

RAYNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, 4th OCTOBER 2002

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Fish
Giles
Mrs Kukiewicz
Lees
MacNee
Meadows
Mrs Roberts
Mrs Shepherd
Wootton

In the Chair: Councillor Mrs Kukiewicz

02/90 PUBLIC FORUM

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

At the request of the Parish Council, Mr Alan Hurst, MP was in attendance.

Cllr Mrs Kukiewicz welcomed Mr Hurst to the meeting and apologised that no members of the public were in attendance.

The following topics were discussed:

Elderly Care (and the payment of)

Cllrs reported that many people were having to sell their property in order to pay for residential care.

Mr Hurst replied:

- Pensioner Tax Credit will provide partial relief from next year.
- Original formula in 1970's was linked to wages – need to link state pensions to salaries.
- He had rebelled against his own party over 75p increase for pensioners.
- Free residential care being trialed in Scotland.
- Mindful that County Council are shutting down own residential homes.

Refugee Problem

Mr Hurst gave the following views:

- Reason for asylum seekers coming to Britain was the failure of western countries from taking them.
- Whilst here, they should be allowed to work pending asylum process.
- Government are seeking solutions. Needs to be balanced on what can be realistically achieved.

Private Finance Initiative (PFI)

The system for funding hospitals, together with the delay of the new Braintree Community Hospital was discussed. Mr Hurst reported:

- Broomfield Hospital, through PFI, to have 100 extra beds by 2007.
- More money in the system as the National Debt has decreased.
- Control of Braintree scheme has moved to new Primary Care Trust.
- Now propose to build two surgeries on the site (originally one).

Countryside Matters

Mr Hurst was asked for the Government's views on this issue:

- Government get an unfair press.

- They are a strong supporter of subsidised farming (important to maintain British Agriculture and subsidiaries).
- Government actively campaigned to ensure Benefit/Pension payments in cash (via local Post Offices) are retained.

Buses

Mr Hurst reported:

- If a private bus operator is determined to cut a service, they will.
- Now running so that almost every route has to make a profit.
- No democratic input on these issues.
- Operators will remove unprofitable routes – will not reinstate unless subsidised.

Removal of Abandoned Cars

On the subject of prosecution, Mr Hurst replied it was right to try to prosecute owners of abandoned cars but this was an expensive operation.

Public Amenity Sites

On the issue of height barriers on the site restricting access for residents with higher cars (such as people carriers), Mr Hurst stated they could be adjusted locally.

Stansted Airport – Additional Runways

Mr Hurst was asked if the Government have a hidden agenda on this issue, he replied:

- He does not believe in conspiracy theories.
- It is a genuine consultation – important to get views of the public.
- His own views were that the rising to 25mil passengers was inevitable, but did not want to see it expanded beyond its present boundaries.
- There should be serious challenging of the projected figures.
- Need to argue for spread of risk instead of one huge airport.

Cllr Mrs Kukiewicz thanked Mr Hurst for his attendance.

02/91

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.

Cllr Wootton declared an interest in Planning Application 02/01700/COU and left the meeting during the discussion and consideration of this item.

02/92

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllr Jiggins.

02/93

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2002

Following an amendment to Item 81.3 for read Edges (not Hedges); the minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed: Cllr MacNee. Seconded: Cllr Meadows.

02/94

MATTERS ARISING NOT LISTED ON THIS AGENDA

94.1 Rectory Lane – Potholes

Response received from Anglian Water. They are investigated ownership and responsibility for maintenance of the road and will inform us of the outcome.

95.1 Planning Applications

02/01815/FUL – 12B Brunwin Road. Erection of conservatory.

02/01683/FUL – Bakersfield, The Street.

Erection of single storey rear conservatory extension.

It was agreed to Support the above applications.

02/01700/COU – Broadfield Farm, Dunmow Road.

Change of use of agricultural building to storage/light industrial.

Cllr Wootton gave a brief background to this application then left the meeting.

Following discussion, it was agreed to make the following comments:

Hours of work restriction.

95.2 Planning Results

The following applications have been **GRANTED**.

02/01160/FUL – Woost, 1 School Road. Erection of 3 bungalows.

ESS/38/02/BTE – Rayne Sewage Treatment Works.

Construction of GRP Kiosks, to house Electrical Control Equipment.

02/00356/FUL – Station View, 23 New Road. Erection of stable block.

95.3 District Councillor Report – Cllr Meadows

Report attached to agenda.

Report noted. Brief discussion followed on the Market Square decision as some councillors felt the option taken resulted in a loss of short term car parking spaces in the town. Cllr Meadows reported that there would be additional short-term spaces for approximately 16 cars in Manor Street.

02/96 PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

To Co-opt a new Councillor. Application letters attached to agenda.

There were three candidates and following a vote Mr Martyn Phillips was elected to the post of Parish Councillor.

Clerk to inform all three of the decision.

02/97 ROADS AND PUBLIC SAFETY

97.1 Street Light Failures

No failures to report.

97.2 Queenborough Lane – Flooding

Further response received from Mr Stares, BDC.

Mr Stares reported that the meeting with the new resident has already taken place and they had stated any further justified works would be undertaken accordingly.

97.3 Parking on Pavements

Clerk read an e-mail received from a resident in Leyside requesting the Parish Council discuss the increased number of vehicles being parked on the pavements, restricting access for wheelchair and pushchair users.

It was agreed to include this in the Parish Magazine asking residents not to park on the pavement or obstruct lowered curbs.

Cllr Mrs Roberts also reported that the pavement to Braintree was again overgrown, making it difficult to walk along. Clerk to write to BDC.

