

RAYNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 4th AUGUST 2003

PRESENT: Councillor Giles
Jiggins
Mrs Kukiewicz (arrived during Item 71.7)
Phillips
Mrs Roberts
Wootton

In the Chair: Councillor Phillips

Also Present: PC Keaney and PC Rhodes – Shalford Police Team

03/63 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

To accept the Declaration of Acceptance of Office from the new Chairman, Councillor Martyn Phillips.

Declaration of Acceptance of Office duly signed by Cllr Phillips.

03/64 PUBLIC FORUM

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

64.1 Police Report

PC Keaney reported she has requested further patrols in the village, both on foot and by car. Over the last 6 weeks, there have been 6 patrols of two officers for a period of two hours. These officers have spoken to a number of youngsters but did not encounter any problems. Crime figures for last month: 1 theft, 1 criminal damage and 4 nuisance youths (a decrease over the previous month).

The community police box in the Post Office is not being utilised.

Problems need to be reported, if vehicles need index number, date/time of incident and names if known. If same index numbers are continually reported, the Police will visit the parents of the offenders; they also have the power to seize the vehicle.

64.2 Hedges – Fairy Hall Lane

Mr Barry Pewter – Rayne Riding School

Mr Pewter raised concern that hedges along Fairy Hall Lane are growing into the road, causing vehicles to drive off the road to avoid them.

Cllr Jiggins stated ECC were responsible for ensuring the landowner cuts the hedges (or will cut them direct and charge the landowner).

It was agreed the Parish Council will action this.

64.3 Hedges Around the Village

Mr Neil Butler – 34 Medley Road

Mr Butler raised concern regarding a number of hedges around the village growing out, narrowing the public footpaths. He also raised a number of issues regarding the general state of the Medley Road estate.

It was agreed Cllr Jiggins to meet Mr Butler the following evening to walk around the estate.

64.4 Flichtway

Mr Martin Reid – 39 Medley Road

Mr Reid asked who was responsible for maintaining the Flichtway as the area behind Medley Road was in a poor state, being overgrown.

Cllrs reported this is the responsibility of the ECC Ranger Service, however they have had to deal with a number of serious H&S issues following the death of a Ranger.
It was agreed to write to the Ranger Service stating residents have expressed concern at the current state of the Fritchway, particularly the stretch between Warner Close and the bridge.

Cllr Phillips thanked all those for attending and highlighting the above issues.

03/65 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

To declare any 'personal' or 'personal and prejudicial' interests relating to items on the agenda having regard to paragraphs 8 to 12 (inclusive) of the Code of Conduct for Members part 5/1 of the Constitution and having taken appropriate advice (where necessary) before the meeting.
There were no Declarations of Interest.

03/66 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllrs Mrs Dawson, Mrs Fish, MacNee, Meadows and Mrs Shepherd.

The best wishes of the Council were extended to Cllrs MacNee and Meadows who are both currently recovering from illness.

03/67 CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7th JULY 2003

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

Proposed: Cllr Wootton. Seconded: Cllr Jiggins.

03/68 MATTERS ARISING NOT LISTED ON THIS AGENDA

68.1 Flying Incident - 17th April

Clerk reported the letter to Earls Colne Airfield has recently been sent.

Cllr Jiggins suggested this incident be followed up with the relevant authority regarding the dangerous conduct of flying a plane at low level over a built up area.

It was agreed to write seeking clarification of the flight path and height for light aircraft over the village.

68.2 Pods Brook - Raw Sewage

Response received from both Anglian Water and the Environment Agency stating the matter is being investigated.

Clerk to request responses from these bodies by the next meeting.

68.3 Potholes in Duck End Green

Response received from ECC stating the above pothole has now been made safe.

68.4 Fritchway - Removal of Branches

Cllr Mrs Roberts reported the area has now been cleared.

68.5 Post - Century Bridge

Cllr Giles reported the post has now been removed.

03/69 BDC MATTERS

69.1 Planning Applications

It was agreed to SUPPORT the following application.

03/01573/FUL - Common Farm, Little Common Lane
Erection of two-storey side extension.

69.2 Planning Results

The following applications have been GRANTED:

03/00972/FUL – Pandora, 10 Gore Lane. Erection of first floor rear extension.

