



Parish Office, Sports Pavilion, Hundred Acre Way, Red Lodge, Suffolk, IP28 8FQ 01638 551257
clerk@redlodgeparishcouncil.gov.uk <http://redlodgeparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Minutes of the Meeting of Red Lodge Parish Council.

Date: Tuesday 28 January 2025
Time: 19:00
Venue: St. Christopher's Church, Boundary Road. Red Lodge. IP28 8JQ.

Present: Cllr. Sandra Dwan (Chairman)
Cllr. Angela Sewell (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr. Michael Berry
Cllr. Andy Drummond
Cllr. Stewart Hobbs
Cllr. Sue Houlder
Cllr. Ian Thompson

In Attendance: Clerk/RFO

Non-Attendee: 0

Absent: 0

Members of Public: 21

	Item	Action
1.	<p>Chair Person's welcome and statement.</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and read out a statement: You have all had copies of the statement of support for our Staff. Following a recent incident of cyber bullying which amounted to defamation and slander. This was an appalling and cowardly thing to do particularly as the targets were actually employed staff who could not respond to defend themselves. The Council is open and responsive to the public to discuss issues that they may have, but will not tolerate any form of bullying. Encouraging hatred on Facebook is counter-productive. If there is any antisocial or unruly behaviour at this meeting, or any future meetings, the Police will be called.</p> <p>Noted</p>	
2.	<p>All those present are reminded of The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 and that the meeting may be filmed or recorded by any members of the public.</p> <p>Noted</p>	
3.	<p>Apologies and acceptance for absence.</p> <p>D.Cllr. Dicker – on holiday</p> <p>Noted</p>	
4.	<p>Declaration of pecuniary and local non-pecuniary interests</p> <p>(i) To receive declarations of pecuniary, local non-pecuniary interests and personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature including gifts of hospitality exceeding £50.</p> <p>None received.</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>(ii) To receive requests for dispensation</p> <p>None received.</p> <p>Noted</p>	
5.	<p>Members of the public are invited to speak on any item on the agenda for up to 3 minutes. (Public session is maximum 15 minutes)</p> <p>5.1 A member of the public had attended a Parish Council surgery and requested the provision of football nets on the sports pitches for the youth and the re-positioning of the goals, to allow closer CCTV monitoring.</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>5.2 A representative of the Red Lodge Lightwave Charity, expressed concerns of the disunity of the village caused by the Facebook pages and also of the impact of this kind of behaviour exposed to the youth. The public are allowed to challenge the Parish Council, the Council however, is a transparent Council, all the relevant details including contact details for the Council are published. There are better ways to communicate and have a conversation with the Parish Council to resolve issues,</p>	

	<p>rather than the disunity caused on Facebook. The representative added that it is not a good idea if you want to create a healthy community, to cause division within the community using Facebook.</p> <p>Noted</p>	
5.3	<p>The ex-Chairman of the Millennium Centre (MC) Trustees had started an online petition, demanding transparency from the Parish Council. The ex-MC Chairman had recently written to the Parish Council, with a list of questions for which he requested a response. The ex-MC Chairman stated that he had heard a message sent by Cllr. Thompson, commenting that the aforementioned 'had a lot to answer for'. Cllr. Thompson stated that he stood by the comment and felt that the ex-MC Chairman was at the forefront of what happens in the village.</p> <p>The ex-MC Chairman asked if the Chairman of the Parish Council (PC) would apologise for the wording 'immoral' regarding the Beer and Music Festival, when the Parish Council had challenged the Millennium Centre's licence variation. The PC Chairman explained that the wording 'immoral' comes from the lease agreement. The PC Chairman asked the ex-MC Chairman if he would apologise to the Parish Council's employees for what he had put them through with the Facebook slander.</p> <p>Noted</p>	
6.	<p>Members agreed to co-opt and welcome Patricia Judd to join the Councillors.</p> <p>Resolved</p>	Clerk
7.	<p>Confirmation of Minutes of the meetings held on 26 November 2024</p> <p>The minutes for the above meeting were agreed as accurate records and duly signed by the Chairman.</p> <p>Resolved</p>	Clerk
8.	<p>Reports and Invited Speakers</p>	
8.1	<p>County Councillor</p> <p>C.Cllr. Drummond had circulated a newsletter to all Members.</p> <p>Devolution is a priority program to replace District, County and Borough Council's with a Unitary Council, offering a streamlined structure, reducing bureaucracy and costs. Councillors in Suffolk voted to join the devolution programme with 43 votes for and 15 against.</p> <p>Noted</p>	
8.2	<p>District Councillors</p> <p>D.Cllr. Drummond informed the meeting that the Government's Devolution will affect the District Council.</p> <p>Noted</p>	
8.3	<p>Police Newsletter</p> <p>The Police newsletter was circulated to all Members. A Police Officer was in attendance and informed the meeting that the District will receive more Police Officer's and PCSO's on duty in the village, there is a new initiative for Suffolk Police to attend as many Parish Council meetings as possible.</p>	

