



REDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Alison Spouncer
E: clerk@redgrave-pc.gov.uk
P: 01379 890613

221

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

held at 7.00pm on 7th September 2023 at the All-Saints Church, Redgrave.

Present: County Cllr Jessica Fleming, Chair Cllr Andy Warnes, Cllrs Brian Andrews, Frank Gillett, Ann Preston, Mike Denmark, Alison Spouncer (Clerk), and five members of the Public.

- 1. Chairman's Welcome and Introduction.** A welcome was extended to all at the meeting.
- 2. Apologies** District Cllr Gilly Morgan, Cllr Elaine Brown, Cllr Charlotte Giddings, Cllr John Giddings.
Declarations of Interest – None. **Delegated Declaration of Interest Dispensation decisions or dispensation requests where required** – None.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

APPROVED - the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 6th July 2023 (previously circulated) were signed as a true and accurate record.

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.

Redgrave's Tree Warden announced that the planting of tree saplings around various points in the village has been planned to replace those that have died following the two previous hard summers. A call for volunteers was made. Dates will be confirmed but will be from end of October/November. Further information will be made available via the Green Redgrave Group Facebook page and village noticeboard. Any surplus tree saplings will be shared amongst surrounding villages as agreed by the Tree Wardens.

A representative from Redgrave Amenities Trust (RAT) was present to discuss the complaint received about the RAT's governance and transparency. The RAT stated that it had not received the complaint directly so had been unable to address the contents. Cllr Warnes stated that, as per his email on the topic, the complainant was the Redgrave Parish Council (RPC). He provided a brief overview of the timeline starting with the complainant making contact and seeking the Redgrave Parish Council's (RPC) help in acting on their behalf. Following a review of the complaint the RPC had agreed to undertake some of the points with the RAT with subsequent communications made by the RPC to the RAT on the matter. The three points agreed by the RPC to pursue were:

- The illegal appointment of Trustees. The RPC is designated as the Appointing Authority to three Charities: Redgrave Amenities Trust, Charity for the Needy and Poor and the Little Ouse Headwaters Project. The complaint noted that appointment of Trustees had not been undertaken in accordance with the charities' Governing Documents.
- The lack of access of the playing field in Churchway for Parishioners with no notice or discussion by the RAT.

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- Change of the Governance Document without consulting Parishioners (the beneficiaries of the Charity).

The RAT representative suggested now they were aware of the details of the complaint they would investigate it. The lack of access to the playing field has become a separate issue following three other communications received from concerned Parishioners.

The RAT representative stated that the fencing of the land has been undertaken as a requirement of the lease to be signed with the landowner (Llanover); he noted that gating of the car park had been undertaken to prevent unauthorised use by contractors and other drivers. He stated that the playing area/football pitch remained available to the public. This last statement was disputed by Cllr Warnes, noting that the RPC had had sight of email correspondence from Llanover stating that the land was now to be a “private football club”; as no information had been received from the RAT as to the contents of the lease it was assumed that this statement reflected reality. The RPC requested sight of the lease and liaison with Redgrave parishioners prior to its signature. The RAT Representative stated that this was not possible as he had not seen it. Cllr Warnes asked how it was possible that the RAT had undertaken work required by the lease, which excluded parishioners from the land, without having seen the lease; no answer was given.

Cllr Warnes stated the RPC’s concern for the individuals who have not been appointed in accordance with the respective governing documents, of their personal liability should anything happen linked to their work for the respective charities.

The RAT representative raised a complaint for the RPC to consider regarding dog faeces being left on the footpath and the playing field. It was **AGREED** the RPC would take up the issue on the footpaths, but that, as the playing field was private land, it was for RAT to consider its actions for that land. RAT confirmed it would be considering actions relating to trespass with police involvement if required.

The RPC confirmed its earlier **AGREEMENT** to discuss the option of returning to the Green Hut facility at a later date, once the lease had been signed.

5. Ward and District Councillor’s Report

The Council welcomed Cllr Fleming to provide her report as County Councillor.

Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in Suffolk schools - Five high schools within Suffolk have been identified as having RAAC structures within their buildings which has led to some closures. Chartered Surveyors will be attending schools to ensure compliance and any actions required.

Aura Solar Farms – The Planning Applications for the two sites across Palgrave and Wortham include a very large area of agricultural land. Cllr Fleming provided the two applications (DC/23/02362, Lion Road, Palgrave and DC/22/02667, Grange Farm, Old Bury Road, Palgrave) the deadline for determination of this application is now 23rd September 2023, having been extended. If anyone wishes to find out more or comment, Cllr Fleming provided the link:

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<https://planning.baberg-hmidsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RUURSLSH0A200>

Upgraded Suffolk Fire and Rescue Centre - based in Wattisham, was formerly opened on 24th August providing training for simulated incidents that firefighters may have to deal with.

