

RAYNE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 3rd AUGUST 2001

Present: Councillors: Giles
Jiggins
Mrs. Kukiewicz
Lees
MacNee
Meadows
Moore
Mrs Shepherd
Wootton

In the Chair: Councillor Mrs Kukiewicz

Members of the Public Present: There were no members of the public present.

01/55 PUBLIC FORUM.

This is an opportunity for members of the public to raise issues of mutual interest or to question councillors.

55.1 Mr Roger Walters – County Councillor

Cllr Walters gave a brief introduction – he is the newly elected County Councillor. He sits on two committees – Environment & Transport and Enterprise & Community Development.

The following items were discussed:

School Transport

Members informed Cllr Walters of the problems faced by children attending Notley High School not receiving free transport as Queenborough Lane is seen as a safe walking route. Cllr Meadows informing the meeting that the route cannot be challenged on safety grounds.

Cllr Walters agreed this is not a route that can be walked and suggested a meeting with Cllr Meadows to discuss the possibility of re-challenging the decision.

Meals on Wheels

Cllr Moore reported that as it is increasingly more difficult to find volunteers to deliver the meals, he had been informed that the County Council were producing a scheme for the work to be undertaken by a paid contractor. Cllr Walters agreed to check the current situation and report back.

Council Tax

Cllr Meadows stated the 20% increase set by County Council was too high. Cllr Walters replied that only a third of the County Council's revenue comes from the Council Tax. As the other two thirds is fixed, additional money required for the year is added to the Council Tax, hence the increase. He could foresee further increases, as recycling is a very expensive operation.

Relationships between Parish Councils and ECC

Cllr Jiggins reported that, in the past, it has been difficult to get meaningful and speedy responses from ECC. Could the Parish Council rely on the support of Cllr Walters?

Cllr Walters replied it is his intention to support all Parish Councils.

55.2 PC Dave Blackburn – Policing Issues

The following issues were raised:

Airstrip - Cllr Moore reported severe vandalism had occurred the previous evening at the airstrip – was there any update on this incident?

PC Blackburn replied that this incident was not on the current report sheet he had printed earlier in the evening, however this could be due to the wrong beat code noted on the computer. He added that problems at the airstrip had ceased in the past when the owner had locked the gates at night.

PC Blackburn later returned to the meeting to inform members that the incident had been reported at 8:50am this morning and was being investigated.

Speeding – Problem areas reported: Gore Road, Duckend Green, and old A120 coming into Rayne.

PC Blackburn to liaise with Shalford & Bocking Stations regarding the problem areas.

Horses – Are being ridden two abreast along New Road and other areas of the village.

PC Blackburn will visit the stables and inform the riders of the dangers to themselves and motorists.

School – No parking yellow zigzags being disregarded by parents.

PC Blackburn replied that there are few schools in Essex where these are enforceable. Parking is an obstruction, not an offence. He agreed to visit the school at pickup/drop off times and inform traffic police.

Vandalism – With a new generation of youngsters emerging, members asked how to tackle the problem of petty vandalism to prevent future problems.

PC Blackburn replied that every incident must be reported and the public should insist on an incident number. Report sheet needs to accurately record what is happening in the village – at present the perception of this is that Rayne is quiet.

New Road Footpath – With residents currently parking on the verge, members wished to clarify if it will be illegal to park on the new footpath once constructed.

Cllr Wootton replied it is illegal to obstruct a footpath. PC Blackburn added the Police would have to prove an obstruction.

The Chairman thanked both PC Blackburn and Cllr Walters for attending the meeting.

01/56 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies received from Cllr's Smith and Mrs Roberts.

01/57 CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 6th JULY 2001.

The minutes, having been circulated prior to the meeting, were agreed as a true and accurate record.

Proposed: Cllr Lees. Seconded: Cllr Moore.

01/58 MATTERS ARISING NOT LISTED ON THIS AGENDA.

58.1 New Road Footpath

Cllr Jiggins asked if the footpath was still at No.1 on the LDP.
Cllr Meadows reported that recommendations put to the Executive Committee put the footpath at No.4 – behind Feering, Steeple Bumpstead and Rivenhall.

Cllr Jiggins suggested an urgent meeting between members and Mr Cook, ECC.

Meeting adjourned briefly to discuss the matter with Cllr Walters.

Following discussions it was agreed Clerk to write to Mr Cook, Mr Butcher (BDC) and Mr Mann to seek clarification on who decides which jobs are undertaken.

Cllr Meadows will also look into the situation.

01/59 BDC MATTERS.

59.1 Planning Applications

None received.