03/00992/FUL – Mill House, School Road. Erection of two-storey side extension.

03/00959/FUL – 2 Fairview Villas, School Road. Erection of two storey and single storey extensions.

03/70 ROADS AND PUBLIC SAFETY

70.1 Street Lighting

To report any lights currently out of action.

None.

70.2 Policing Issues

To report any incidents or concerns since the last meeting.

Response received from A/Chief Inspector Wellor stating he has requested Sgt Midwinter to update the Parish Council on the 8-week initiative.

70.3 Flooding – Queenborough Lane

Report on site meeting held 22nd July 2003.

Cllrs Phillips gave a verbal report of the meeting, which Cllr Jiggins had also attended. This had been a productive meeting and the work undertaken should cease the flooding problems unless in severe rainfall.

70.4 Home/School Transport

To discuss the Willows Green-Rayne route following the ECC Cabinet decision to not bus junior school age children to school.

Cllr Phillips reported on a meeting held with Mr Wright, Headteacher at Rayne School. Mr Wright stated it is the Governors who are leading the way to have this route classed as unsafe. County Cllr John Whiteland (Uttlesford) is optimistic this will happen and suggested the next action should take place in January 2004 prior to the next child from Willows Green starting at the school in the September.

Cllr Phillips also reported a letter from Mr Catt, ECC, states the route is “reasonably safe” a point discussed with County Cllr John Whiteland who agreed to clarify this statement with Iris Pummell.

It was agreed to discuss arranging a walk of the route in January at the December meeting.

03/71 RAYNE'S ENVIRONMENT

71.1 BDC Chairman – Visit to Parishes

To discuss timetable and issues.

Dates received: Friday 26th September and Friday 3rd October between 10-12.

It was agreed to accept the 26th September. Timetable: start at the CIP (to meet the Parish Council representatives) to view council amenities then onto the Pre-School and School if they are in agreement.

Clerk to arrange.

71.2 High Diversity Refuse Collections

To discuss the implementation of the fortnightly collections.

Following discussion it was agreed Clerk to write stating the Parish Council are against the implementation of a fortnightly refuse collection, due to the H&S issues. Also to ask why there was no liaison with the PC, although this was stated at the public meeting held last year and why are BDC introducing a scheme that the County town of Essex has just reversed.

71.3 Quality Council Scheme

Application details attached to agenda for discussion/action.

It was agreed there was a need to look into this scheme in more detail to see what areas need improvement/introduction and that we should be working towards becoming a Quality Council.

Next Meeting – To appoint a Sub-Committee for this project.

71.4 Broken Branch on Playing Field

To discuss quotation received to remove the branch.

Cllr Jiggins reported a quote for £220 has been received for clearing this area.

Cllr Giles Proposed this quotation be accepted. Seconded by Cllr Mrs Roberts and unanimously agreed. It was further agreed this amount would be deducted from the Village Hall precept grant.

Clerk to inform the Village Hall Committee.

Inspection Report

Clerk informed the meeting she has written to Joscelyn Chase requesting the report be forwarded as soon as possible.

71.5 Parish Plan/Appraisal

To discuss the implementation of a Parish Appraisal.

Cllr Phillips stated a Parish Plan would give the residents an opportunity to have their say on what they want/do not want in the village. This could be introduced at the Annual Parish Assembly in May.

It was agreed to defer this discussion to a future meeting when a full council is present.

71.6 Parish Web Site

To discuss/action the implementation of the web site.

Cllr Mrs Roberts informed those present of the outcome of a meeting held today with Mrs Vanessa Lees. Links between the PC website and the village website should be established but the sites should not duplicate information. The PC website should contain what the council are responsible for and there is the opportunity for each Cllr to have an email address via the site. The site would require a website master and deputy, files to be read-only and have a firewall to prevent unauthorised access.

Cllr Jiggins stated the PC site would need more information than just the agendas and minutes to encourage people to visit it.

Cllr Mrs Roberts added Mrs Lees is prepared to continue to help with the construction of the PC website and would just require a small "website designed by" logo on the site.

Cllr Phillips stated ownership of the village website will transfer to the PC in 2 years time.

