

RINGSHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Ringshall Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th September 2019 at 7.30pm in Ringshall Village Hall.

Present:

Mr J Phoenix (chairman), Mrs L Hitchcock, Mrs C Free, Mrs A Jones, Mr N Last, Mrs H Nunn (Clerk)
Mr A Williams, Mrs H Williams, Mr M Snowling, Mr A Stone

1. To co-opt two new members on to the Parish Council

Adrian and Heather Williams had expressed an interest in becoming Parish Councillors and their biographies had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. Mrs Jones proposed that Mr Williams be co-opted on to the council and the proposal was seconded by Mrs Free.

Mrs Free proposed that Mrs Williams be co-opted on to the council and the proposal was seconded by Mrs Jones. Mr and Mrs Williams duly completed and signed Declarations of Acceptance of Office which were countersigned by the Clerk.

Public Forum

The chairman informed councillors of the death of County Councillor Anne Whybrow. District Councillor David Whybrow did not attend the meeting. There were no reports or residents wishing to speak.

2. Apologies for absence

There were none

3. Declarations of Interest

There were none

4. To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on May 29th and August 14th 2018

The minutes of the meetings held on May 29th and August 14th were approved as a true record and were duly signed and dated by the chairman.

5. To receive a financial report and approve payments

The clerk reported the following balances:

Community account:	£1296.22
Business saver account:	£14556.43

The Clerk's salary and expenses to 31 August 2018 amounted to £617.97 and this was approved for payment.

The annual insurance renewal at £221.41 had been received from Community Action Suffolk which offered a long term undertaking of either 3 or 5 years with annual premiums of £210.34 or £199.27 respectively. After some discussion it was agreed to accept the five year LTU at £199.27 per annum.

The chairman asked for confirmation that the VHMC's insurance covered the village hall building.

Post minute note:

The village hall insurance policy (also through Zurich) covers the building (£500,000), contents (£25,000) and John Deere mower (£6000).

6. To discuss the GDPR audit

The clerk reported that the audit questionnaire had been completed and a copy would be sent to councillors for approval/amendment. Once this had been done the council could move on to the next stage.

7. To discuss Neighbourhood Watch in Suffolk following recent disturbances in Lower Farm Road

Mr Snowling gave some background to the incidents which occurred in Lower Farm Road and Stowmarket Road over the past 10 days and asked whether the Parish Council would support the setting up of a new NW scheme. After some discussion it was agreed that support would be given; Mr Snowling confirmed that he was prepared to take on the role of Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator. A request for volunteers to help Mr Snowling will be placed in the parish magazine.

8. To discuss planning matters

a) Planning application DC/18/03990 – Orchard Barn

This application was discussed at some length following which a vote was taken on the proposal that this was a planning matter only and therefore no comment would be made by the parish council. Councillors voted unanimously in agreement with the proposal.

b) Planning application DC/18/04146 – Stoke Farm

Councillors had viewed the plans prior to the meeting and agreed unanimously to fully support the application.

9. To discuss a request for a skateboard park on the village playing field

A letter had been received from Kieran Shann of South View asking for the Parish Council to consider building a skateboard park so that children in the village could get some exercise and fresh air. After some discussion it was agreed that skateboard parks are more suitable for large towns where there are greater numbers of young children who would use it regularly; it would be too expensive for a small community to set up and maintain. It was felt that there are insufficient children in the village under 15 years of age to warrant such expenditure. Mrs Free spoke of a pop-up skateboard park provided by the Mix in Stowmarket. Mr Williams volunteered to visit Kieran and explain why the Parish Council turned down his request. **Post-minute note: Mr Williams also volunteered to write a reply to Kieran.**

10. To discuss highway matters including potholes and increasing the 30mph speed limit along Stowmarket Road

The Clerk reported no response from Highways with regard to replacement road signs etc.

Mr Stone gave some background to his correspondence with Highways regarding the deep rut in the verge and roadside adjacent to his property (councillors had received copies prior to the meeting), the outcome of which is that SCC have claimed responsibility for the verge. Mr Stone suggested that the 30mph speed limit be extended to beyond The Old Post Office Cottage in a bid to slow down the traffic in the area. Mrs Free reminded the meeting of SCC's policy not to extend any speed limits in the county. It was agreed that the clerk should ascertain whether or not this policy is still in force and in the meantime the Parish Council will give its support to Mr Stone.

Mr Stone agreed to Mrs Hitchcock's request that he clear the bend sign on the opposite side of the road to his property.

11. To discuss any village hall management committee matters

Mr Last reported that despite making two telephone calls to the duty steward on September 15th complaining about the excessive noise from a wedding reception held at the village hall, he received no response. Mrs Jones will bring this up at the management committee's next meeting.

Mrs Jones reported that the management committee requested that the hedge at the front of the village hall be cut. The clerk will check the list to confirm who is responsible for hedge cutting.

12. To discuss the purchase of a dog waste bin

The bin approved for purchase at the last meeting is now in situ and being used. Thanks were given to Mrs Hitchcock for implementing the work.

13. To discuss the renewal of councillors' Registers of Interest

The clerk reported that these have now all been completed and published. The clerk will inform MSDC of the appointment of Mr and Mrs Williams who will then be sent the necessary forms for completion online.

14. To arrange for the cleaning and painting of the village sign and telephone box

The clerk reported that the broken pane of glass in the telephone kiosk is due to be replaced shortly.

Mrs Hitchcock reported that the village sign will shortly be taken down and steam cleaned before being repainted.

15. To discuss any celebrations to mark the centenary of the end of the Great War

Mrs Jones reported that the VHMC had agreed that it would not be financially viable to go ahead with the lighting of a beacon or any other celebrations, but they suggested that a donation totalling £500 (the approximate cost of a beacon etc) split between the Parish Council (£360) and the VHMC (£140) be granted instead.

16. Items for discussion at the next meeting

Mr Phoenix reported that having completed 30 years of service as clerk to the parish council, Helen Nunn had given him notice of her intention to retire with effect from January 2019. It was agreed that a notice of vacancy will be placed in the parish magazine and in the SALC newsletter.

17. To confirm the date of the next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday November 13th at 7.30pm in the village hall.