	<p>Noted</p> <p>8.4 Red Lodge Pop Up Library A volunteer from the Red Lodge Pop Library informed the meeting that the library operates at the Sports Pavilion, on Tuesday's, at 10am-12pm, the library commenced at the Sports Pavilion on the 02/08/2022. Members of the public can loan books, participate in singing and rhyme group, use sensory toys, puppets, bubbles, have coffee and biscuits. It is a great activity for young families and a great resource in the village, all free of charge. The library makes a difference to the community, there are 15 children on average regularly attending the library. Suffolk Libraries do not have any funding to support the Red Lodge pop up library after the 1st April 2025. The running costs for the village library are approximately £6700 pa, the library needs financial assistance to operate and are looking for any financial assistance. The Chairman of the Parish Council advised the volunteer to apply for grants from the Parish, District and County Council's.</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>8.5 Update from the Events Working Party The Events Working Party (EWP) held a Christmas event on the 14th December 2024, 65 children attended and all in attendance were happy with the event, with thanks received from those attending. The EWP have started to plan a family fun day, with food trucks, stalls. mobile bar, a date has not yet been set. An alternative event is also being considered for the autumn. Members agreed for Mr. Lee Anderson to join the EWP.</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>8.6 Update from the Finance Working Party There have been lots of changes in the banking industry, bank charges have been introduced for Parish Council's. The Finance Working Party (FWP) need to look at the rates and fluidity of investments. The FSCS needs clarification. The protection of the investment is more important than the investment return. A meeting will be held with Rialtas to discuss the impact on the accountancy system, the work load and external audits. The FWP have recommended that the investment remains with Lloyds Bank for the 95 days' notice account or a fixed term deposit of no more than £85k initially, until the FWP are fully informed.</p> <p>Noted</p>	<p>EWP</p> <p>FWP</p>
<p>9.</p> <p>9.1</p> <p>9.2</p> <p>9.3</p>	<p>Financial and Clerk Reports</p> <p>Members noted the bank reconciliation statements for November 2024 and December 2024 have been verified and signed by Cllr. Thompson.</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Members approved all payments in November 2024 and December 2024.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>Members approved the Receipts and Payments in November 2024 and December 2024 for the following:</p>	

