

**Rumburgh Parish Meeting  
4 May 2022  
Minutes**

1. The meeting started at 7pm and Pieter van Dijk (Parish Council Chairman) welcomed those present. The clerk also took the minutes. Forty-five members of the public were present.
2. Apologies received from Alan Witherby (Garden Club), Mr & Mrs Dutton and Mr & Mrs Wilson.
3. The minutes of the Parish meeting 28 April 2021 were approved and signed. No matters arising.

Motion to vary order of business –

Chair proposed to hear item 5 before item 4. Agreed unanimously.

5. Presentation by PACE – Rob Shaw and Tom Beckford (PACE) gave a presentation on proposed Solar development on Grays Lane, Wissett. A lot of opposition was expressed from the floor for the following reasons;
  - Land is good quality agricultural land so is solar power more important than food production.
  - Major Bio-diversity issues with proposal
  - Road access unsuitable
  - Eleven listed buildings within close proximity of site not two as stated by PACE
  - Main gas line across site
  - Fire risks from battery storage and no water supply.
  - Access to the National Grid not known
  - Future possible extension of site
  - Solar is not carbon neutral as panels sourced from China
  - PACE is a new company so no track record, still constructing first three sites near Norwich. This venture seems purely profit driven.
  - Landowner not at any of the meetings
4. Reports
  - Rumburgh Parish Council - Pieter van Dijk reported that the Parish Council held eight full meetings and three Planning meetings. Although council can comment on planning, all decisions are made by East Suffolk Council. The chairman of Wissett Parish Council attended one meeting to outline details of the proposed Solar development on Grays Lane. During the year two councillors resigned and have been replaced. All reviews required were undertaken and recommendations in the Rospa safety inspection implemented. On the Pleasure Ground a new drainage pipe was fitted, stile repaired and damaged play equipment replaced. The main allotment gate was re-set.
  - District/County Councillor Judy Cloke -gave a short introduction to herself, working on refugee support, main issues seem to be potholes and speeding. Not sure on East Suffolk's view on solar developments.
  - Rumburgh & St Michael Village Hall – David Borer reported the hall is slowly opening after the pandemic. Various activities have returned, bowls, table tennis, coffee mornings but not yoga classes. In 2021 held a picnic, Charity Walk/BBQ in aid of East Anglian Air Ambulance and a Christmas Treasure Trail. The Harvest supper had to be cancelled. Currently organising the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. There are plans to refurbish the village hall.
  - Rumburgh Feoffees' - Charlotte Binder reported the trust's income is from investments and it started in 1780.
  - Bowls Club – Julie Williams reported the club has restarted and meets on a Friday, all welcome (£2 per session), also Table Tennis on a Tuesday.

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20/3/22

- Rumburgh Cricket Club – Pieter van Dijk reported 2021 was a difficult year. The Puma's CC did hold a few 20/20 games and the Touring Team played in September. Work was undertaken on the cricket square, the pavilion and score box. Storm damage to equipment was repaired and work to the area behind the pavilion and the installation of a new toilet hut is ongoing.
  - First Responders - Paul Spill reported the team (3 members) has started training prior to becoming operational again.
  - Rumburgh & District Garden Club – Lisa Simmons reported that the club has had a difficult time with low attendance. No outings in 2020 and only two in 2021. Hope to hold the Produce Show in 2022.
  - Parochial Church Council - Ian Harris reported the church has kept running and now has one service per month. The quota was paid in full. Work is needed on the East Window. Other repairs have been undertaken. A coffee morning was held at Corner Farm in aid of the church.
6. Open Forum –
- One member expressed disappointment with Parish Council for not obtaining a free Jubilee Tree.
  - Some members expressed an interest in a Community Orchard on the allotments.

The chairman thanked everyone.

Meeting closed at 20.33

PS - 29/3/22