



RINGSHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall on **Tuesday 29th November 2022 at 7.30pm.**

Present:

Councillors: C.Payne (Chair)
A.Williams (Vice Chair)
N.Last
L.Hitchcock
D.Shann
H.Nunn

In Attendance County Cllr Kay Oakes
Cllr Dan Pratt
Peter Watson – SpeedWatch Coordinator
Martin Kinsey – Station Staff Officer Wattisham
L.Luther – Clerk
6 member of the Public

RPC/72/22/23 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE – Cllr H. Williams.

RPC/73/22/23 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION – None were received.

RPC/74/22/23 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING. It was AGREED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 27th September 2022 be approved as a true record and were signed by the Chair.

RPC/75/22/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION:

There were 6 members of the public present. No issues were raised.

RPC/76/22/23 TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – County Cllr Oakes reported that 7526 trees were to be planted in the county, supported by a grant of £138,000 to cover planting and maintenance for three years. County Cllr Oakes also reported she visited Bakers Corner to address the highways issues of poor visibility and vehicles speeding around the blind corner. County Cllr Oakes has pledged £434.78 from her Highways budget for 'SLOW' markings to be painted on the road. Chair thanked County Cllr Oakes for her support to the village in this matter. County Cllr Oakes also reported on a meeting with a local farmer regarding damaged village signs and pledged to support replacing them where possible.

RPC/77/22/23 TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Cllr Pratt had circulated his report prior to the meeting and reported that Mid Suffolk Babergh District Council had voted to protect Waterways and look at concerns around sewage discharge, especially where the built environment was increasing. Cllr Pratt also reported he had funding available in his locality budget to assist with any locally and relevant small projects.

RPC/78/22/23 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM SARAH PARTRIDGE, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF OBee CIC ORCHARD BARN

Sarah talked about the Orchard Barn, along with her Director, explaining to Council that the purpose of the Barn was to educate and create connections within the community. The project was focused on the journey, rather than the end result. The director reported that Orchard Barn had previously won an award in innovation from Anglia Water for its waterless toilet and had recently ranked very highly in another innovation competition. Sarah invited anyone who was interested to come and learn more, at Orchard Barn, to get in touch if they had any questions or to organise a visit.

RPC/79/22/23 SPEED REDUCTION MEASURES INDICATOR BOARD

- a) Peter Watson reported on the most recent speed statistics for the village. In September 38,000 vehicles travelled through the village, with 22% of those speeding. In October 58,000 vehicles travelled through the village with 14% of those speeding. There is a difference in the speeds of those travelling in the direction of the Speed Indicator Board, so towards the screen, versus those travelling from the opposite direction of the board who do not see the screen – on average, these drivers were travelling 10mph faster. Chair reported that Great Bricett had asked for the return of the Hi Vis Jackets they had loaned to Ringshall for their Speed watch project and Peter Watson offered to liaise and return the jackets to Great Bricett.
- b) Chair discussed the speed initiative they were hoping that Council would consider submitting to Suffolk County Highways. Council discussed the initiatives including extending the 30mph speed limit, making the 20mph advisory limit around the school statutory, setting up a working group, holding a public meeting and carrying out a residents survey. **It was AGREED** to hold a public meeting in 2023 to ascertain the views of the residents and take further action based on the outcome of that meeting. Cllr Kay Oakes reiterated her support for whatever action the Council decided to pursue.
- c) Council discussed the e-mail that Captain Joe Wilson sent regarding the need for highways improvements around Service Families Accommodation. Cllr Kay Oakes confirmed she had been in touch with Captain Wilson already regarding this matter and would be attending a meeting on site shortly to go over what was needed. **It was AGREED** that Clerk would reply to Captain Wilson, thanking him for his e-mail and to offer the support of the council where possible.

RPC/80/22/23 WATTISHAM TRACK DAYS

Martin Kinsey, Station Staff Officer from Wattisham reported that he had received a number of complaints regarding the track days and had met with Wattisham Parish Council to hear their views. Martin confirmed that no licences had been issued for any track days during 2023 yet. Martin advised that when the time would come to issue licences, they intended to mitigate with the following measures:

- a) Time boundaries
- b) A break in proceedings during the day
- c) Avoid bank holidays
- d) Limit the number of vehicles participating.

It was AGREED that Ringshall Parish Council would take no further action at the time of the current meeting and would await further events and assess any impact to residents then.

RPC/81/22/23 DC/22/05454 HOUSEHOLDER APPLICATION – ERECTION OF DETACHED SINGLE STOREY TWO BAY CARTLODGE.

Council discussed the planning application and the reports that were uploaded to the Planning Portal. **It was AGREED** that Clerk would issue a letter to the Council to submit

Council's objection to this planning proposal and provide its' reasons for objections as follows:

- a) Council feel the size of the building will cause a significant loss of light to neighbouring properties.
- b) The proximity of the building to the road will cause hazardous issues for both footpath and highway users, by reducing visibility for pedestrians and road users as vehicles pull on or off the road either side of the proposed building.
- c) Council believe there are no comparative buildings anywhere else along Lower Farm Road, and so the building will be out of keeping with the rest of the existing character and layout of the village.

RPC/82/22/23 HIGHWAYS

- a) Flooding on Lower Farm Road opposite Bus Shelter and Stowmarket Road. Cllr Kay Oakes reported a new Councillor Highways Engineer had been assigned to her and would be following up on the matter. County Cllr Oakes requested that photos of the flooding, when it occurred, be sent to her, as they would be very helpful in assisting the resolution of the problem.
- b) Road Closures around Ringshall Village. County Cllr Oakes reported that Suffolk Council get over 65,000 applications a year for road closures – so it is a complex issue to resolve. County Cllr Oakes has requested a number of times for road closures to be reduced and enforced as minimally as possible – (for example two services working on the road the same time instead of two separate road closures). Council thanked County Cllr Oakes for her efforts and reiterated its wish for these to be better managed wherever possible.
- c) Broken Street Lights. Clerk reported that the light has still not be repaired. Councillors also reported a further street light is now out of action. **It was AGREED** that Clerk would continue to chase up the Street Light Team for resolution. County Cllr Oakes also **AGREED** to try and assist from her position and follow up with the team in question.
- d) Steps at the bottom of Lower Farm Road. **It was AGREED** this item would be moved to the agenda of the next meeting.

RPC/83/22/23 TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT

- a) Council acknowledged the Clerk's Pay increase.
- b) **It was AGREED** to approve 5 hours overtime pay for Clerk.
- c) Council discussed the request from Ringshall Church for funding and **AGREED** to pay the £500 for grass cutting. Council were advised that it is not permitted to pay for the insurance costs of the church. **It was AGREED** that Clerk would write to the Church and request further details for the expenditure of the additional £600 that had been requested by the church.
- d) Council discussed the request from the Citizens Advice Bureau for funding. **It was AGREED** that Ringshall Parish Council would donate £100 to Citizens Advice Bureau.
- e) Council discussed the request from St Elizabeth's Hospice for funding. **It was AGREED** that Ringshall Parish Council would donate £100 to St Elizabeth's Hospice.
- f) Tree Canopy Survey. Cllr Pratt reported that Ringshall had only 6-8% Canopy cover, which was relatively low compared to other villages across Suffolk. The Tree Canopy Survey offers anyone who would like to plant more trees the

- option of free trees. **It was AGREED** to place this item on the agenda for the next meeting for further discussion.
- g. Street Lighting Costs. Clerk reported that Street Lighting costs were projected to double by the time the next invoice for payment came in and that this had been accounted for in the next budget.
 - h. Householder's Energy Support Survey. Council discussed the survey but it was not felt it would add anything to the village.
- b) To receive the Finance Report. Clerk reported on the Financial Position of the Parish Council with the report that can be found in additional information folder on the Parish Council Website. The Council currently have £5,000.13p in unreserved funds. **It was AGREED** that Clerk would research the amount that Council should ideally have on account.
 - c) To authorise Payments and Note Receipts. **It was AGREED** that all payments were approved.
 - d) To receive the Budget to Actual report. Clerk reported on the current expenditure versus the forecast expenditure. Currently Council is under budget, but with a number of expenditure items in the calendar year to come. According to the current forecast, the total expenditure at the end of the year will be over budget by £1,231.02. This is a 31.5% increase on Budget originally AGREED and was owing to a number of factors including energy price increases, clerk's salary pay award increase, cost of insurance increasing including the increase that will added when the play area is complete, payment for the Speed Indicator Board and expected repairs needed for the car park.
 - e) To receive the Draft Budget. Clerk had previously distributed a draft Budget to all Councillors. Clerk reported that she had worked on the Budget with an increase on the Precept of 4.9%. Council discussed the budget and felt that the Precept could be increased by more, as with increasing costs and the need to keep funding the Village Hall, a larger precept would potentially be needed to enable this. **It was AGREED** Clerk would present the budget at the next meeting with a number of different options for the increase of the Precept for the Council to discuss and decide upon.

