

RUSHBROOKE WITH ROUGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr Sara Mildmay-White

Clerk: Christine Mason

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6 Walpole House

Auction Street

Bury St Edmunds

Suffolk IP33 3FF

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 20th November 2023 at the Sports Hall, Rougham at 7.30pm

Councillors Present: Sara Mildmay-White (SM-W), Debbie Hockey (DH), Tracey Skoyles (TS), Jeff Horner (JH) John Newman (JN), Dan Steed (DS), Christine Old (CO)

Others In Attendance : Christine Mason (New Clerk), Sara Mildmay-White (SM-W) (as District Councillor) Karen Soons (KS) (as County Councillor) and fifteen members of public.

201123/01 **Apologies for absence:** All present.

201123/02 **Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest received. As a District Councillor and also on the Development Control Committee, SM-W will solely advise / answer questions and will refrain from voting on the planning application submitted by Barley Homes (Agenda item 6a).

201123/03 **Dispensation:** Councillors noted no requests for dispensations had been received and none were requested at the meeting.

201123/04 **Minutes:** All Councillors resolved to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 23rd September 2023. SM-W to sign the minutes as a true reflection of the decisions made at the meeting.

201123/05 **County and District Councillor reports**

County Councillor KS's report was previously circulated. Topics included the launch of Suffolk Highway's new partnership with Milestone Infrastructure to deliver Highway's services; Suffolk Trading Standards has seized more than 2,000 illegal vapes from an Ipswich shop; the Government has announced funding for upgrades to Ely and Haughley rail junctions; call for foster carers for all ages; SCC is keen to hear from Suffolk residents, businesses and local communities as it decides how it will spend money next year; a public

consultation has been launched to encourage residents to tell SCC what they want from their library service in the future.

Points raised with KS included direction signs (see agenda item 201123/10), installing fibre in the village, a traffic monitoring van in Beyton leaving the engine running whilst stationary. To be reported on the Highways Reporting Tool with the automated response sent to KS.

201123/06 District Councillor SM-W's report was previously circulated, the full report is appended to the minutes. Topics included the Christmas Makers Market in Cornhill and Buttermarket on 3rd December; Suffolk Craft Society is holding a free exhibition 3rd to 19th November in the Guildhall; following a successful bid to Sport England, WSC has been awarded £213,500 funding towards extra energy costs across three WS swimming pools; a reminder that if people are aware of anyone sleeping rough, please use the online reporting tool www.streetlink.org.uk; following several incidents of antisocial/criminal behaviour at Bury Bus Station Waiting Room, WS are to employ security guards, on a temporary basis to allow bus station users to feel confident using the service.

2011/23/07 **Public Forum**

Members of the public voiced their concerns regarding the Reserved Matters application recently submitted to WSC by Barley Homes (Group) Ltd for thirteen houses on land opposite Kingshall Farmhouse, Kingshall Street, Rougham. Objections focused on the risk of future development at the site given Kingshall Street is a very narrow road with access and egress onto a bend; lack of pavement therefore no safe way to walk from the development to the bus stop, shop, school, church; poor water quality pressure as pumps cannot cope with what is currently needed; prior to commencement of any building work, one of the requirements was to link up a footpath, this is not showing on the plans; poor street lighting. With further concerns raised that additional development is planned, SM-W explained this will be under discussion within the WS Local Plan that will be out for consultation in January 2024 and is separate from this application. In conclusion, all members of the public were encouraged individually to make their objections/comments

known on the WS planning portal by constructing arguments encompassing 'Material Planning Considerations' rules. In law those are the only objections the Council must listen to. With reference to SCC's new design guide prioritising pedestrian/cycleways, where residents feel the proposals are not safe, objections should be made. All comments need to be submitted to WSC Planning by 6th December 2023. The date when the development should have broken ground is to be checked as it was suggested by a member of the public this has now expired. A comment made regarding fields flooding at the rear of Orchard Close to be an agenda item at the next meeting.

