

REDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING – MINUTES 13 January 2022
Held at Redgrave Activities Centre at 7.30pm

Present: Brian Andrews, Mike Denmark, John Giddings, Frank Gillett, Ann Preston, Netty Verkroost, Jason Walker, Andy Warnes, the departing Parish Clerk, the new Parish Clerk County/District Cllr Jessica Fleming and 3 members of the public.

1. Apologies received: None.
2. Casual Vacancies: There were no applications for the vacancy on the Parish Council.
3. Declarations of interest: None.
4. Minutes of the meeting of 1 December 2021 were agreed as a true record.
5. Progress reports not covered on agenda: None.
6. Public Forum: A representative from the Redgrave Amenities Trust circulated information for the PC's upcoming meeting with the Llanover Estate. The Tree Warden expressed his support for the proposed Wildlife Friendly Village initiative.

Cllr Fleming reported that Suffolk County Council planned to focus resources in 2022/23 on more money to support children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), extra resources for adults in need of care and additional funds to prevent flooding and fix footpaths. The additional money would come from a 2.99% increase in Council Tax (including 1% dedicated social care precept), and an increase in grants received from the Government. The proposals were considered at the January scrutiny meeting and would go to cabinet and full council in February. Due to increasing maintenance demand £10 million would be committed to improving drainage and a further £10 million to improve footpath quality and access. Suffolk Highways would use the drainage investment alongside funding from DfT to help resolve local flooding.

The Police & Crime Commissioner Tim Passmore was requesting support to raise the policing element of the council precept by £10 a year (Band D property) to fund major improvements to the contact and control service (101). A survey was available online to assess public opinion on the precept.

On December 17th Suffolk's LED replacement programme had reached 10,000 LEDs. Bouygues Energies & Services, the lead contractor, would replace all 43,400 streetlights in the County. These lanterns used less energy than traditional streetlights. The project was due to complete by the end of 2022 and extended to Parishes and District Councils.

Cllr Fleming also reported that Mid Suffolk District Council would hold all meetings virtually (except for Overview and Scrutiny and Full Council) as of 13th January. Therefore, until further notice meetings such as planning and licensing would be held on Teams with public participation enabled.

Following a meeting in December with Inspectors, Mid Suffolk & Babergh Councils had agreed to progress the Joint Local Plan in two stages due to the need for further dialogue about the spatial strategy. Under the agreement, Part One of the JLP would be completed as soon as practical; this included social, economic and environmental policies. Part Two was the spatial strategy, which included housing allocations, and this part would take additional time to agree and bring to completion.

7. Planning: *To include any applications received after the publication of the agenda.*
 - 7.1 Applications:
 - 7.1.1 The Old Chapel, Churchway. Ref. DC/21/06761. Erection of an extension to porch to provide an entrance hall and small utility/cloakroom (Resubmission of DC/21/00565). It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
 - 7.1.2 4 Birds Cottages, Half Moon Lane. Ref. DC/22/00022. Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area: Reduce and reshape 1no Walnut and 3no Acers in rear garden by 1/3. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
 - 7.1.3 Stoney End, Half Moon Lane. Ref. DC/22/00066. Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area - Pollard 3No goat willow trees to a height of 4 metres, to repeat the pollarding that was carried out in 2011. Re-shape 1No Walnut tree and 1No Maple tree, to reduce height by approximately 1/3. It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to have no objection.
 - 7.2 Decisions from Mid Suffolk District Council: None.
8. Ongoing Items:
 - 8.1 Redgrave Recreation Ground: Representatives of the PC and the Redgrave Amenities Trust (RAT) had met for discussions on the way forward for the Recreation Ground (RRG) on 15 Dec.

At this meeting the RAT confirmed that Llanover had refused to extend the lease because of the Local Green Space (LGS) designation in the Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan and had subsequently refused to hold any further discussions with RAT until the LGS designation was removed. The RAT explained that the continuing use of the RRG was thanks to the use of a Tenancy-at-Will Lease agreed by Llanover on similar rental terms as under the previous lease. This meant that Llanover could stop the agreement at any time without breaking any contractual agreement. The RAT and PC representatives agreed that it was in the interest of all to make sure that a viable part of the current RRG was preserved for the long-term use of the village. RAT representatives wanted to agree a long-term lease on similar terms to those on the previous 25 years; they accepted, however, that in principle they could live with any solution agreed with Llanover that involved the building of a small number of properties on the land, provided that the football pitch and other facilities were protected. They indicated that their minimum need was for an area of about 7 acres. The RAT representatives wished the PC well with the discussions with Llanover and requested that when and if it came to going through the legal details of any further lease, the negotiations should be handed over to them. Planned follow-on discussions with Llanover had not yet taken place as Llanover wished to provide the PC with more detailed proposals for its consideration prior to these discussions. Unfortunately, these had been delayed, but it was hoped that the meeting would take place in the week beginning 17 January.

