



# Rushmere St. Andrew Parish Council

[www.rushmerestandrew.onesuffolk.net](http://www.rushmerestandrew.onesuffolk.net)

*"Seek The Common Good"*



**Minutes of the Community Engagement Committee meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall**

---

CHAIRMAN: Mr Chris Griggs

PRESENT: Mr R Whiting, Mr B Ward, Mrs M Odam

APOLOGIES: Mrs M Brown (other commitment) Mr J Wright (other commitment) Mr M Newton (other commitment)

CLERK: Mr P Massey – Clerk

ALSO PRESENT: 0 Members of the Public

## **1. APOLOGIES & APPROVAL OF ABSENCE, PROTOCOL AND CONDUCT REMINDERS**

Mr C Griggs reminded Councillors of the Code of Conduct, protocol for debate and statutory rights to film, record, photograph or otherwise report on the proceedings of the meeting.

Mr R Whiting proposed that the apologies and reasons for absence be accepted, seconded by Mr B Ward. Resolved with ALL in favour.

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF COUNILLOR INTEREST**

No Declarations were made.

## **3. TO SIGN, AS A CORRECT RECORD, THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023**

Mr R Whiting proposed acceptance of the Council minutes without any amendments. This was seconded by Mr C Griggs with ALL in favour.

The minutes were duly signed as a correct record.

## **4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

### **a. To Identify Public Participation with Respect to Items on this Agenda**

None

### **b. Public Forum – Members of Public/Parish Councillors May Speak on Any Matter**

None

## **5. UPDATE ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

The Clerk reported that followers on Facebook and Instagram are steadily and organically growing. The number of 'friends' on Facebook is nearly 500 and for Instagram nearly 100. There appears to be more presence and growth on Facebook with most interactions with members of the public happening on Facebook. The Clerk showed the Councillors several posts which have been uploaded to socials. The Clerk signed up to Google Analytics to give the Parish Council recorded data. The data was distributed and councillors discussed the information.

Councillors Noted this.

#### **6. UPDATE ON WEBSITE**

The Clerk updated the councillors with regards to the website and how Google Analytics show correlations between social media posts and visits to the website. The Clerk gave updates on recent changes to the website and improvements that have been made and ongoing.

Councillors Noted this.

#### **7. TO CONSIDER THE VIABILITY OF THE YOUTH CLUB SERVICE PROVIDED BY 4YP**

The Clerk distributed the report supplied by 4YP on the progress of the youth club. Councillors discussed its content and the viability of the youth club in the future.

Mr B Ward proposed that up to £7,500 be available in the next financial year for the provision of a youth club. Parish Council will make a final decision on whether a suitable provider comes forward and whether it is considered a viable proposition and a beneficial service to provide. Seconded by Mrs M Odam. Resolved with ALL in favour.

#### **8. TO DISCUSS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CRITERIA FOR COUNCILS QUALITY GOLD AWARD**

The Clerk distributed the documentation for the councils quality gold award. The Councillors discussed the award scheme and in particular the requirements for community engagement. The Clerk presented a project called 'Love Rushmere' as part of the Nature Trail Launch which will encompass the criteria and evidence to SALC for accreditation. Cllr D Dean has agreed in principle funding for this project.

Mrs M Odam proposed to have a launch party for the nature trail with the project 'love Rushmere' at Tower Hall on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Seconded by Mr R Whiting. Resolved with ALL in favour.

#### **9. TO DISCUSS THE PRODUCTION OF THE WINTER NEWSLETTER**

The Clerk reported a growing social media presence and the emphasised the importance of maintaining a good website. Information received from the Communities Officer at East Suffolk, Mr Joliffe suggest that several parishes have recently decided not to produce newsletter and other parishes only contributes to external publications by writing an article(s) for inclusion in these publications. The Clerk reported that the true annual cost of the Newsletter sits at approximately £7,000. The Clerk distributed facts and figures from the office of national statistic regarding digital isolation. The Councillors discussed the viability of continuing with publishing a parish newsletter.

Mr B Ward proposed that focus on Social Media Platforms and the Parish Council Website should be a priority and the Parish Council should make use of other free publication such as In Touch and recommend to Parish Council that no future newsletters be produced. Seconded by Mr R Whiting. Resolved with ALL in favour.

#### **10. GENERAL PARISH MATTERS & CORRESPONDENCE**

##### **a. Correspondence Received**

None

##### **b. Forthcoming Meeting Dates**

Forward Planning Group, Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 2pm at Tower Hall

Environment and Services Committee, Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 6.30pm at Village Hall

Annual Allotment Holders Meeting, Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7.30pm at Village Hall

Parish Council Meeting, Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7.30pm at Tower Hall

## **11. DETERMINATION OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

Update on the Website

## **12. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 09.05pm