2011/23/08 **Planning**

DC/23/1777/RM Proposal: Reserved matters application – submission of details under outline planning application DC/19/1405/OUT – means of appearance, landscaping, layout, and scale for 13 dwellings with public open space, parking, and landscaping Location: Land opposite Kingshall Farmhouse Kingshall Street Rougham Applicant: Mr Mike Osbourn, Barley Homes (Group) Ltd.

Following full and detailed discussion, it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council OBJECTS to planning application DC/19/1405/OUT on the grounds of safety given that there are no streetlights and no connecting footpath even though it says access onto established public walking routes, these cannot be seen on the plans. DH to post on social media, the Clerk to post on the WSC planning portal.

b. Applications decided since the last meeting were noted.

201123/09 **Finance**

a. All Councillors confirmed receipt of the bank reconciliation prior to the meeting and agreed this matched the bank statements to the 31st October 2023; the balance of the Community Account as of 31st October 2023 stands at £11,377.64 and with £21,575.66 in the Premium Account the Parish Council has £32,953.30 in the bank. In relation to an invoice for £146.64 received from WSC for emptying the Rougham Sports Hall recycling bin, DS to speak with the Management Committee to ascertain whether this cost is to be taken out of their £700 Parish Council Grant.

201123/10 a. A list of payments to be authorised were read out by the Clerk. All Councillors subsequently resolved that the following payments be approved:

Bradford & Rougham Baptist Church	32.50
Rougham Estate Property	56.14
Birkets Solicitors	378.00
Suffolk Association of Local Clerks	54.00
Gage Computer Services	44.00
T C Forestry & Fencing	843.00
Warden salary	165.10
T Newall back pay	265.30

With some overlapping of signage cleaning, between TC Forestry and the Warden, a review to be carried out at the precept meeting. Furthermore, a list of signs that are laid down/damaged to be sent to the Clerk.

201123/11 b. Given the rise in last year's precept figure for a Band D property, Councillors agreed that for the financial year 2024-2025 the percentage increase should be decreased. To be discussed in full at the proposed finance meeting.

201123/12 c. Date of the finance meeting confirmed as Tuesday 12th December 2023 at 7.30pm. Venue to be confirmed.

201123/13 d. Maintenance grants for the churchyard/footpath to be considered at the precept meeting.

201123/14 e. Discussed earlier in the meeting.

201123/15 f. All Councillors agreed for the new Clerk to purchase a Parish Council laptop, proposed cost in the region of £500-£550.

201123/16 **Play Equipment**

Following a Sports Hall meeting, DS confirmed the play equipment on the land is owned by the Parish Council. Financial proposals have been put together to improve the facilities, but with the risk report saying no immediate concerns, it was agreed no further action is required at present (to be kept on file). The play area inspection report for Mouse Lane was likewise considered to be low risk. It was noted the Annual Inspection Report due in August for Mouse Lane has not been carried out, WSC to be informed.

201123/17 **Website**

Councillors considered a quotation received from Suffolk Cloud for managing the Parish Council website. Charges are £120 per year for uploading minutes, agendas, and finance documents. If any pages are needed to be updated, these will be charged at £30 per hour. Together with details of items to be added, removed, or amended, a two-line bio from each Councillor to be forwarded to the Clerk. Suffolk Cloud to be informed there is already a draft page in there for the new bios waiting to go live.

201123/18 **Training**

The Clerk to make enquires whether other local parish councils would be interested in sharing the cost of Basic Councillor training presented by SALC.

201123/19 **Pest Control**

Councillors agreed the pest control contract should be retendered. SM-W to forward contact details of an alternative contractor to the Clerk. An agenda item at the next meeting.

201123/20 **Correspondence**

Nothing at present.

201123/21 **Any other council business to be noted for inclusion in a future meeting**

To be advised at the finance meeting.

201123/22 **Date of next meeting**

15th January 2024 at 7.30pm.

With no further business SM-W closed the meeting at 9.45pm.

