



Parish Council Meeting minutes

For 13th January 2025,

7.00pm, Dickleburgh & Rushall Village Centre

PRESENT: Cllrs. Andrew Goodman (Chair), Steve Adlam, Lisa Buck, David Leyserman, Jim Kerr, Pam Reekie, Robert Theobald

IN ATTENDANCE: Ann Baker (Clerk), Matt Hill (RFO)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 1 resident

116. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES - Co. Cllr. C. Rowett - accepted

117. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS ON ANY ITEM TO BE DISCUSSED – none

118. ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS -

Co. Cllr. C. Rowett - A full report can be found in the Minute File. Co. Cllr. Rowett's report included reference to: emergency meetings about devolution of the County Council, buses and roads – allocation of grant to improve local bus transport, monies for road repairs, health – a new campaign to encourage resident to sign up to a 30 day health challenge and an update about bird flu in Norfolk

Dist. Cllr. C. Hudson - local matters:- budgets – it will be difficult for South Norfolk Council (SNC) not to increase their Council Tax levels; John Grose building is to be demolished in the near future, a new leisure facility will be built on the site; devolution – District Councils may be closed towards end in 2027 if this plan comes to fruition, this will impact on Town & Parish Council's, particularly if a Unitary model is adopted; under the devolution idea - the County Councillor elections may be postponed; the field behind the Bottle Bank, Rectory Road, Dickleburgh may be sold. This is the site that DRPC have been interested in acquiring for many years, is named in the Neighbourhood Plan as an important 'green site,' to protect - as an important view/vista to resident, over to Dickleburgh Moor. It was suggested a new letter be composed to SNC requesting that it is offered, in kind (as it was by the landowner to SNC) to be passed into the care of DRPC; also suggested to send a new email to SNC under the devolution umbrella, and submitting comments when the consultation appears; Diss Leisure Pool has reopened, although the closure of sauna needs reinstatement. It was commented that there was insufficient consultation for residents about the redevelopment - there are three ward members in Diss, who should feedback any comments received; Waveney Holiday Park application - is trying to change all pitches to be static (there are touring and tent pitches on site currently), the length of occupancy time has not been mentioned. There is a slight difference between 'lawful development' and a 'certificate of dwelling,' which is why SN Legal Dept. is involved rather than the remit of the Planning Department.

Dist. Cllr. D. Thompson - sent a report, the full details can be found in the Minute File; comments were made in respect of:- Waveney Holiday Park application – as yet there are no details, whilst waiting for Legal Team's guidance; the water leak on The Street - a date was not available for the repair; the date and details of the next Town and Parish Council Forum is Tuesday 4th February at 1pm.; Diss Leisure has reopened, a tour of the facilities can be booked; the electrical and textile recycling event is to be held at Mount Street car park, on the 28th January between 10.00am – 2.00pm – see Home page for SNC; the latest update to the National Planning Policy Forum (NPPF) is now available – the general theme is the encouragement that Councils will have an increased land supply thus allowing more development. A +20% increase as a buffer, there will need to be good reasons why applications are not approved. District Councillors are waiting to know of the details of the 5 year land supply in SN. This supply is not linked to Broadland's land supply; there are various grants still available from SNC;

The Chair thanked all those attending and the meeting resumed at 7.20pm

- 119. A PRESENTATION FROM MR. BEN GRIEF, OF THE FORESTRY COMMISSION AND THE PARISH COUNCIL'S TREE WARDEN** – Ben outlined his work with the Forestry Commission (FC) as the Woodland Creation Officer, the job entails creating areas of woodland more than five hectares using grant monies from the FC. A principal idea is that communities create corridors/belts of trees and hedging - connecting areas within a parish or extending corridors to other parishes. There are various levels of grant funding – social zones, waterways zones, green boundaries etc.

Cllr. S. Adlam arrived 7.55pm

The trees and hedging used are from a UK native list, with a reasonable amount of climate resistance, such as hornbeam for instance, the plan will reflect/mirror the landscape area – meadow land, pond areas. Once an area/s have been defined, a management programme is drawn up, funding calculated, controls, tubes and fencing are included. There are restrictions – areas of peat cannot be planted (under stewardship of Natural England), archaeological checks will be applied, and the grants will be available for a number of years.

There are other levels of funding that can be applied for: the Countryside Higher Tier Stewardship 2025 which includes establishing orchards, protecting areas etc., Ben could supply information as necessary.

The Chair thanked Ben Grief for the presentation, as there were no further questions, it was agreed that further thought and discussion would be required before any progress occurs.

120. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ON 9TH DECEMBER 2024

The minutes of the meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record. It was resolved to approve them, proposed Cllr. D. Leyserman, seconded Cllr. R. Theobald, unanimous approval.

121. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 9TH DECEMBER, 2024, FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY:

- a. **Website and domain changes** (min. 103b) - the Clerk had received details of the website, the domain and email addresses. It was agreed that Cllrs. R. Theobald and S. Adlam will meet with the Clerk to prepare, arrange and launch the new site and emails. **ACTION** Clerk to liaise with Cllrs. S. Adlam and R. Theobald
- b. **Highways Rangers** (min. 103c) - Highways Rangers have attempted to clean the drains along Rectory Road, due to a technical issue this has been postponed, work on Harleston Road, Rushall will be carried out in the future. Pulham Road has been rodded, hopefully this will prevent further flooding.
- c. **Furze Green gateway signs** (min. 103d) - the Clerk has not heard from Jason at Dissigns. **ACTION** - Cllr. L. Buck will liaise with the Clerk and Dissigns.
- d. **Safe Crossing on the car park** (min. 103f) - Cllr. S. Adlam has met with Kevin Ward – a quote for the work is awaited. **ACTION** - Clerk to contact Highways regarding the access over the pavement running parallel to the car park
- e. **Play are additional equipment** (min. 103g) - **ACTION** - Cllr. S. Adlam will prepare a consultation to share with parents, survey
- f. **Town Lands Trust** (min. 103h) - The Clerk has received confirmation from both Martin Wilby and Cllr. J. Kerr accepting the new tenure for a further three years, up to January 2027
- g. **Planning Application Waveney Holiday Park** (min.110a) – an update was provided by both Dist. Cllrs. – item 118, a response will be composed, see item 126a
- h. **Street light update** - TT Jones have agreed to complete as many lanterns - upgrading to LEDs within the budget of £5,000.00 before the end of the financial year, once a visual inspection has been carried out, TT Jones will confirm the number remaining and these will be converted by the current financial year end. Following further discussion it was agreed that all remaining lights would be converted this financial year, even if the agreed budget (£5,000.00) were exceeded.

All other matters will be addressed during the rest of the meeting.

122. THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FROM THE RFO, including notification of payments made over the last month:

a. Payments & receipts – the list of payments and receipts - The information had been circulated to all Councillors by the RFO.

It was resolved to accept the 'Payments and Receipts' and 'the year to date' spreadsheet - it was resolved to approve all, proposed by Cllr. R. Theobald, seconded Cllr. J. Kerr, all approved

b. Approval of the third quarter bank reconciliation - it was resolved to approve the reconciliation, proposed Cllr. J. Kerr, seconded by Cllr. D. Leyserman, all in agreement

c. Update on the Precept form - SNC have acknowledged receipt of the form, payments will be received in April and October 2025

d. Grant request from St. Edmundsbury Academy, Hoxne for support: a request to support a Dickleburgh child on school trips, £110.00 - following discussion it was resolved to approve the grant. Proposed Cllr. J. Kerr, seconded Cllr. P. Reekie, four in agreement, one abstention.

ACTION - the Clerk to request a receipt as confirmation of the payment from the School.

The Parish Council has the power to make this payment under the Local Government Act 2011, General Power of Competence

e. A staff member from Hoxne Primary School has submitted an application for Forestry School Training - a total cost of £1,199.00. It was agreed that the Community Grant working party would meet to discuss this application. It was unclear if the applicant met all the criteria?

ACTION - Clerk to contact the School/Teacher to request confirmation of meeting the set criteria, then to liaise with the CG working party.

123. Information from the Village Centre Management Committee regarding the trustees of the Village Centre - The VC management committee have looked at the issue of signing as trustees of the Village Centre. The management team wish to wait until new FY and assess the situation in light of developments at that time. It is anticipated that outstanding bar debts will be cleared by that time.

124. Lighting, new doors and heat pump survey - (i) lighting - the work will be carried out 23rd January, postponed due to illness.

(ii) new doors – front, emergency fire doors for the kitchen and Main Hall – the Clerk had circulated the three quotes from Stratton Glass (£6,221.31, incl. VAT), Chapel Doors (£5,795.65 + VAT) and Norfolk Windows and Doors (£10,920.00 incl. VAT). The Village Centre Management Committee recommended that the Parish Council accept the quote from Chapel Doors. It was resolved to approve that the doors are replaced this Financial Year, proposed Cllr. J. Kerr, seconded Cllr. P. Reekie, all in agreement. **ACTION** - Clerk to inform Chapel Doors and request their earliest date available for fitting.

(iii) Finn Geotherm - The Clerk has written to the company requesting that the Parish Council is kept informed as to when the next Government grant for heat pump projects is offered.

125. The new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) changes affecting the Dickleburgh & Rushall Neighbourhood Plan (DRNP) - the Chair and Clerk had amended the references to the NPPF, ensuring all NPPF references in the NP are in accord with the December published 2024 version of the NPPF. All the documents had been sent to SNC in the first week of January 2025, to progress through the next stages, which can take up to seven months. A letter of thanks to all members of the NP team was suggested. **ACTION** – Chair to send letter to all members of the DRNP team thanking them for all their contributions over the years, and also acknowledging the deaths of three members.

126. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AS RECEIVED FROM SOUTH NORFOLK COUNCIL:

a. Planning Application 2024/3439 Waveney Holiday Park, Lawful Development, Air Station Lane, Rushall – proposed use/development of land within the existing holiday park for the siting of static caravans without restriction on the layout of the caravans (up to a max. of 71). Certificate of Lawfulness states a particular purpose for 10years or more, along with accompanying proof. The certificate had been given to Mrs. D. Wall before it was sold on. The new owners applied for a new certificate of lawfulness which was granted. This application is for Lawful Development – exploiting a loop hole - the addition of road and concrete pads has occurred without planning permission. **ACTION** - (i) Clerk to contact Co. Cllr. C. Rowett and raise the Parish Council and residents' concerns: the increase in

population, strains on the infrastructure, particularly as an all year round facility - the population of the village effectively double, putting a strain on local facilities. Such a change is out of line of practice and the principles of rurality – it is not planned growth, nor incremental growth, or strategically planned. (ii) the Chair and the Clerk to prepare a response to this change, to be circulated to all Councillors and sent to Chris Rickman, Planning Officer for the case.

- b. **Planning Application 2025/0029 Upper Vaunces Farm, Semere Lane, Pulham St. Mary** - 2no. Shed extension to existing 8no. shed poultry production facility - it was resolved to approve the application, a vote indicated five approved and two against.
- c. **Planning Application 2025/0068 Windsong, Harvey Lane, Dickleburgh** – rear orangery extension to kitchen diner – it was resolved to approve this, all in agreement.
- d. **Planning Application 2024/3831 land north of Kings House, The Street, Dickleburgh** – non-material amendment of 2023/2939 – change to design, removal of en-suites and heat pump areas from both bungalows. There was some discussion about this amendment, it was resolved to approve
- e. **Receipt of Consultees reports of Planning Decisions made by SNC:**
 - (i) **Planning Application 2024/3465 & 2024/3554 Kings House, The Street, Dickleburgh** – works to trees in the Conservation Area - delegated approval January 3rd 2025

127. HIGHWAYS AND PROW REPORTS:

- a. **Furze Green progress** – none to date, Co. Cllr. C. Rowett will attend to this in the coming month
- b. **Bus route 84** - the Clerk was copied into an email from Mr. P. Nathaniel of Transport made Simple (Managing Director of Simonds Buses), which included the following observations: all bus stops to be clearly marked with pole, stop flag, timetable and fare information (with support from NCC) by April 2025; timetabling for the route will be clarified with online data which will be updated by February 2025; the network development in rural communities is limited due to resources but they do welcome proactive suggestions. **ACTION** - the Chair and Clerk to send a response to Co. Cllr. Rowett.

PROW

- c. **Cutting of the PROW by landowners (PROW 3)** - nothing to report. The Caretaker is to cut the permissive path from gravel of FP3, around Brandreth Close until it meets with footpath again
- d. **Registration of Green Lane, Rushall** - no response to date

128. PLAYING FIELD REPORT:

- a. **Receipt of play inspection weekly reports** – Matt Hill continues to carry these out. Still weeds evident on swings dips in various areas, water underneath. The surface dips in various areas, with water accumulating at times of heavy rain. **ACTION** - Clerk to ask NGF to take a look at the dips and advise of remedial actions
- b. **The Playing Field hedge** - incomplete at present **ACTION** - Chair to contact Alexander & Son
- c. **Installation of a solar powered light on the post at the 'Entrance' to the car park** - Cllr. P. Reekie will investigate the costs and circulate in due course. A durable light, high enough to prevent it being vandalised. Investigation could include a movement activated light/solar light; permission possibly required from BT, **ACTION** - (i) Matt Hill will ask TT Jones to take a look and offer advice, then report back (ii) Clerk to contact 'Openreach,' who own the telegraph pole, to enquire if a light could be attached to it (iii) Cllr. P. Reekie will prepare a paper for the next meeting outlining costs.

- 129. **DOG BIN AT ST. CLEMENTS COMMON** - nothing to report at present – **ACTION** - Clerk to talk with Mrs. L. Perkins, Treasurer & Secretary to Rushall PCC; Clerk to inform SNC if permission granted to move the bin to the Church site. This would impact the finances by increasing the number of bins to empty to ten (annual cost £91.00 per bin).

130. MATTERS OF INFORMATION FROM COUNCILLORS:

- **Clerk** - a resident on Rectory Road has reported an issue with blocked drains. A recent update stated that the drains were due to be cleared from the Village Shop to the end of Rectory Road, however due to the pump being frozen the work has been postponed
- Cllr. P. Reekie – has been approached by two residents requesting allotments. Cllr. P. Reekie was unsure about availability, she will investigate by contacting Sam Johnson. Some holders are not maintaining their plots nor necessarily using them, will she also approach Julie Munnings, to ascertain how many plots are being requested and the number that may available.
- Cllr. A. Goodman – will circulate an email to Adrian Ramsay, MP about the removal of hedges on the Chenery site.

131. DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING & RECEIVE ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA:

TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2025, AT 7.00PM AT DICKLEBURGH & RUSHALL VILLAGE CENTRE

The Chair thanked all Councillors for their attendance and contributions,
The meeting closed at 10. 20pm

SIGNED

DATE