- 8.2 Neighbourhood Plan: MSDC had agreed to postpone the deadline to issue a decision statement on the modifications to the Plan following Examination to 31 January 2022 to allow the PC to hold further discussions with the Llanover Estate so progress was currently on hold.
 - 8.3 Old School Playing Field: The PC noted that the Redgrave Tree Group had completed the planned planting of a hedge to delineate the boundary of the OSPF area. This was undertaken on 31 Dec using whips supplied by the local Tree Warden, John Preston. It was also undertaken after discussions and agreement regarding the boundary line and planting plans with the agents for Llanover Estate. Cathy Smith of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust had visited the site for discussions in early January and provided a number of useful pointers to people, organizations and schemes that the Group might use to help progress this and related activities. Discussions also took place about the possibility of building a pond in the area as an attraction for the village and to help wildlife. The Group intended to draw up a planting plan later in the year. The Chairman reported that Essex and Suffolk Water had a “water saving” community fund which provided funding according to how much water the community saved. He would circulate the details as the funds might be useful for tree planting projects.
 - 8.4 Old Allotments: Suffolk Wildlife Trust had undertaken a preliminary soil survey of the intended planting site at the Old Allotments off Fen Street which showed the soil to be slightly acidic. This would be useful knowledge as planting activity proceeded later in the year. The Group was also discussing a similar hedge planting activity as undertaken at the OSPF to ensure that the area owned by the Parish on this site was clearly delineated, having agreed the boundary with the adjoining landowner.
 - 8.5 Clerk Recruitment: It was noted that Tina Newby had been appointed as the new Clerk and would take over from 1 February. At present, the new and departing Clerk were working alongside each other to hand over the work. The PC welcomed Tina and thanked everyone involved in the recruitment. Councillors expressed their appreciation to the departing Parish Clerk, Leeann Jackson-Eve, for her exceptional efforts on behalf of the Council during her period in post.
9. New Items:
- 9.1 Annual Parish Meeting: It was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on 6 April at 7pm, prior to the regular meeting of the PC. The deadline for community reports was 25 March. It was noted that the Garden Club was no longer meeting and it was questioned whether anyone was taking care of the tubs of flowers on the Knoll. Cllr Preston agreed to have a word with former members about it.
 - 9.2 Internal Audit Review: Cllr Denmark would carry out the annual review and report back at the February meeting.
 - 9.3 Queen’s Jubilee: It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to contribute towards the purchase of commemorative coins as a gift to children of Redgrave from the PC, with the total cost estimated

at £582. A coin would be given by the parishes of Botesdale, Redgrave and Rickinghall to all children at St Botolphs Primary School and offered to other children in the village via the parish magazine and Facebook. However, the contribution would be proportionate to the number of children from Redgrave at the School.

9.4 Wildlife Friendly Village: The Redgrave Tree Group proposed to extend its remit to include activities to make Redgrave a “Wildlife Friendly Village”. There was a growing network of Wildlife Friendly villages around the country since the establishment of Risby in Suffolk as the first such village in 2019. The proposal would be supported by the establishment of a “Green Redgrave” group of like-minded volunteers from the village. This Group would identify measures for improving habitats for wildlife and biodiversity more generally in the village. The “Green Redgrave” group would also therefore act as the body to coordinate the implementation of the biodiversity measures identified in Chapter 6 of the draft Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan (RNP) for Community Action Group completion. The PC RESOLVED, with all agreed, to:

- establish Redgrave as a Wildlife Friendly Village;
- set up a Green Redgrave group as a Working Party under the supervision of the PC, reporting to the PC regularly on its activities;
- support the intention of the Green Redgrave group to pursue the RNP’s biodiversity activities in the village as a Community Action Group;
- support the intention of the Green Redgrave group to seek external sources of funding as necessary to supports its activities, noting that it might also seek financial support from the Parish Council; and
- support the establishment of WFV pages on the parish website or a separate website as appropriate.

10. Correspondence:

10.1 MSDC: The PC noted that fees for emptying dog/litter bins would not increase in 2022-23.

11. Finance:

11.1 Account balance: £ 32,633.86
Income: £ 0.00

11.2 Accounts for Payment:

Admin Payments	£ 472.66	Not itemised due to GDPR
M Denmark	£ 200.00	Christmas tree
MSDC	£ 36.13	Dog bin emptying (Green St)

RESOLVED, with all agreed, to approve payment of the accounts above.

11.3 Draft Budget 2022-23: It was RESOLVED, with all agreed, to set a BUDGET of £21,670 for the year 2022-23 and to retain earmarked funds of £27,291.53, making a total fund of £48,961.53. The PC RESOLVED, with all agreed, to sign the form requesting a precept of £21,800 from Mid Suffolk District Council. This represented an overall 7.8% rise on the amount received in 2021-22.

12. Matters carried forward from this meeting or to be brought to the attention of the council: None.

13. New matters for next meeting: It was agreed to investigate the possibility of permanent closure of the road in front of the pub.

14. Next meeting: 2 February 2022

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.33pm.