

RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Community Hall, Lewis Road, Radford Semele, on Monday 27th November 2017 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr S Sabin (in the chair), Cllr B Follett, Cllr B Friar, Cllr A T Hitchcox, Cllr A E Malin, Cllr Mrs J P Malin, Cllr H E J Marriott and Cllr Mrs N Northey

In attendance: WCC Cllr W Redford and one member of the public - Mr John Sudbury

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr D E Chater
It was noted that Cllr Northey had sent her apologies for absence at the previous meeting but it had not been recorded – to be recorded.

2. **Declaration of interests:** There were none.

3. **Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting on 30th October 2017**

These were approved, proposed by Cllr Friar and seconded by Cllr Marriott.

4. **Matters arising from the Minutes of the Council meeting on 30th October 2017**

1. The Clerk had recently received a letter from WDC saying that they proposed to empty the bin on the main road three times a week and to monitor the position.

2. The Clerk had written again to WCC Highways to have the hedge on the main road cut at appropriate places but had yet to receive a reply.

3. There was nothing to report on the parking situation on Lewis Road; the previous Minutes provided for a working party to be set up comprising the Chairman, Vice Chairman and the Clerk. This matter is to be pursued. **Action: Chairman, Vice-Chairman & Clerk**

4. Cllrs were reminded that the time limit for making application for WCC grants through the Community Forum was by 7th February 2018. One possibility will be to obtain a grant in respect of revamping the Council's website. It was AGREED that Cllr Hitchcox would obtain the necessary grant application forms and the matter will be further pursued.
Action: Cllr Hitchcox & Clerk

5. It was AGREED that the Clerk would liaise with Cllr Hitchcox for the issue of the final version of the football pitch agreement – to the relevant club managements.
Action: Cllr Hitchcox & Clerk

5. **Warwickshire County Council – update report**

5.1 WCC Cllr Redford said one of the regular things that came before WCC was to investigate safety issues with particular reference to road traffic. There is a meeting in January which might be of interest to this Council. He will furnish the date of the meeting. **Action: Cllr Redford**

5.2 There was a date as to when AC Lloyd would commence building on the site at Spring Lane; it was thought that this could be as late as 2019.

5.3 Cllr Redford pointed out that an application for a grant could be made to the Community Forum for the cost/support of a speed assessment cable system being applied to the roads in the Village to measure speed and volume of traffic. The Council are to review this further. **Action: All Cllrs**

6. Warwick District Council – update report

In the absence of Cllr Doody, there was no report. The Chairman said he had been trying to understand the ramifications of the CIL procedure but in principle the Government appeared to be saying that funds would be available to local councils but there was no indication so far that any money forwarded to the Principal Authority (i.e. WDC) would be passed on to parish councils. This is to be investigated further by the Chairman and the Clerk. **Action: Chairman & Clerk**

7. Financial Matters

- 7.1 The Clerk reported that the balance on the operating account was approximately £25,200 and the balance on the investment account was approximately £24,200. The relative balance of the two accounts was a result of a transfer between accounts which he had made since the last meeting.
- 7.2 The Council approved a number of payments as per the tabled list. Included in these was a refund to the Clerk of expenses of £10 approximately for postage incurred by him in posting, by recorded delivery, papers to the Government Inspector concerning the planning appeal regarding The Valley (which had then been withdrawn) and sending to Fattorinis in Birmingham the Chairman's ribbon for updating.
- 7.3 Cheques were duly signed.
- 7.4 The Clerk will forward the bank mandate form which now contains Cllr Northey's details so that she can be included in the bank cheques mandate. **Action: Clerk**

8. First World War commemoration

The Clerk had explored in outline with members of the St Nicholas' Church congregation as to what plans were being put underway for the commemoration of WW1 (precisely on 11th November 2018). He had been advised to confer with Rev Martin Green who is likely to have the final word on the arrangements. Cllr Friar pointed out that the Scouts and other uniform youth groups will be in attendance as a matter of course. **Action: Clerk**

9. Correspondence

- 9.1 The Clerk had received nice thank you letters for donations from the Scouts, the Brownies/Rainbows, the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and St Nicholas' Church.
- 9.2 As previously requested, the Clerk had written to Mr Wagstaffe to ask for an extra cut on the Playing Field since October. It was understood that this has recently been carried out.
- 9.3 The Clerk had now received a satisfactory letter from the Planning Enforcement Officer giving the precise planning reference for 56 Southam Road so that Cllrs can now check out any details they wish to know.
- 9.4 The Clerk had written to the Post Office in London to confirm that the Council was content with the change of ownership of the local service.

10. Control of dogs

The Clerk had recently received from the Dogs Control section at WDC a helpful letter; this had stated support for this Council in the future with regard to the possibility of an Enforcement Order being made with respect of our Playing Field. Meanwhile the Dog Warden will monitor the position.