59.2 Planning Results

01/00799/FUL Flich Cottage, 21 Warner Close, Rayne - Alteration of existing garage to self-contained granny annexe. **Granted.**

Clerk reported a response has been received from ECC stating they will visit site. It was agreed to follow up the issue of encroachment.

59.3 District Councillor Report – Cllr Meadows

Attached to member's agenda, a written report submitted by Cllr Meadows.
Report noted.

Cllr Jiggins asked when would BDC introduce the £10 fee for removal of old cars. Cllr Meadows replied this was already in operation.

Cllr Wootton reported that 2 abandoned cars by Jones of Rayne were still there, although notification stickers had been placed on them promptly.

Cllr Jiggins replied that Mr Jeremy Gow had informed the council at the previous meeting that abandoned vehicles could be removed in as little as 7 days.

At the request of Cllr Giles, the following item was brought forward.

61.6 Drainage at Duckend Green

Cllr Giles reported that after problems with flooding at Duckend Green last winter, Cllr Jiggins had undertaken to rectify the situation at his own expense. This was work that should have been done by ECC. He proposed that the Parish Council should reimburse Cllr Jiggins for this work.

Cllr Jiggins replied that, whilst he appreciated the gesture, he would prefer reimbursement not be made by the Parish Council. He stated he is currently awaiting a site visit from May Guerny to discuss further work.

It was therefore agreed to discuss this item again at a later stage.

Cllr Giles left the meeting.

01/60 ROADS AND PUBLIC SAFETY

60.1 Street Light Failures

Cllr MacNee reported lamp No.1 Smithsfield – Clerk to report.

60.2 A120 Stansted-B/tree – Post Construction Traffic Measures

To discuss paper put forward by Cllr Jiggins.

Cllr Jiggins apologised that he has yet to finalise this paper. He will complete and circulate on e-mail for feedback.

60.3 Policing Issues within the Village

PC Blackburn will be attending the meeting.

Covered during Public Forum – Item 55.2.

60.4 Bridleway Link from Rayne to Gt. Notley Garden Village

Mr Bartley, ECC has passed details onto Central Team in County Hall for response.

Clerk to chase response from County Hall.

60.5 Channel Sweeping

Response received from Paul Partridge, BDC.

Details put into circulation.

60.6 Replacement of Bollards, The Street

Cllr MacNee reported the bollards have been replaced.

60.7 White Lining of The Street and Pedestrian Crossing

Cllr MacNee reported the white lining in The Street, together with the pedestrian crossing and zigzags needs redoing. Clerk to write to BDC.

01/61 RAYNE'S ENVIRONMENT

61.1 Work within the Grounds

Cllr Jiggins reported the Assistant Groundsman continues to litter pick throughout the village. He is currently spending at least one hour each day on just the playing field and area around the Village Hall.

The Groundsman is now on top of the grass cutting and has been cutting low branches off trees to enable the mower to cut underneath.

Cllr Meadows asked what was the problem with the mower specification (as reported last month).

Cllr Jiggins informed him the mower had been supplied with wrong tyres and we are awaiting replacements – the invoice being paid when these are received.

61.2 Parish Channel Sweeping

Duplicate – covered under Item 60.5.

61.3 Skateboard Ramp Update

Letter received from Village Hall Committee, attached to agenda.

Cllr MacNee reported that a meeting had been arranged with Mr Carrington, who unfortunately did not attend. There was now a need to look at alternative ways of getting the project to the next stage.

Information had been received from Mr Fairhurst regarding undertaking the concreting and this was issued and concerns discussed.

- The future of the project was discussed at length and covered issues such as:
- ? Professional contractor required to complete project.
 - ? Would need to go to tender as would cost over £1000.
 - ? Had only precepted for £1000 to complete project, would need over £3000 to get to concreting stage.
 - ? Ramp Committee funds stand at £332, with a further £230 promised from Woolworths.
 - ? Should the Parish Council complete or end the project.

Cllr Meadows proposed to end the project and fill in the hole. Seconded by Cllr Lees.

This raised concerns that although this may be the view of some villagers, money from the council and that of fundraising had already been spent on the project.

A counter proposal to go to tender was put forward by Cllr Moore, seconded by Cllr Mrs Shepherd. Voted 5 for, 2 against, 1 abstention – therefore decision to go to tender carried by the majority.

Following further discussion it was agreed tender document be sent to Chelmer Builders, Paul Fairhurst and SD Nash for reply by next meeting.

Council to decide further action once tenders received.

Clerk to look at financial position of the council and prepare report for next meeting.