97.4 Street Name Plate – Vaughan Close

Cllr Mrs Fish reported that a wall bearing the nameplate for Vaughan Close had been removed from outside 12 Kidder Road.

Cllr Giles agreed to visit the occupants of 12 Kidder Road to either have the wall replaced or to retrieve the nameplate.

97.5 Ditch Clearance – Village Green

Following a suggestion from Cllr MacNee, it was agreed the Clerk to send a letter of thanks to both Mr MacGregor and Mr Pertwee for their help in cleaning out the ditch.

The Clerk had received a letter from Mr Pertwee with a cheque for £105.75 contributing to this work. An e-mail from Cllr Jiggins was also read to the meeting.

Following this, Cllr Giles proposed the cheque be returned with a letter of thanks stating that the Council had already set aside money for this task in the Precept. This was Seconded by Cllr Wootton and unanimously agreed by all present.

02/98 RAYNE'S ENVIRONMENT

98.1 Skate Ramp

To open returned tender documents and award contract.

Response from Balfour Beatty – unable to provide any resources.

Only one tender response received from P.J. Fairhurst (£6910 + VAT - Concrete).
Cllr MacNee reported another response had been sent (Tarmac), but the Clerk had not received this.

A lengthy discussion followed on the choice between a concrete or tarmac base and the way forward.

It was subsequently agreed to defer the decision to a new Sub-Committee (Cllrs MacNee, Giles, Wootton and Jiggins).

Cllr Lees asked that the sub-committee examine the question of which surface is preferred so that the Parish Council can be properly advised.

It was further agreed to put this item on the next agenda.

Clerk informed the meeting that Balfour Beatty had responded stating they cannot provide any resources for this project.

98.2 New Flood Warning Areas

For Information: Changes to Flood Warning Codes received.

Noted.

02/99 FINANCE

99.1	£20.33	Eastern Contracting – Lighting Maintenance
99.2	£94.00	RH Porter & Son – Ditch Clearance
99.3	£55.00	Impact – Accounts Support Renewal
99.4	£67.13	British Telecom – Rental/Calls
99.5	£165.26	Mr Peake – Groundsman (August)
99.6	£53.49	Mr Peake – Petrol/Cement

It was unanimously agreed to make these payments.

Proposed: Cllr Lees. Seconded: Cllr Mrs Shepherd.

99.7 Precept Meeting

Chairman asked that Councillors inform the Clerk if they have any items for the Precept agenda.

Clerk had received a response from ECC on the Village Green footpath design. It was agreed to put this item on the next agenda.

02/100 MEETINGS / SEMINARS / CONSULTATIONS

100.1 Parish Council/Village Hall Committee Liaison

Meeting arranged for Tuesday, 22nd October, 7:30pm Parish Office.

Agenda issued. Cllr Mrs Kukiewicz cannot attend as Chair. Clls Giles, MacNee, Lees and Mrs Fish could attend. However, it was agreed that either Cllr Mrs Kukiewicz or Cllr Jiggins should be in attendance.

Clerk to check Cllr Jiggins availability on his return from holiday and to rearrange if he is also unable to attend.

100.2 Cluster Meeting

Thursday, 17th October, 7:30pm Parish Office.

Agenda issued. Cllr Mrs Kukiewicz gave her apologies. Cllrs MacNee and Meadows would be present.

Cllrs Mrs Roberts and Mrs Shepherd left the meeting.

100.3 A120 Public Exhibition Feedback Meeting

Provisionally booked for Tuesday, 15th October, 7:30pm Parish Office.

15th October confirmed by Mr Forkin. Clerk unable to attend therefore Cllr MacNee agreed to open the office. Cllrs Wootton, Meadows and Mrs Kukiewicz will also attend.

100.4 A120 Public Exhibition

Braintree Library, 12th & 13th November, 9:00am – 7:00pm.

Noted.

100.5 Mobile Skate Park Conference – County Durham

Wed 23rd October, Spennymoor Leisure Centre, £70/delegate.

No member expressed an interest in attending.

100.6 Skate Park Solutions Seminar – Focus on Funding

Thurs 28th November, Townley Hall, Burnley, £75/delegate.

No member expressed an interest in attending.

100.7 Rural Crime Seminar – Quy Mill Hotel, Cambridge, 15th October

BDC can nominate four representatives to attend.

Clerk to inform BDC nominating Cllr Meadows for consideration.

02/101

HEALTH ISSUES

Report by Cllr MacNee on recent meetings attended.

Cllr MacNee had recently attended the Mental Health Trust's first A.G.M. where it was reported they had inherited a £1.3million overspend and ended the year with a £1.4million overspend.

02/102

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on **Friday, 1st November 2002.**

Items for the agenda to the Clerk by Wednesday, 23rd October.

The **Precept** meeting will be held on **Friday, 15th November.**

02/103

OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

103.1 War on Waste – A Public Consultation

Consultation documents received at the Community Information Point.

103.2 Hedges Along the Flitchway

Response received from Hadrian Robinson, Ranger, stating they are planning to review the way hedgerows are managed but at present they do not usually cut hedges unless they are causing an obstruction or in a dangerous condition.

He also pointed out that the dumping of tree cuttings was caused by the cutting back of trees to enable the new cycle sign to be more visible. The cuttings will be cleared up in due course.

Mr Robinson added that the planting of the trees to replace the hedge along the metal barrier on New Road should be undertaken in November.

103.3 Trees in Capel Close

Cllr Meadows reported that these trees were obscuring the light for residents. Cllr Giles agreed to assess the situation.

02/104

CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 9:45 p.m.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL