

RAYNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 6th AUGUST 2007

PRESENT: Councillor Michael Bamford
Adam Bulkeley
Chris Doré
Harold Giles
Roger Jiggins
Ian MacNee
Martyn Phillips
Keith Rawlings
Pat Roberts
Dean West

Also in Attendance: District Councillor Banthorpe
Paul Richards – BDC Community Warden
PC Harris, PSCO Hearn, PSCO Johnson – Essex Police
Mrs Melanie Whiteside – Clerk
Mrs Philippa Potter – Clerk Designate

The Chair thanked Mrs Whiteside for her commitment and dedication to the role of Clerk during the past seven years and presented her with a basket of flowers on behalf of the Parish Council.

PUBLIC FORUM

Police Report – PC Harris reported:

- Ø There has been an increase of burglaries from commercial properties in the village. Residents are asked to report any suspicious vehicles/people.
- Ø Speeding – Speed cameras will be in the village later this month.
- Ø Skate Ramp – The Police are unable to take any further action, as they are unable to retrieve a full licence plate from the CCTV footage.
- Ø Damage to Play Area – PC Carter is dealing with this incident.
- Ø Smashed Window (Village Hall) – Culprits are not identifiable from the CCTV footage.

Community Warden Report – Paul Richards reported he has undertaken a number of patrols in the village over the past month and is intending to arrange a litter pick in autumn with the Scouts.

District Councillor Report - Cllr Banthorpe reported on a recent meeting attending relating to the planned closure of 2000 Post Offices.

07/50 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Diane Shepherd.

07/51 CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 2nd JULY 2007

It was Proposed Cllr Harold Giles, Seconded Cllr Dean West and unanimously Resolved to accept the minutes as a true record, with the following amendments:

Item 43.2 – Amendment of first sentence to read “in which the Police requested residents to be vigilant”

Item 43.7 – Removal of “and is maintained by the residents” from the final sentence.

07/52 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr Roger Jiggins declared a Personal Interest in item 55.4 (Rayne Hall Farm Barns), as he has a history with the site.

Cllr Mike Bamford and Cllr Dean West declared a Personal Interest in item 54.5 (Balls on Road), 55.1 (Village Hall Matters), 55.2 (Refuse Vehicle Hire) and 56.14 (Village Hall Insurance) as members of the Village Hall Committee.

Cllr Harold Giles declared a Personal Interest in item 53.2 (Planning Appeal), as he knew the appellant.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, all Councillors remained in the meeting, unless stated otherwise, and took part in the discussion for all the above items and the vote thereon.

07/53 BDC MATTERS

53.1 Planning Applications

None.

For Info: Applications Determined by Planning Sub-Committee

None.

53.2 Planning Results

The following application has been GRANTED:

07/00943/FUL – 5 The Maltings – Extension to existing garage.

07/00782/FUL – Oakdene, Dunmow Road – Side extension.

The following application has been WITHDRAWN:

07/00891/FUL – Oakdene, Dunmow Road – Vehicular access.

07/01003/ELD – Hazelmere Farm – Application for Certificate of Lawfulness for an existing use – storage of motor vehicles.

Planning Appeal: 06/00893/COU – Fargo Coachlines – Continued use of part of the site for vehicle hire for a period of two years.

It was Proposed Cllr Michael Bamford, Seconded Cllr Chris Doré and RESOLVED that as the Parish Council had originally supported this planning application, no further representation was required. (Cllr Harold Giles abstained from the vote).

Pudneys Farm – Members noted the details of why this application was refused.

07/54 ROADS AND PUBLIC SAFETY

54.1 Street Lighting

Ø Street Lights – Lamp No.12 Smithsfield has been reported.

Ø Lighting along Phillips Close/The Street footpath – Members noted the bollard lighting has been ordered.

54.2 Policing Issues

No further issues discussed.

54.3 Gore Triangle

The Clerk reported that a meeting would be held with the Solicitor to agree action to be taken on obtaining a Declaration of Ownership.

It was AGREED to research the old Parish Council files recently obtained from the Village Hall for information relating to the deeds.

54.4 Church Lane Repairs

Cllr Harold Giles reported he is awaiting two further quotations. It was therefore AGREED to discuss this when these quotations are received.

54.5 Balls on Road (Playing Field)

Members discussed the issue of balls being kicked or hit into the road from the playing field. It was noted that the Cricket Club has insurance to cover this issue but it was AGREED to write to the Village Hall Committee asking them to ensure that all sporting organisations using the field have adequate insurance and have undertaken a suitable risk assessment.

54.6 Road Sweeper

Members discussed the request from BDC to buy or return the road sweeper. It was AGREED to reply stating that the Parish Council have made limited use of the sweeper but would be willing to purchase it for a peppercorn amount.

07/55

RAYNE'S ENVIRONMENT

55.1 Village Hall Matters

- Ø Skate Ramp Theft – Response from Playdale stating that ramps installed in 2004 did not have a fully documented fixing system. It was AGREED to write to ROSPA advising them of this and seeking clarification that the remaining ramps are safe to use. It was also AGREED to copy this letter to Playdale informing them that the Parish Council are pursuing the safety issue of the installations.
- Ø CCTV Images – Response from BDC reiterating that CCTV images cannot be published in the village.
- Ø CIP Door Intercom – Members noted that the intercom requires repair or replacement. It was AGREED to discuss this further, with quotations, at the next meeting.

55.2 Refuse Vehicle Hire

Following the problems that had occurred during the previous refuse vehicle hire, it was AGREED to change the location to the Fritchway car park at Rayne Station, for the September hire. Clerk to write thanking the Ranger for allowing the use of the car park.

55.3 Affordable Housing

Cllr Martyn Phillips gave a brief verbal report on the recent meeting held with Flagship Housing.

Housing Needs Survey – It was Proposed Cllr Roger Jiggins, Seconded Cllr Adam Bulkeley and unanimously Resolved to accept the questionnaire with no changes. Covering letter and questionnaire to be issued to all residents through the September issue of the Parish Magazine.

55.4 Rayne Hall Farm Barns

Members raised concern at the fragile state of the barns and the following actions were AGREED:

- Ø Write to BDC Planning Enforcement requesting immediate action on the barns to ensure they are kept in a stable condition until such time as the planned work commences.
- Ø Write to Pippa Colchester, Senior Historic Buildings Officer, stating the Parish Council would positively consider alterations to the plans to make the site more viable for a sympathetic restoration to occur.

55.5 Quality of Water

Response received from Anglian Water detailing the water quality report and analytical data of monitoring undertaken. It was AGREED to respond raising concern at the hardness of the water and requesting an explanation of this, highlighting the low number of samples taken.

07/56

FINANCE

- 56.1 £23.59 Just Lamps – Lighting Maintenance (July)
- 56.2 £363.44 Mrs Whiteside – Clerks Salary (July)
- 56.3 £19.39 Acumen – Wages Services (July)

- 56.4 £223.25 BDC – Refuse Vehicle Hire (June)
- 56.5 £104.00 All Saints – OSR Hire (Apr-Jul)
- 56.6 £29.32 Just Lamps – Annual Visit/Repairs
- 56.7 £85.38 E-On Energy – Quarterly Energy Charge
- 56.8 £364.94 FA Jiggins & Son - Consumables
- 56.9 £169.54 Mr Peake – Groundsman (May)
- 56.10 £58.13 Mr Peake – Petrol (May)
- 56.11 £259.50 Mr Peake – Groundsman (June)
- 56.12 £59.00 Mr Peake – Petrol (June)
- 56.13 £71.10 Mr Banthorpe – Expenses (Village Design Statement)

It was proposed Cllr Harold Giles, Seconded Cllr Ian MacNee and unanimously Resolved to make the above payments.

56.14 Village Hall - Insurance

It was Proposed Cllr Roger Jiggins, Seconded Cllr Harold Giles and AGREED to fund the additional insurance premium of £159.80 to cover the skate ramp and related items on the playing fields.

(Cllr Michael Bamford and Cllr Dean West abstained from the vote).

07/57 MEETINGS / SEMINARS / CONSULTATIONS

57.1 Circulation Folder

Cllr Martyn Phillips informed members of interesting and relevant items.

57.2 Health Issues

No recent meetings attended.

57.3 Flitch Way Liaison Group Meeting

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 18 September, 7pm at Takeley Station.

57.4 BDC Local Committee

Cllr Chris Doré and Cllr Keith Rawlings gave a brief verbal report from the meeting held on 24th July.

57.5 Village of the Year Competition

Ø National Competition 2006 – The Parish Council have received the Regional ICT Website Award. It was AGREED to discuss how to use the £500 financial award at the next meeting.

Ø Essex Competition 2007 – Members noted the results of the 2007 Competition. Feedback from the judges was read to the meeting.

57.6 Tackling Fly Posting in the Braintree District

Cllr Roger Jiggins AGREED to peruse and respond to the consultation on behalf of the Parish Council.

To agree the exclusion of the public and press for the consideration of the following item for the reasons set out in Part 1, Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Proposed: Cllr Ian MacNee. Seconded: Cllr Dean West. Resolved.

Whilst the following items of business were discussed in private session, they do not contain any confidential information and are therefore admissible in the public domain.

07/58 PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Ø Clerk Vacancy – It was Proposed Cllr Dean West, Seconded Cllr Chris Doré and unanimously RESOLVED to ratify the appointment of Philippa Potter as the new Clerk, on recommendation of the Personnel Committee.

Next Meeting: To discuss amending the Standing Orders to provide delegated powers to the Personnel Committee.

- Ø Deputy Groundsman - It was Proposed Cllr Harold Giles, Seconded Cllr Roger Jiggins and unanimously Resolved to advertise the vacancy in the local press, on an "employed" contract.

- Ø Groundsan Salary Scale - It was Proposed Cllr Pat Roberts, Seconded Cllr Michael Bamford and unanimously Resolved to move Mr Peake onto Grade 5 (plus 5% for use of own equipment), with Mr Taylor remaining on Grade 4 of the NFU Agricultural Rates.

07/59

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday, 3rd September 2007**. Items for the agenda to the Clerk by 20th August.

Other Items Reported:

Parking at Barnards Orchard - Cllr Ian MacNee reported he had spoken with the resident who had agreed to park their car further up the road to alleviate the problem for residents.

Councillor Training - It was AGREED to discuss a date for in-house training at the next meeting.

Roadworks at the Swan - It was AGREED to contact ECC Highways for a date when remedial works will be undertaken at this junction.

07/60

CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 9:30 p.m.

Signed: _____
CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL

Date: _____