Norwich to Tilbury Pylon Line – Discussions are ongoing. Cllr Fleming asked for anyone wishing to comment should contact herself and/or Jo Churchill MP (jo.churchill.mp@parliament.uk). Suffolk and Norfolk County Councils are working together including discussions on underground options with European methods in mind, potentially a feasible option. There is a meeting to be held at Riverside House, Wortham Ling, IP22 1SU on Saturday 30th September at 10am. Everyone (including dogs) is welcome for a cup of tea, seeing first hand where the pylons are currently planned to be placed and the opportunity to discuss local options.

LionLink Interconnector Line possibly into Walberswick – A National Grid Ventures project with the potential for landfall at Walberswick. There is a non-statutory consultation on National Grid Venture's LionLink Project from 8th September to 3rd November 2023. There have been some comments regarding this project in respect of the major Norwich to Tilbury plans also involving Suffolk.

Major Planning/Shepherd's Grove, Stanton – Applications DC/23/1154/OUT has a deadline of 11th October for comments. Whilst Cllr Fleming acknowledged it will not directly affect Redgrave, the potential increased traffic load will be noticed alongside concerns regarding water use, contamination, and severe fire risk.

Cllr Fleming welcomes any communications from residents with queries and concerns.

Gilly.Morgan@midsuffolk.gov.uk

Jessica.Fleming@suffolk.gov.uk

6. Planning

One new application was received, the council **NOTED** with no objection:

DC/23/03648 – Gressingham Foods Ltd, Hinderclay Road, Redgrave, Diss, Suffolk IP22 1SA – Application to determine if Prior Approval is required for a proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Buildings to Dwellinghouses (C3) and for building operations reasonably necessary for conversion. Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended). Schedule 2 Part 3, Class Q – Conversion of agricultural building into 5no. dwellings – **NO OBJECTION** (deadline of 24th August 2023)

The council **NOTED** planning decisions received:

DC/23/03300 - Red House, The Street, Redgrave, Diss Suffolk IP22 1RY - Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Crown reduce 1No. Walnut (T1) by 20%. Clear out broken stem of 1 No. Horse Chestnut and reduce higher stem back into crown. **GRANTED**

DC/23/02903 – Pound Farm, Gallows Hill Redgrave Diss Suffolk IP22 1RZ - Notification of works to Trees in Conservation Area - T1 - Beech: Thin by 30% including removal of one large

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limb to reduce crowding and friction between branches and reduce height by 25% to suitable growth points. T2 - Sycamore: reduce by 30% to suitable growth points due to proximity to house. T3 - Multiple Sycamores: remove branches leaning towards and overhanging road. **GRANTED**

DC/23/02927 - Priory Cottage Half Moon Lane Redgrave Suffolk IP22 1RX - works to a tree in a Conservation Area - Fell 1 No Plum tree in rear garden due to age and condition and overhanging garage which could cause damage if fell down. **GRANTED**

DC/23/02698 – 15 Churchway Redgrave Suffolk IP22 1LR - Erection of first floor side and two storey rear extensions. **GRANTED**

DC/23/03539 - Ridley House, Half Moon Lane, Redgrave, Diss Suffolk IP22 1RX - Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Re-pollard 1 No. Lime (T1) and Reduce 1 No. Thuja (T2) to fence height (6 ft) – **NO OBJECTION**

The different wording was noted for the decisions provided and **AGREED** the Clerk would request clarification on the differences.

7. Parish Clerk's Report

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

7.1 The directional sign opposite Half Moon Lane on the B1113 has been reported to Suffolk Highways (SH). Reference number 00414306.

7.2 211.13 – Cllr Andrews updated the council on Hinderclay Road, relating to speed and accident concerns. He confirmed Gressingham Foods Ltd had written to Suffolk Highways but had not heard anything further. It was **AGREED** to close the action.

7.3 – 219.7.6 – The Clerk provided a cost of £1170.00 for a Defib machine matching the description of the one already placed in the village (iPAD1). It was suggested to consult with iMed as another company providing the machines. It was **AGREED** the Clerk will compare the price and model options.

8. Responsible Financial Officer Report

RECEIVED - Financial reports provided prior to the meeting.

