

MINUTES REDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

8 January 2014

Held at Redgrave Activities Centre at 7.30 pm

Present: Jason Walker, Ian Baird, Jackie Moss, Mike Denmark, Jan Cresswell, Ann Preston, John Giddings, County Councillor Jessica Fleming, MSDC Councillor Sara Michell and one resident

1. Apologies: Bob Hayward
2. Chairman's Opening: Jason welcomed everyone
3. Declarations of interest - None
4. Minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 13 November 2013 were agreed a true record
5. Matters arising not covered by this agenda: None
6. Any changes in councillors: None
7. *Open discussion with county and district councillors, and services*
County councillor Jessica Fleming informed us that : (1) Application for the 2014/5 school year are due by 28 January 2014 (2) Neighbourhood plans - a free workshop would be held in Lavenham (3) SCC have a significant number of paid internships for young people available but with applications due by 28 January 2014, before the Parish Magazine would be available. Details will be provided by Councillor Fleming and will then be posted on the Parish council website and the Parish noticeboard. District councillor Sara Michell: (1) apologised for information on waste collection over the Christmas period not being generally available due to distribution difficulties and advised she will be taking this up with the relevant department. (2) confirmed that Redgrave shop's application to become a an asset of community value had been received by the council. (3) It was possible that MSDC's council tax would increase by 1.72% (equivalent to 5p per week for a Band D property). This is due to reductions in government grants but a final decision is being deferred until the government's decision on capping is announced so as to avoid incurring the cost of a referendum.
8. *Open discussion with residents: None*
9. Planning
2790 - Single storey extension Willows Fen Street - granted
10. Finance and cheques for signature
It was agreed to pay Botesdale Parish Council £33.16 as a one third share of the costs of the Remembrance Day ceremony
It was agreed to pay £160 to Jan Cresswell as reimbursement of the cost of the Knoll Christmas tree. Increased charges for emptying the dog & litter bins by MSDC were noted. Jackie Moss said that the waste bin on the Knoll appeared to have come loose and Mike Denmark offered to check whether it needed repair.
The request by RAT for a new dog waste bin to the east of the Amenities centre was agreed subject to RAT putting notices in place concerning the presence of dogs on the field and prevention of dog waste being placed in the litter bins.
John Giddings outlined the background to the methods used to determine 2013/4 and 2014/5 parish precepts following a meeting at the finance offices in Hadleigh. The amount Redgrave Parish Council requires represents a small part of the council tax paid by residents. After some discussion it was proposed by Ann Preston, seconded by John Giddings that the 2014/5 precept requested should remain at £7,500 requested in 2013/4. This was approved after a vote was taken. Ian Baird voted against the proposal.
Due to changes imposed by MSDC as a result of government action in February 2013, modified by MSDC in December 2013, while the precept will remain as £7,500, a resident in a Band D property will see the Redgrave part of the council tax increase by 4% (£1.70 per annum) from £29 per year to £31 per year. As with the proposed MSDC council increase it was agreed that finalisation of the precept request would be delayed until February in case government capping action triggers the need for a Redgrave Parish referendum.
11. Town pit status – nothing to report

12. Affordable housing – Jan Cresswell said she was unable to continue in her role for personal reasons, but would be happy to support any person taking over. It proved difficult to agree on the need for additional social housing and so a decision was deferred to the February meeting.
13. Old School Playing Field – nothing to report
14. Duck Factory – The meeting to discuss noise was postponed at the request of Gressingham foods and a date is still awaited.
15. Speed monitoring – (1) the Parish speed gun is being passed to the Police for its annual re-calibration expected to cost in the order of £80 (2) a flashing speed sign may be brought back into use with improved security (3) a 24 hour survey of traffic over a 7 day period indicated that while traffic volumes were unchanged, the average speed was reduced by 6%.
16. Any other correspondence or information
The disbandment of the British Legion branch was noted but it was agreed the Parish would still wish to participate in Remembrance Sunday.
A letter from the new SCC community watch liaison officer Malcolm McKessar would be passed to John Robinson
Botesdale Post Office Consultation – councillors expressed concern as to disabled access and for customers having to cross the road after parking. The Chairman’s comments would be input to the formal consultation process.
17. Ideas for improvements to village – picket fence progress – await news
18. Matters carried forward from this meeting (1) appointment of paid clerk – deferred until the next meeting. Botesdale pays £4,000 p.a. for 8 days a month (2) Social housing
19. New matters for next meeting – S137 payments and parish expenses to be agreed and a date for the next Parish litter-pick.
20. Next meeting - 12 February 2014 at 7.30 pm at the Activities centre.