



## RAYNE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of Rayne Parish Council held on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 at 7.30pm** at The Old School Rooms, Shalford Road, Rayne for the purpose of transacting the following business:

Members present:	Cllr T Agutter	Cllr T Rippingale
	Cllr M Eldred (Chair)	Cllr M Stringer
	Cllr A Hooks	Cllr P Willis
	Cllr H Lugger	Cllr S Wilsdon

Members of the Public: 1

MINUTE NUMBER	BUSINESS
<b>23/153</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>
	Apologies were noted from Cllr Murton Cllr Rickwood & Cllr Nicholls
<b>23/154</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b>
	Cllr T Agutter declared a pecuniary interest as the supplier of parish council IT services and recipient of payments. Cllr A Hooks declared a non-pecuniary interest regarding agenda item 23/161 Planning as a member of Braintree District Council Planning Committee. Cllr Eldred declared a pecuniary interest regarding agenda item 23/168 as a recipient of an expenses payment.
<b>23/156</b>	<b>CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023</b>
	The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2023 were signed as true record of the meeting. The clerk reported that the FuelGenie amount on the minutes was different to the figure declared on the agenda due to an additional receipt being received after the agenda was published. Proposed: Cllr. Rippingale , Seconded: Cllr Agutter. All agreed.
<b>23/157</b>	<b>PUBLIC FORUM</b>
	Due to the recent heavy rain it was noted that the road at Perkins garage was flooded again.

	The culvert outside the Welsh Princess needs to be investigated and cleared.
<b>23/158</b>	<b>DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS</b>
	<p><b>District Councillor Report</b> The roundabout at Perkins garage will be closed overnight from 24<sup>th</sup> January to 26<sup>th</sup> January for patching and repairing work.</p> <p><b>County Councillor Report</b> Budget setting is currently being completed at County level.</p>
<b>23/159</b>	<b>CHAIR'S REPORT</b>
	No issues to report but the Chair thanked everyone who attended the pre Christmas social event. He has received some lovely feedback and has already provisionally booked 13/12/24 for this year's event.
<b>23/160</b>	<b>CLERK'S REPORT</b>
	The Clerk's report was circulated to Councillors before the meeting and no issues were raised.
<b>23/161</b>	<b>PLANNING</b>
<b>23/161.1</b>	<b>New Planning Applications</b>
	<p>23/02722/OUT – Land South of Springfields Braintree Essex Outline application with all matters reserved except access, for the erection of 74 affordable residential dwellings.</p> <p>The following comments were circulated prior to the meeting and were reviewed:</p> <p>Rayne Parish Council wishes to record their strong objection to the above planning application concerning the building of 74 affordable residential dwelling adjacent to the Springfield estate west of Braintree.</p> <p>This second application for our development on the same site does not diminish or address previous objections. It should be noted that Rayne Parish Council have over the years continually objected to the developments planned and approved to the rear of Gilda Terrace, all of which have one vehicular access point on to Rayne Road.</p> <p>The current traffic mayhem in Braintree at this time is something that needs to be addressed before any further building and subsequent increased traffic is considered or even approved. As a parish council, we have noted in recent times increased traffic using the roads through the village. The continuous congestion at the roundabout where the Springwood industrial estate adjoins Rayne Road is a hindrance to any motorist wishing to access any of the major roads signposted towards Dunmow, Chelmsford and the A120 east and west. Drivers will no doubt prefer to turn left out of the access point on Rayne Road and travel directly westward through The Street, others choosing to travel in the same direction, but turning left at the Swan junction into Gore Road and head out of Rayne, using either New Road or Queenborough Lane both of which are totally inappropriate for the volume of traffic already being seen without this being increased by the additional vehicles from the proposed Rayne Road developments.</p>

	<p>As a Parish Council, we are encouraging our residents to use alternative methods of transport, but our efforts are being countered by the need for potential nearby residents to use their vehicles to access local schools, health facilities, employment or commuting options.</p> <p>We find the submitted Travel Plan document in the application and the 4 stated objectives to be completely unachievable and an insult to our already frustrated residents who see this development as yet another plan to connect our beautiful rural environment to the already overcrowded town of Braintree. We would hope that we will have the opportunity to hear from the developers how they hope to implement and succeed with these impossible targets.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Foster a partnership approach with residents to influence travel behaviour.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Encourage travel to the site to take place by sustainable modes of transport.</i></li> <li>3. <i>Encourage safe and viable alternatives for accessing the site for residence</i></li> <li>4. <i>To reduce the environmental impact associated with development traffic by raising travel awareness among residents.</i></li> </ol> <p>To build on this land would extend the urban feel of the Flitch way, as the development is right next to it. Rayne Parish Council has always fought to protect the Flitch way from being over developed, as has happened in Takeley. The Flitch is a linear country park and requires our protection. This was supported by a planning inspector on the Brook Green appeal, as development next to it would be detrimental to the landscape.</p> <p>Rayne has always been concerned about coalescence and the building of this development would narrow the green wedge that is in the planning authorities local plan, which protects the space between Rayne and Braintree.</p> <p>Whilst it is admirable that the development has 74 affordable houses, this should not be to the detriment of the local area.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Willis , Seconded: Cllr Rippingale. All agreed and the Clerk will submit the above comments via the Public Access portal to the Local Planning Authority.</p>
	<p>23/02916/FUL – Creation of a footpath and cyclepath link between the consented residential development (18/01065/OUT) and Flitch Way. Lane South of Gilda Terrace and North of Flitch Way Rayne Road Braintree Essex.</p> <p>No planning objection to this application.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Agutter, Seconded: Cllr Stringer. All agreed.</p>
<b>23/161.2</b>	<b>Planning Results</b>
	<p>23/02539/FUL – Flitch House, 21 Warner Close, Rayne CM77 6GC</p> <p>Change of use of annexe from C3 to C1 for short term holiday let accommodation.</p> <p>Application Permitted.</p>
<b>23/162</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>
<b>23/162.1</b>	Eastlight Maintenance Agreement 2024.