	<p>(i) Parish Bank Account (ii) Deposit Bank Account (iii) Petty Cash Council (iv) Petty Cash Pavilion (v) Credit Card</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>9.4 Members noted the Bank Balances as of 22/01/25 for the following accounts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Bank Account £352,036.79 • Deposit Account £109,251.33 <p>Noted</p> <p>9.5 Members approved the Ear Marked Reserves at 31/12/24. Noted</p> <p>9.6 Members reviewed and approved the budget for the third quarter of 2024-25. Resolved</p> <p>9.7 Members noted that all staff contracts have been reviewed Noted</p>	Clerk
10.	Discuss and approve any purchase	
10.1	<p>Members considered the renewal of the vehicle insurance 08/02/25-07/02/26 for the 2x Kubota agricultural vehicles (Utility Vehicle and Ride-on Mower):</p> <p>(i) Clear Council's, £707.29 (ii) Zurich, £952.83. (iii) Community Action Suffolk, £TBC</p> <p>Members agreed to proceed with option (i). Resolved</p>	Clerk
10.2	<p>Members noted the receipt of the refund from Huck Nets of £1115.76, on the 08/01/2025, for the purchase of the first Trampoline Mat. Noted</p>	
10.3	<p>Members considered the renewal of the CCTV contract for 3 years, West Suffolk Council, £7500 pa. Following increased criminal activity in Red Lodge, the CCTV was built in and around the needs of the area to combat the crime, in collaboration with Suffolk Police and West Suffolk Council. Members agreed to proceed with the renewal. Resolved</p>	Clerk
10.4	<p>Members considered the request for the Annual funding from the Red Lodge Millennium Centre (RLMC). The Chairman explained that the grants policy has been amended for transparency purposes and to prevent discrimination. The grants have been reduced in-line with the District Council. All applications have to provide information of planned projects and the impact of the project on the community. The Council requested up to date accounts from the RLMC on the 11th July 2024,</p>	

	<p>following the submission of an application for funding, accompanied with unaudited financial statements for 31st March 2023, however the up to date accounts were not received.</p> <p>On 2nd December 2024, the RLMC submitted a grant application for £6000, with unaudited financial statements for 31st March 2023 accompanying the application. Members requested up to date accounts, these were received on the 28th January 2025.</p> <p>The application provided no breakdown of costs and did not meet the policy. The Council have been querying what the requested money is being used for. Members voted and the grant application was subsequently declined.</p> <p>Resolved</p>	Clerk
10.5	<p>Members noted the receipt of £5000 funding from West Suffolk Council, on 16/01/2025, towards the installation of the trampoline mat.</p> <p>Noted</p>	
10.6	<p>Members agreed to proceed with the quote from, GB Sport & Leisure UK Ltd., for 1x Curve J Hook Cradle seat and fixings (Russet play area) and 3x self-closing gate rubber gate stop buffer, (1x Russet + 1x Heatherset play area + 1x spare), £1021.68.</p> <p>Resolved</p>	Clerk
10.7	<p>Members agreed to proceed with a quote from Huck Rope Play Equipment, 1x Original Huck's Birds Nest swing, blue with red chain, (Pavilion play area), £1073 +VAT. The quote was later discounted to £912.05 + VAT.</p> <p>Resolved</p>	Clerk
11.	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p>To Consider any Planning Applications:</p>	
11.1	<p>DC/24/1820/FUL:</p> <p>Proposal: Householder planning application - a. alterations to roof line b. single storey side extension</p> <p>Location: 1 35 Warren Road Red Lodge IP28 8JH 2 Land Ro Warren Road Red Lodge Suffolk IP28 8JU</p> <p>Members ratified No Comment.</p> <p>Resolved</p>	
11.2	<p>DC/24/1530/FUL:</p> <p>Proposal: Continued use of storage container for ancillary storage.</p> <p>Location: Millennium Centre Lavender Close Red Lodge Suffolk</p> <p>Members ratified an Objection.</p> <p>Resolved</p>	
11.3	<p>DC/23/1577/OUT Re-Consultation Amended</p> <p>Proposal: Outline planning application (with all matters reserved except means of access) for a mixed-use development including: a. 8 hectares of employment land for use as light industry (Use Class E(g)(iii)), general industry (Use Class B2), storage and distribution (Use Class B8); b. Residential development (Use Class C3) for up to 300 dwellings; c. Up to 300 m² of flexible floor space for Class E uses (Class E(a-f)) and takeaway uses (sui generis); d. Public open space, SANG and landscaping; and</p>	Clerk

