

REDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2011
At Redgrave Activities Centre at 7.30 pm

Present – Jason Walker (JW), Bob Hayward (BH), Ann Preston (AP), John Giddings (JG), Ian Baird (IB), Jackie Moss (JM), Jim McCluskey (JM), Mike Denmark (MD) and 8 members of the public.

1. Apologies: Jan Cresswell and Nic Klegge
2. Chairmans opening - JW welcomed everyone to the meeting, good to see so many of the public here.
3. Declarations of interest. - none
4. Minutes of meeting of Wednesday 11 May 2011. Changes requested - Co-option was Jim M, not Jackie M and Mike D. Item 9 section D just Bob Hayward as clerk, not Ann P.
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.*

Charles Michel reported that new leader of the County Council will review all policies but Charles's view is that a local authority has a fixed amount of money and can't pay more than they have, if you re-instate one thing you have to cut something else. We have lots of elderly people in this area and also lots of children, so we must prioritise looking after these vulnerable people. Example - cut £43 million from budget this year and this is nothing compared with a further £50 million next year. The locality budget is up and running again for local charities and organisations in need of small amounts of money.

Sara Michel – District Councillor thanked everyone for their votes in local election. DC has 40 councillors now. There was poll to ask if single council should go ahead and out of 64K residents in total, in Babergh 40% voted Yes and 60% voted No – in Mid Suffolk 60% voted Yes and 40% voted No, so the merger will not now go ahead and the savings will not be as great as if it did. Percentage of the population who voted was over 47%.

8. *Open discussion with residents*

Resident said thank you for the start made on the tidying of Half Moon Lane and it is looking much better. Concrete is yet to be moved.

Speed Watch issue – she is confused about what was said last month and she didn't understand why PC is not doing it. If Neighbourhood Watch propose it and run it, then the PC would look again at funding it. Another chat again about whether they will fund the Speed Watch. If lorries are speeding they should be reported to the company that owns them. Councillor IB reported that he tried to get speed watch through in May last year and presented a scheme to the PC but on 9th June it was turned down. On 10th Dec it was discussed again and put on agenda for Jan and defeated in a vote on it. Another argument about how to go ahead, IB accused the PC of bouncing the scheme around and not dealing with it. JW suggests that if the Neighbourhood Watch wants to put it on the agenda with a

full scheme then it will be discussed next month. John Preston agreed with JM that they will do this. If the PC has to fund the proposal then it needs to discuss it formally.

A question was raised about the village pond which is an eyesore and has been inspected by Suffolk Wildlife and they recommended we get someone in the know to sort it out. There was a discussion on what could be done to improve the situation and we will take professional advice before deciding what to do. Councillor JM will inform the PC when he has information.

A man who lives in the Green presented a petition objecting to the purchase of Sarah Holt-Wilson's house by Simon Bennet who wishes to buy the house and develop the land. This petition is signed by the residents of the Green who pay for the upkeep of the road and buy road planings to keep it passable. He wondered how the PC can comment that they approve of the application in principal without considering the wishes of the residents. They are also objecting to the dangers of more cars to the people using the road and the local wildlife. He was advised that they should attend the PC meeting when the full application is to be discussed and state their objections. Sara Michel told the residents that they should put their objections in writing to MSDC once the application is submitted and any case with more than 5 objections will go before the committee.

9. Planning

<http://planning.midsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/acolnetcgi.gov>

1717 11 Street Farm new dwelling – not yet registered

1068 11 Knoll Cottage confirm email response no objection from the councillors

1520 11 Honeysuckle Cottage confirm email response no objection from the councillors

10. Finance and cheques for signature

Increased fidelity guarantee to £50,000 at no extra charge, no objections

AP proposed to pay JW cheque for £10

11. Emails – use of modern tech whilst conforming to old laws. Councillor IB wanted to know why so many items are now dealt with by email instead of waiting for the meeting. He also wanted to know if the items dealt with by email are legal as they are not signed by the Chairman. Councillor BH said that the only place that a binding decision can be made is in the meeting after a vote, if a decision is agreed outside the meeting then it has to be ratified at the meeting.

The minutes and agendas are posted on the MSDC website, there is also a village website: www.Redgrave.org.uk.

12. Affordable housing progress – none.

13. Old School Playing Field –progress report. Nothing that has not already been spoken about except that John Preston is looking into the tree that is partially dead and he has taken photos and sent them off to MSDC for a professional reply.

14. Duck Factory – no meeting this time

15. Town pit – M Bryant to put in gate and marker posts. This has been authorised but not done as yet. The location explained to visitors and a discussion ensued as to what to do with the field. There was a suggestion of turning it into allotments. Cllr MD volunteered to gather information about possible takers and whether there was sufficient interest.

16. Any other correspondence or information

Community Achievement Awards 2011 – nominations by 22 July. MSDC runs this award for anyone who has been outstanding in the local community.

17. Ideas for improvements to village (excluding Activities Centre & play areas)

Maintenance of verges, hedges, and road signs in the light of cutbacks to 1 verge cut per year. The verges have been cut now and this will be the only time.

18. Matters carried forward from this meeting:

19. New matters for next meeting. Bark for the playground needed to top up what is there.

Closing remarks from the Chairman were to thank his wife Rosemary for the coffee making at meetings and the washing up afterwards.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Date of next meeting – 13 July

Jason Walker - Chairman