8.1 Payments Approved and Paid:

12 Jul 23	RAT Payment of £300 for removal of play equipment	300.00
12 Jul 23	RBR PCC Hall Hire for CPR/Defib training	22.00
12 Jul 23	A Spouncer Printer/paper costs (17/4/23)	33.95
12 Jul 23	A Spouncer postal costs (6/6/23)	2.25
12 Jul 23	J&A Preston EA Tree Warden Forum	15.00
22 Jul 23	TRAMAR Grass Cutting (Inv 82)	60.00
24 Jul 23	SO to A Spouncer	26.00
27 Jul 23	SO Salary to A Spouncer	533.26

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31 Jul 23	Backdated pay for iLCA Qualification	42.77
31 Jul 23	TRAMAR Grass Cutting (Inv 89)	60.00
04 Aug 23	SCC Road Survey B1113 March '23 (Minute 198.8.5)	492.00
17 Aug 23	TRAMAR Grass Cutting (Inv 101)	60.00
22 Aug 23	SO	26.00
29 Aug 23	SO	547.52
29 Aug 23	TRAMAR Grass Cutting (Inv 110)	60.00

Total Spend: £1,958.75

8.2 Accounts for Approval:

07 Sep 23	A Spouncer printer costs (3/7/23)	27.96
31 Aug 23	BMSDC Parish Election Recharges 4/5/23 Uncontested	142.86

TOTAL £170.82

8.3 Monies Received: £0.00

Bank Account as of 7th September 2023: £35,294.95 (of which £24,500 in reserves, £5,051.35 as CIL)

9. Correspondence

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

9.1 Unity Trust Bank requested confirmation of eligibility regarding the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) annual review of 2023. Confirmation has been provided (10th August 2023).

9.2 Community Payback Scheme – Autumn Clean (nominations by 11th August). Chair responded as no requirement currently.

9.3 Request received from the Cross Keys Pub for the use of the Knoll during the Hot Rod Car Show on Monday 28th August 2023. The Council **AGREED** this and suggested a request would not be required each year but confirmation of future dates it would be held on would suffice.

9.4 Essex and Suffolk Congress has forwarded paperwork for the upcoming conference on town twinning on 7th October 2023, should anyone be interested to attend. It was **AGREED** for the Clerk to offer apologies on this occasion but to continue to receive communications for future meetings.

9.5 The RPC CEO PC Stefan Henriksen is being redeployed to Halesworth as of December 2023 with no current replacement at Stowmarket. Further information is anticipated nearer the time as to the contact arrangements the Parish will have for liaison with the Police. It was **AGREED** the Clerk will feedback once there has been any update and **AGREED** to communicate this worrying development with Cllr Fleming and District Cllr Morgan.

9.6 Information received from Trading Standards regarding A No Cold Calling Zone (NCCZ). This is a nominated area where residents state they do not want traders to cold call at their homes. It was **AGREED** prior to the meeting that the village would be unlikely to meet the criteria the scheme requires.

9.7 The dog litter bin on The Green. Since last discussed the RPC has been monitoring the situation and have noted that the bin does appear to lack the capacity required. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Denmark would install the bin already owned by the RPC; possible additional costs for ancillary materials to support this activity would be considered.

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10. To DISCUSS and AGREE the process and next steps for the RPC in its position of Appointing Authority for the three charities: Charity for the Needy and Poor, Little Ouse Headwaters Project and the Redgrave Amenities Trust.

Cllr Warnes provided two options for the Council to consider regarding the RPC's position of being the Appointing Authority for the three charities. Firstly, the RPC could decide that it no longer wanted to appoint Trustees to the three Charities and wished to relinquish its role as the Appointing Authority. Secondly, the RPC could decide to continue as Appointing Authority for the three Charities.

The Council expressed concerns for the individuals who have not been appointed in accordance with the requirements of their respective Governing Documents, which legally means they could be held personally and financially liable for decisions they take. The RPC noted that it had a duty of care to ensure individuals are not kept in such a precarious situation and to regularise the situation regarding the proper appointment of trustees for the benefit of the village at large.

The option to continue as Appointing Authority to the three Charities was proposed by Cllr Gillett and seconded by Cllr Preston. The RPC **AGREED** to retain the role of Appointing Authority for all three charities (with a unanimous vote of five (all those councillors present)).

Next steps were discussed and **AGREED** to be:

- Write a clear and transparent Trustee Appointment policy document, for agreement by the RPC and publication via normal RPC channels.
- Write to Charities to confirm the continuation and effective re-instatement of the process
- Once the above document has been agreed then:
 - Write to Charities to ask for nominations for the positions of Trustees.
 - Use wider means of searching for applicants for the role of Trustees.
 - Put in place the agreed selection process if more than the required number of eligible applications for the position of Trustee are received.

It was **AGREED** that there may be a requirement for an Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting to agree the Trustee Appointment policy document and next steps and to allow residents to hear the proposals. Details of any such meeting will be confirmed.

11. Items to be proposed for the next Agenda. It was **AGREED** the Council will **DISCUSS** the options available to attempt to lower the incidents of dog waste being left on the village footpaths.

Cllr Warnes provided his apologies for the next meeting, and it was **AGREED** for an update to be given on the Green Cluster Initiative at November's meeting.

12. Date of Next Meeting. **AGREED** as Thursday 5th October 2023. All Saints Church, 7pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.15 pm.

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