be pursuing their proposed vehicle disassembly proposal. Despite this, Jaynic remains committed to developing other proposals within the planning application and a new link and roundabout to access the A143. **Equation Warehouse Development** - Currently the application proposes to use a spur leading to a roundabout that Jaynic would construct assuming development goes ahead. If it does not, then the fall back is Summer Road. According to the application form, 2,903 employees are anticipated. Suffolk Highways are developing their response. Cllr Fleming welcomes any communications from residents with queries and concerns. Gilly.Morgan@midsuffolk.gov.uk Jessica.Fleming@suffolk.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.

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DC/23/04994 – Application for works to trees in a conservation area. Priory Barn, Half Moon Lane, Redgrave IP22 1RX. Removal of unsafe northern limb from trunk of Oak tree (T1) to approx. 5m above ground level to prevent immediate risk of harm. **NO OBJECTION (The tree warden wished to advise on the timing of these works to ensure the Oak tree is not further damaged by the process of removing the limb).**

6.2 To NOTE any planning decisions received.

DC/23/04419 – Green Farmhouse, The Green, Redgrave – felling of 40ft Pine Tree due to safety concerns – **NO OBJECTION.**

7. Parish Clerk's Report

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

7.1 171-10.6 Footpath 001 – Cllr Warnes had received an update from the newly appointed Footpath officer to state external legal advice is being sought. The original stile was positioned prior to the law change on accessibility with the replacement after the law change. It is now to be ascertained if the replacement stile should comply to the new rulings for increased consideration on access.

7.2 199-12.2 Maintenance of village oak benches. Cllr Gillett wished to propose the installation of new benches at the OSPF (3No) and potentially The Knoll (1No). The suggestion being for the benches to be sited on hard standings and allow for residents to sit and chat in various areas. It was **AGREED** to this discuss further with Cllr Denmark who has kindly offered to renovate the current benches and consider possible funding at a later meeting.

7.3 211.13 Cllr Andrews confirmed there had been no further updates on the concerns of the Hinderclay Road incidents. It was **AGREED** Cllr Andrews would contact Suffolk Highways again to seek any news or developments on the situation.

7.4 216.9 Re-use of the redundant warning sign in Churchway to be relocated to Half Moon Lane. Clerk informed the Parish Council of Suffolk Highways suggestion that it would be more costly to remove and relocate than to acquire a new post and sign. It was **AGREED** by those present to therefore not pursue this option.

7.5 207.12/201.9 The Parish Clerk advised that Suffolk Highways had come back with a revised cost for the provision of road safety signage on Half Moon Lane of £1,400. It was noted that Cllr Fleming had agreed to provide £500 of her Locality Fund to support this; it was **AGREED** that the Council would check with Cllr Fleming that this funding was still available, and, assuming that it was still available, would complete the grant application form through the BMSDC Councillor Allowances and Locality Budgets office. The Council also **AGREED** that it would pay the additional costs of £900 involved.

8. Responsible Financial Officer Report

RECEIVED - Financial reports provided prior to the meeting.

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

RBL Wreath Type B	£23.98
TRAMAR Services	£120.00
SCRIBE Accounts renewal (2023) Budget approved	£417.60
AJG Insurance Brokers Ltd (PC Insurance 2023/24)	£915.14

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Administration Costs (GDPR details removed)	£568.52
Botesdale War Memorial Insurance contribution	£50.00
TOTAL	£2,095.24

8.2 Accounts for Approval:

PKF External Audit	£378.00
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(Limited Assurance review of Annual Governance & Accountability Return for y/end 31 March 2023) AGREED by all present.

Request for joint contribution with Rickinghall and Botesdale PCs for Silver	£50.00
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Band attending the Remembrance Service on 12th November 2023

(request received on 2nd November to the Clerk) AGREED by all present.

TOTAL	£428.00
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8.3 Monies Received:

CIL Payment October 2023	£9650.63
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8.4 PKF External Audit Report (Previously Circulated). Copy of report is available upon request by anyone interested. Notification is on the village noticeboard as per procedural guidelines.

Bank Account as of 2nd November 2023: £53,752.01 Of which £39,205.98 in reserves, incl £14,705.98 as CIL).

9. Correspondence

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

9.1 Updated Operating Model for Suffolk Police. It was **NOTED** Redgrave remains under Stowmarket for Police cover.

9.2 Botesdale PC request for contribution towards the War Memorial (£50.00). To discuss the automatic payment of this cost, unless there is an increase of 10% whereupon there will be a need for renewed approval. This was **AGREED** by all present.

9.3 BMSDC Free Trees, Hedgerows and Wildflowers Scheme. Availability with criteria including "helping wildlife and public access". <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/web/mid-suffolk/w/trees-and-wildflowers-scheme> Cllr Warnes informed the Parish Council of the Green Redgrave Group's application for fifteen fruit trees which if successful would be planted in the OSPF to provide a community orchard.

9.4 Funding for Bus Network Improvements - £1.8million grant provided to spend each year in 2023/24 and 2024/25 on enhancements to the current passenger transport network. Some will go to support existing services, and some will go into design work on Bus Priority schemes to get them ready for delivery when we are able to secure capital funding. With the remainder of the grant, to support new or improved services at a local level where demand can be proven. Any suggestions are welcomed. Cllr Gillett suggested a 'hopper bus' option leaving from Redgrave into Diss (Tesco/Morrisons) returning in a matter of hours to allow those without transport to shop at the local supermarkets. It was **AGREED** to circulate to residents to seek further thoughts and to place the information and links onto the next Bulletin.

9.5 'Communities Together Community Transport': a small charity looking at weekly community transport in more remote villages in mid Suffolk. Seeking feedback on requirements/difficulties

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Redgrave may have with transport. It was **AGREED** to circulate details to Redgrave residents via the Bulletin to seek feedback.

9.6 BMSDC have offered 'The Play Inspection Company' offer of a package which includes a play inspection a risk assessment and disability discrimination assessment (DDA). The price is a £53.15 + vat for the inspection plus £5.31 admin charge plus £15 for the DDA. Budget provision for this was made at the beginning of the year. It was **AGREED** that this was a reasonable quote and given the inspections are mandatory it was **AGREED** to proceed with the offer.

9.7 Correspondence received from Redgrave Amenities Trust: "The Redgrave Amenities Trust (R.A.T.), is currently not asking the Redgrave Parish Council to appoint any trustees. All the current trustees have been correctly appointed according to charity and trust law and none have resigned. Trustees can only be removed if they choose to resign. The trustees are quite comfortable with explaining to the Charity Commission if ever necessary". The Council **NOTED** the correspondence but did not accept the statement which was no change from previous communications. It was **AGREED** evidence is still awaited from RAT as to the proper appointment of trustees.

9.8 Rickinghall resident request for Footpath 14 accessibility to be addressed. It was **NOTED** that the Footpaths officer had received confirmation that no action will be taken on this footpath.

10. To **CONSIDER** and **AGREE** meeting dates for 2024.

Dates discussed and **AGREED**:

11 th January	1 st February
7 th March	4 th April
18 th April (Annual Parish Meeting)	2 nd May (Annual Parish Council Meeting)
6 th June	4 th July
1 st August	September – no meeting
3 rd October	7 th November
5 th December – only if required for urgent matters.	

It was **AGREED** to not hold a meeting in September rather than August due to the number of holiday commitments experienced in September 2023. All would be from 7pm.

11. Review of Standing Order Documents (Circulated Previously)

11.1 Data Protection Policy – **NOTED**, no change.

11.2 Information Security Incident Policy – **NOTED**, no change.

11.3 Document Control and Records Management – **NOTED**, no change.

11.4 Redgrave Parish Council Communications Policy – **NOTED**: addition of a section referring to substantive policy decisions and financial commitments must be discussed and approved at Parish Council meetings, other non-substantive decisions can be made away from the meetings. It was **AGREED** to adopt all policies.

12. Appointment of Trustees to Charities

12.1 Appointment Panel Confirmation – Cllrs Andrews, Giddings, Gillet, Preston and Warnes have volunteered to be involved in the Panel. With the decision deferred from 5th October 2023 meeting, it was **AGREED** by all present.

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12.2 Costs for legal support decision was deferred from 5th October 2023 meeting was subsequently **AGREED** by all present.

12.3 Possible use of Mediation/Arbitration. It was **AGREED** to repeat the request to RAT to meet under mediation to discuss the situation. The Parish Council are also looking at options for an arbitration service.

13. Llanover's invitation to discuss the position of the recreation ground. **AGREED** by all those present for Cllr Warnes to respond to Susie Phillips of Llanover to accept the invitation for discussion.

14. Maintenance on the Old School Playing field. Cllr Warnes reported the surface of the playground requires some attention. Suggestion of the provision of topsoil with the help of volunteers to lay it. Provision of up to three tonnes of topsoil would be thought to be sufficient but this may need to be adjusted. The laying of the topsoil would be done in two to three phases to avoid the area becoming too muddy and unusable. The gate to the playground is problematic with repairs having been made by a volunteer on several occasions. Quotes were provided to the Parish Council, totalling £107.91 inc VAT from Dandy's providing an agreed discount of £19.99 per tonne of topsoil. The Gate has been quoted (including the gate, two posts and hinges) totals £89.97 inc VAT from Clarkes of Walsham. It was **AGREED** by those present to proceed with the costs presented. It was NOTED £600 had been budgeted for such issues, none of which has been spent.

15. Suffolk Green Cluster Group (SGC) Cllr Warnes provided an update on the Group.

Formed in May 2023, the group now comprises of nine villages interested in promoting net-zero carbon emissions, including Redgrave, Hopton, Ixworth, Risby and Blo Norton. Quarterly meetings are held with the aim of net zero by 2030. Hopton has received lottery funding for a Climate Action Plan creation that may potentially be shared nationally. In May 2023 the Parish Council agreed to support SCCs climate emergency. Each proposed action by the SGC will be put to the relevant Parish Councils for voting. It was NOTED the Parish Council has a statutory duty to comply with the Government's biodiversity policy (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/complying-with-the-biodiversity-duty/>). There are six main areas the group concentrate on: Biodiversity, Green Energy, Retrofitting, Green Transport (headed by Cllr Warnes), Green Food Production, and Green Housing/Planning. Full details are provided within the presentation provided by Cllr Warnes and will be available on the website or upon request to Cllr Warnes or the Clerk. In conclusion, Cllr Warnes suggested if any residents may have ideas or an interest in the Group to please contact him or via the Clerk to discuss options further.

16. Items proposed for the next Agenda. The Budget 2024/25 will be prepared and proposed in readiness for approval in January 2024 in time for the regulatory timeframes set out by SCC. It is proposed to circulate prior to the December meeting to allow for any questions to be addressed and any further action to be taken if applicable.

17. Date of Next Meeting. **AGREED** as Thursday 7th December 2023. All Saints Church, 7pm.

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The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.36

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