	The maintenance schedule provided by Eastlight has been agreed and the increase in funding appreciated. The Schedule will be passed onto the groundsman so that they can review and advise if any more working hours will be required.
<b>23/164</b>	<b>REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS</b>
	<p>Grounds – Only 1 groundsman is available to work at the moment. The old mower has been repaired so can now be used. The tractor is being serviced this month.</p> <p>Old School Rooms – the funding for the boiler has now been received as well as the District Councillor grant money.</p> <p>Village Hall – a report was circulated prior to the meeting which highlighted the work completed during 2023. The Parish Council is planning to meeting with the Village Hall committee to look at the current agreement and review various issues needing attention. All councillors will be welcome to join this meeting and any issues to raise should be forwarded to the Clerk.</p> <p>IT - the old website has now been switched off.</p> <p>Flitch Way – a request was made to be informed of any future events being held.</p>
<b>23/165</b>	<b>POTENTIAL OPEN SPACE IMPROVEMENTS PLAN</b>
	<p>The current document was reviewed and the following items should be added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To secure and maintain security relating to land owned by the PC.</li> <li>• Inclusivity in relation to access to the park and nature reserve.</li> </ul> <p>Proposed: Cllr Hooks, Seconded: Cllr Eldred. All agreed..</p> <p>The Chair and Clerk will send updates to the plan prior to the closing date of 26<sup>th</sup> January.</p>
<b>23/166</b>	<b>COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING</b>
	The first coffee morning will be on 27 <sup>th</sup> January from 10 til 12 and all councillors are welcome to help. Advertising has already been placed in the Focus magazine and on the website. We are hoping to secure a grant to help with the running of this event.
<b>23/167</b>	<b>STREET LIGHTING</b>
	<p>A report was submitted regarding the availability of free units from BDC and the general view is that these will meet the required regulations.</p> <p>The Clerk will contact other local Parish Councils to see if they use different contractors to us and approach them for quotes to test, rewire and fit the LED units. Warranties for the work done will also be required.</p> <p>An update will be provided at the Finance meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> January.</p>
<b>23/168</b>	<b>FINANCE</b>
<b>23/168.1</b>	<b>January Payments and Receipts</b>

	<p>The following items of expenditure, retrospective payments by Standing Order and any receipts were approved.</p> <p>Cllr Hooks and Cllr Rickwood will authorise payments and standing orders.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Stringer , Seconded: Cllr Lugger . All agreed.</p>		
	AMOUNT (£)	PAYABLE TO/RECEIVED FROM	PAYMENT IN RESPECT OF
	1,922.39	Staff	Salaries
	377.46	HMRC	Tax & NIC
17212	90.00	EALC	Clerk training Dec
	23.50	FuelGenie	Petrol/Diesel
RVH-2023-11	42.00	Rayne Village Hall	Coffee Morning hire charge
267618	42.99	Ernest Doe & Sons	Consumables
268115	189.56	Ernest Doe & Sons	Repair & parts for Mower
	66.34	Mike Eldred	Expenses – paint and brushes
	66.00	Linda Taylor	Winter Planting 2023/24
1554	63.40	TP Jones & Co	Jul-Sep payroll preparation
1607	63.40	TP Jones & Co	Oct-Dec payroll preparation
<b>Payments Made by Direct Debit/Standing Order</b>			
37813	41.10	A J Lighting	Maintenance
21505	119.28	CSD Network Services	IT services
8020	20.00	F A Jiggins	Rental of Unit 31A
1	28.50	All Saints Church	Hire of OSR for Full Council – January
	6.06	Essex Pension Fund	January contribution
Statement 78	18.00	Unity Trust Bank	Sep-Dec bank charges
Statement 78	3.00	Unity Trust Bank	Credit card monthly fee
<b>Retrospective Payments</b>			
<b>Receipts</b>			
<b>23/168.2</b>	<b>Bank Reconciliation</b>		
	<p>Projected Balances at bank as at 27<sup>th</sup> December 2023:</p> <p>Current Account £11,957.31</p> <p>Instant Access Account £56,239.06</p>		
<b>23/168.3</b>	<b>Precept</b>		
	<p>Following an update on the Eastlight maintenance funding and the reinstatement of the street cleaning budget, the precept increase was set at 8.63% and the amount to be requested is £58,819.58. The Clerk will arrange completion of the request form and submit to BDC.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Hooks, Seconded: Cllr Willis. All agreed.</p>		
<b>23/169</b>	<b>MEETINGS &amp; TRAINING</b>		
	Cllr Rickwood to attend Social Media training organised by NALC.		

<b>23/170</b>	<b>CLOSE</b>
	There being no further business to transact the meeting was closed at 20.25

Signed: ... ..  
Dated: 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024