Clerk to email Cllrs asking what they wish to see on our website, to collate at the next meeting in preparation for the meeting on the 18th September.

Cllr Mrs Kukiewicz joined the meeting.

71.7 Posters & Signs around the Village

To discuss the increasing amount of posters being put up around the village.

Cllr Phillips stated there was an increasing number of posters' advertising weight loss, flooring, companies etc.

Cllr Jiggins stated BDC would have them removed.

It was agreed to remove them if possible and contact BDC listing details on the advertisements.

03/72

FINANCE

72.1	£46.98	TXU Energi - Quarterly Energy Charge
72.2	£25.00	All Saints - Hire of OSR for A120 Exhibition
72.3	£18.00	BALC - Annual Subscription
72.4	£20.33	Asset Management - Lighting Maintenance
72.5	£206.72	Mr Peake - Groundsman (June)
72.6	£51.30	Mr Peake - Petrol
72.7	£52.88	FA Jiggins & Sons - Repair to Mower Wheel

It was unanimously agreed to make these payments.

Proposed: Cllr Wootton. Seconded: Cllr Mrs Kukiewicz.

72.8 2002/2003 Accounts

Accounts for Yr Ended 31/03/03 attached to agenda.

To complete the Annual Return and agree the Statement of Assurance (attached).

It was Proposed Cllr Mrs Roberts, Seconded Cllr Jiggins and unanimously agreed to sign off the accounts, complete the Annual Return and Statement of Assurance. The Chairman then duly signed the return.

72.9 Memorial Wall Tender

Clerk reported two tender documents had been returned, which were opened in the presence of Cllr Jiggins. These were from PJ Fairhurst and Weir Conservation.

It was Proposed Cllr Mrs Roberts, Seconded Cllr Wootton and unanimously agreed to accept the quotation from PJ Fairhurst.

03/73 MEETINGS / SEMINARS / CONSULTATIONS

73.1 Flitchway Liaison Meeting

Report on meeting held 21st July by Councillors in attendance.

Cllr Jiggins reported on the meeting, where encroachments had been discussed. He added County Cllr Walters had been helpful in moving this committee forward.

It was agreed to write thanking Cllr Walters for his support.

73.2 BDC Meeting with Parish Representatives

Report on meeting held 30th July by Councillors in attendance.

Cllr Phillips gave a verbal report of the meeting, adding he has requested Cllr Walters send details of monies available for completing the skate ramp and that the PC are to be consulted on BDC's Strategic Objectives.

It was agreed to invite Cllr Wendy Scattergood, the portfolio holder for rural affairs, to a future meeting.

Cllr Jiggins had spoken at the meeting of the possibility of Braintree being "parished".

Cllr Jiggins reported on the presentation by S/Int. Harrison - with Rayne now registered as a village with a drugs problem. Clerk to pursue if any funds are available following this report.

73.3 Encroachments - Cllr Jiggins

Report on meeting held with Cllr Walters and Mr Peat, ECC.

Cllr Jiggins reported Cllr Walters had suggested writing to the people involved offering them a licence to the pieces of land in question.

73.4 Rural Services Standard 2003

Information received that a review of the aims of the Standard is being undertaken.

Details of the Standard are available from the Clerk.

73.5 Indemnities for Relevant Authority Members and Officers

ODPM Consultation document received for response by 6 Oct.

Cllr Phillips agreed to peruse this consultation and report back to the council.

73.6 Draft Essex Schools Organisational Plan 2003-2008

Cllr Phillips informed the meeting he had looked through this report briefly and no changes affect Rayne. He agreed to further peruse the consultation and report back to the council.

03/74 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Monday, 1st September 2003.**

Items for the agenda to the Clerk by Thursday, 21st August.

03/75 OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

75.1 Proposed Council Tax Increase

Cllr Giles asked if the Parish Council would be objecting to the proposed 12% increase in the Council Tax.

It was agreed to discuss this issue at the next meeting.

75.2 Foundry Development - Draft Magazine Report

Draft report for inclusion in the parish magazine tabled at the meeting.

Contents were agreed and Clerk to forward to Mike Shaw.

03/76

CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 9:50 p.m.

Signed: _____

CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL

Date: _____