	<p>e. All garaging, parking, servicing, access, drainage, footpath and cycle links and other associated infrastructure works. Location: Land North of Acorn Way, Manor Wood, Red Lodge, Suffolk.</p> <p>The outline development lost the local centre as the green space was imposed by West Suffolk Council, the plans have been redrafted and this has now been reinstated. Red Lodge Lightwave have made a submission for the centre, a submission can be made by any interested parties. As the planning is moving into reserved matters, this is where a skate park, or a pump track can be suggested to the developers. Members agreed a No Comment. Resolved</p>	
11.4	<p>Worlington Neighbourhood Plan Members agreed a No Comment. Resolved</p>	Clerk
12.	Correspondence Received	
12.1	<p>Members reviewed the Play area reports for December 2024 and January 2025 from West Suffolk Council. West Suffolk Council's Play Area Inspector advised that the play area equipment needs replacing. The Parish Council will set up a working party to look at the replacement of the equipment using the Ear Marked Reserves. Noted</p>	
12.2	<p>Members had considered the correspondence from Suffolk Libraries, regarding potential funding for the Red Lodge pop up library, as per minute reference 8.4. Resolved</p>	
12.3	<p>Members considered a request from a resident to allocate a session permitting dogs to run free on the Sports Field. Members agreed to decline this request, as it is not possible to monitor the use. Resolved</p>	
12.4	<p>Members considered the correspondence from Lloyds Bank, regarding the introduction of the bank charges and the future financial investments. This will be dealt with by the Finance Working Party, as per minute reference 8.6. Noted</p>	FWP
12.5	<p>Members considered the letter in respect to an online petition. Members agreed to respond to the letter in writing. Resolved</p>	SD
12.6	<p>Members considered the correspondence from Mildenhall Police, regarding speeding on Turnpike Road. Members noted that a Speed Indicating Device is already installed on Turnpike Road.</p>	

	Noted	
12.7	<p>Members discussed the provision of a pump track in the village. A pump track could be hired for an event and offered to the public to use for free. A pump track could be incorporated into the North Land development, or close to the outdoor gym on the sports field.</p> <p>Members agreed that Cllr. Hobbs would look into the costings to hire a pump track.</p> <p>Resolved</p>	SH
12.8	<p>Members considered the correspondence from a resident for teenage provision of football nets. The Chairman asked if the provision of the free use of the football goals on the grass sports pitch and the free use of the football goals on the basket-ball court near the Sports Pavilion were adequate. The resident stated that the youth wanted to play on grass with nets and added that the youth were unable to play on the basket-ball court, as they were bullied by cyclists on the court.</p> <p>As previous nets had been vandalised, Members had looked into the purchase and installation of anti-vandal goal posts. Following installation advice sought from West Suffolk Council's Inspector, this option was not viable.</p> <p>Members agreed to look into this matter again.</p> <p>Noted</p>	SD
12.9	<p>Members noted that West Suffolk Council has received a grant from Suffolk County Council, to allocate to warm spaces to operate this winter.</p> <p>Noted</p>	
12.10	<p>Members noted that the Suffolk Community Foundation Surviving Winter Campaign has been launched.</p> <p>Noted</p>	
12.11	<p>Members considered the complaint received from a resident, regarding traffic leaving the scrap yard and failing to stop at the junction on to Turnpike Road. The Police have investigated this issue and reported that there are no issues.</p> <p>Resolved</p>	
12.12	<p>Members noted that a research project is being conducted by the University of Suffolk, on behalf of Suffolk's district and borough councils, into health and housing. The research is being conducted through interviews. Private tenants and landlords in Suffolk can take part by emailing r.read2@uos.ac.uk</p> <p>Noted</p>	
12.13	<p>Members noted the Suffolk County Council's Cabinet recommendation for Suffolk's inclusion in the government's Devolution Priority Programme (DPP).</p> <p>Noted</p>	
12.14	<p>Members considered the request from a resident to hire the car park for business. Members agreed this request for a trial of 6 months.</p> <p>Resolved</p>	Clerk

13.	To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday 25 March 2025 at 19:00, St. Christopher's Church, 2 Boundary Road, Red Lodge. IP28 8JQ. The next meeting was confirmed as above. Noted	Clerk
14.	Members resolved under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the meeting, on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. Resolved	
14.1	Members to discuss a business matter. Please refer to Confidential Report 280125-01.	Clerk
15.	Close of the meeting. There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:16. Noted	