RPC/84/22/23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

- a) Great Bricett Business Park Public Inquiry outcome. Chair reported that the Great Bricett Business Park Inquiry was concluded with the Inspector upholding the Council's decision not to approve the development.
- b) Chair reported that the Anglia Business Park Development is now awaiting results of Protected Species surveys for Bats before the application can progress any further.
- d) East Anglia GREEN project Consultation. Cllr Pratt reported that this is a "scoping consultation" on views for the project.
- e) DC/22/02175 Request for Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Opinion under Regulation 6(1) of The Town and Country Planning (see additional information for planning letter). Council discussed and had no comment.

RPC/85/22/23 TO DECIDE IF RPC WISHES TO AGREE TO START WORK ON A PARISH PLAN.

Council discussed and **It was AGREED** to revisit at a later date.

RPC/86/22/23 DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

Clerk reported that she had obtained three quotes for defibrillator training. County Cllr Oakes then reported that she knew a First Responder who would provide the training free of charge. County Cllr Oakes advised she would get in touch and procure some potential dates for the training and would liaise with Clerk. **It was AGREED** that Clerk would put the item on the next meeting agenda for council to decide on a date.

RPC/87/22/23 QUIET LANE

County Cllr Oakes to advise Clerk of details where the post of the Quiet Lane signage is to be positioned, in order for Clerk to arrange the Dog Waste Bin and its subsequent servicing.

RPC/88/22/23 RINGSHALL PLAY AREA WORKING GROUP

Clerk reported that work on the play area was scheduled to begin on Friday 2nd December.

- a) Council did not consider the Bench quotes. After the play area update, **It was AGREED** Council would wait until the play area was installed before it would be decided how many benches and bins were required.
- b) Council discussed safety in the Car Park. **It was AGREED** that Clerk would write to Ringshall School Head teacher and inform him the car park would be unavailable for use on Friday 2nd December 2022 and to request he please communicate that information to the parents as soon as possible.
- c) Council received a report on CIL Funds held and their expiry date. This report can be found in "Additional Information/29th November Ordinary Meeting" under Parish Council Meeting Documents.
- d) **It was AGREED** Council would pledge £8,442.53 of CIL monies towards the Play Area and its Maintenance fund. **It was AGREED** that Clerk would update the Financial Reporting and earmarked reserves.
- e) Clerk advised Council that the Play Area Gates had been incorrectly ordered and Council needed to amend the order to include a wider gate to allow a vehicle into the area for maintenance and safety measures. This would incur an additional cost of £329.92. **It was AGREED** to approve the larger gate and approve the additional cost.

RPC/89/22/23 CAR PARK UPDATE

- a) Council considered the quotes received for the car park repairs. **It was AGREED** to review the repairs needed once the play area work was complete and to reconsider the quotes at the next Council meeting.
- b) Council discussed the potential increased usage of the car park owing to the possible reduction of the use of Coaches to transport students to Ringshall School because of possible funding cutbacks by Councils regarding free travel passes. Council discussed that it would likely review its agreement with Asset Education regarding fees for using the car park during the course of 2023.

RPC/90/22/23 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING SCHEME

Council discussed the Annual Christmas Tree Recycling Scheme. **It was AGREED** that Clerk would update the home page of the Parish Council Website to advise that the scheme was in place and dates of the scheme. Furthermore, **It was AGREED** to display the relevant poster on the Ringshall Noticeboard and the noticeboard at Charles Tye.

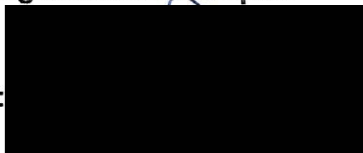
RPC/91/22/23 MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

- a) A resident has made a request for a Dog Waste Bin to be installed along Stowmarket Road.
- b) May 2023 Elections. This was raised as something that would need to be discussed at the next meeting. **It was AGREED** to put this on the next agenda.
- c) A resident would like to request a project for installing Community Broadband with Openreach and requires community engagement and was looking for Ringshall Parish Council support. **It was AGREED** to be put on the next agenda for discussion pending receipt of further information.

RPC/92/22/23 DATE OF THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING – TUESDAY 31st January 2023 AT 7.30PM

The meeting closed at 9.51pm.

Chairman:



Dated:

29/11/2023