61.4 Refuse Lorry Trial

First vehicle booked for Saturday, 15th September at the Village Hall. Clerk to advertise in parish magazine and on noticeboards.

61.5 Bus Shelter

Cllr Moore reported that the workmanship on the bus shelter has been superb and praised both Mr Fairhurst and his colleagues. The project should be complete by early next week.

Cllr Moore put forward two suggestions to stop people getting around the back of the shelter and it was agreed he ask Mr Fairhurst for a quote for this work.

Cllr Jiggins proposed the invoice be paid on submission to the Clerk.

Seconded by Cllr Wootton and agreed by all present.

Clerk clarified Parish Council to pay and seek reimbursement from Insurers following a receipted invoice from Mr Fairhurst.

Cllr Moore left the meeting.

61.7 BDC - Children's Christmas Show

BDC are looking for villages that are interested in hosting a performance.

Clerk to pass details to Village Hall Committee and Church.

61.8 "Contact" Summer Roadshow – Youth Service Mobile Unit

Information received about the unit, which is now available to hire.

It was agreed not to hire the unit this year.

01/62

HEALTH ISSUES

Report by Cllr MacNee on recent meetings attended.

Cllr MacNee reported he had recently attended the Mid Essex Board Meeting.

Information put into circulation.

01/63

FINANCE

63.1	£143.74	Concisely – Stationery & Photocopier Cartridge
63.2	£39.87	Ernest Doe – Tools & Equipment
63.3	£5.88	Eastern Garage – Number Plate for Mower
63.4	£20.33	Eastern Contracting – Lighting Maintenance
63.5	£39.25	Eastern Energy – Quarterly Energy Charge
63.6	£69.95	Mr Peake – Petrol & Replacement Tyre
63.7	£220.59	Mr Peake - Groundsman

One additional item:

63.9	£62.35	Glasdon UK – Additional Dog Bin
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In the absence of Cllr Mrs Roberts, Cllr Jiggins checked the invoices. It was unanimously agreed to make the above payments (including the immediate payment of invoice to be received from Mr Fairhurst -Item 61.5). Proposed Cllr Lees. Seconded Cllr Meadows.

63.8 Audit of the Accounts - Year Ending 31 March 2001

Report on meeting with Auditor 2nd August 2001.

The Clerk reported that the meeting with the Auditors went very well, with the accounts being accepted. A certificate will now be issued.

One item raised by the Auditor was the £250 reward agreed at the April 2001 meeting for information relating to the bus shelter. They questioned what powers the council would have used to pay this.

01/64

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be on Friday, 7th September 2001. Items for Agenda to the Clerk by Wednesday 22nd August 2001.

01/65

OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

65.1 Information Centre - Pilot Scheme

Cllr Mrs Kukiewicz informed the meeting that Joy Sheppard, EALC, has been in contact regarding the possibility of Rayne becoming a pilot area to set up an information point in the new Parish Office. A grant of £5000 is available from ECC – this could be used in a variety of ways:

- ? Additional staff to help man the centre.
- ? Additional hours for the Clerk.
- ? Equipment for the centre – such as a security door.

Joy will be attending the September meeting, where she will go into further detail.

Cllr Mrs Kukiewicz stated that Joy will also be talking about the Vital Villages Project – further grants are available for parishes but a Parish Plan is required to tap into these resources. Cllr Jiggins stated this is also a requirement of becoming a Quality Council.

65.2 EALC Training Events

Clerk handed round details of forthcoming training events.

Cllr Jiggins expressed his interest in attending the “Working in Partnership with ECC” course at a cost of £5/delegate. Clerk to book.

65.3 Village Hall Lottery Grant

Cllr Mrs Kukiewicz reported that the Village Hall Committee had been successful in obtaining a grant of £17,500 to refurbish the kitchen.

65.4 A120 Project Launch – 16th August

No member expressed an interest in attending this launch.
Cllr Wootton reported Mr Brian Hoath had informed him that the road would be marked out by early September, with work due to start shortly after.

6.5 RCCE Village Hall Conference

Clerk to pass details to the Village Hall Committee.

65.7 Bus Service – Brunwin Road

Letter received from Mrs Bryce regarding additional buses added to the service – now starting at 4:14 am.
It was agreed Clerk to write informing Mrs Bryce that the council has not changed it's original decision

65.8 Bus Shelter

Cllr Jiggins asked that the Clerk enquire with BDC as to how to treat the bus shelter in order to be able to easily remove graffiti. Do BDC use a particular anti-graffiti sealant and would they be prepared to treat the shelter for us.

01/66

CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 10:15 P.M.

Signed

Date