11. Update on Neighbourhood Plan

Following the drop-in day in September (reported at the previous meeting), work has been underway to collate the feedback from the Radford Semele villagers who attended the event. The aim was to develop a priorities list for inclusion in to the first draft of the preferences document

being produced in conjunction with Kirkwells who are the consultants the Neighbourhood Planning Group have contracted to support the development of the Neighbourhood Plan for Radford Semele.

Some of the key points raised by those who attended were the lack of good footpaths to link the main village with the countryside, some areas that are highly valued as green and open spaces as well as a wish to protect the village coalescing with Leamington Spa.

The development of the Community Hall fields for adults as well as children was suggested. Cllr Follett was looking in the feasibility of provide outdoor training equipment for use by adults.

The Neighbourhood Planning Group had a face to face Neighbourhood Planning meeting with Kirkwells in December to consider the shape and content of the Plan following the consultations so far. Preparations are underway to arrange communication with all local businesses in Radford Semele to get a business view of how they would foresee how the village may be developed to help them.

12. Update on proposed Bus Shelter

Cllr Marriott reported that the fabricators of the new bus shelter have nearly completed construction. They propose to construct it in one piece to test that it is satisfactory and then dismantle it and take it to site in conjunction with the contractor to excavate the foundations. To minimise the amount of time that the excavations are left exposed, they have got a plan to co-ordinate installation of the metal footings in the concrete structure with the actual construction of the shelter so that the operation on site should be relatively short. He is in touch with the fabricators and will monitor the position.

Action: Cllr Marriott

13. Report on the Playing Field and Play Equipment

The two reports from ROSPA were considered in detail. It was AGREED that the Playing Field Committee would investigate/obtain a quotation for remedial work to the skateboard area which had been maligned in the ROSPA report. The various minor corrections to equipment outlined in the other ROSPA report will be attended to. Cllr Follett pointed out that a condition of the WREN grant for the play equipment is that the ROSPA reports are duly referred to WREN by way of update. The footings of the aerial slide will be dealt with by Cllr Marriott in due course – meanwhile its operation has been suspended.

Action: Cllrs Follett & Marriott

14. Update on Scout Hut project

Cllr Friar said there is nothing to report.

15. Update report on Sports and Social Club Matters

Cllrs Malin and Sabin were unable to attend a recent meeting of the Committee so there was no update.

16. Update report from Community Hall Committee

In the absence of Cllr Chater, there was no report.

17. Update on School Matters

There was nothing to report.

18. Current Planning Matters

- 1) It was noted that at the last moment the appellants in respect of The Valley had withdrawn their application from the Government Inspector.
- 2) There is no apparent movement in respect to the site in Offchurch Lane.
- 3) The Spring Lane site is referred to above.

- 4) 56 Southam Road. This item is referred to above.
- 5) The Planning Committee had made submissions to WDC with the objective of saving The Lodge from demolition on the grounds of its historical interest etc but the submissions had been rejected. It is still unknown what A C Lloyd propose to do with the site. The Chairman and Vice Chairman are to investigate. **Action: Chairman & Vice-Chairman**
- 6) Two other planning applications, with reference to 10 Godfrey Close and 46 Southam Road, Cllr J Malin will investigate these but they do not appear to involve big issues.
- 7) The application with respect to Radford Hall and garages at The Glebe House will also be considered by the Planning Committee. **Action: Planning Committee**

19. Any Other Business

- 19.1 The current position as to the current Council vacancy was reviewed and it was unanimously AGREED to co-opt Mr John Sudbury as a new Councillor (he having indicated his willingness to stand).
- 19.2 The Clerk reported that he and Cllr Hitchcox had attended the annual supper held by WDC for chairmen and clerks of local councils; they had learned that the WDC Chairman does not propose to visit any parish councils this year as he is preserving his budget to hold another evening session later in his year of office.
- 19.3 The Clerk said he was in the course of reviewing the General Data Protection Regulations; the legislation was still fluid but he expected to be involved in further seminars on the subject. In outline he anticipated it will be necessary for the Council to purchase for him a separate computer so that all Council data and communications are confined to a computer which is separate from his own (which hitherto has been used for Council business). A further report is to follow. **Action: Clerk**
- 19.4 A draft list of Council meetings had been tabled which was approved by all.
- 19.5 The Chairman spoke to the consultation paper which has been issued by WCC concerning an alteration of the speed limit on the main road. The 40 mph limit is proposed which, in the unanimous view of the Council, is inappropriate – the temporary speed limit of 30 mph on the main road to Southam should be made permanent. It was agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk would formulate a written submission to be filed with the WCC traffic group before 8th December 2017.
- 19.6 The Chairman expressed his concern at continued obfuscation by WDC with regard to Section 106 payments. It was well known now that payments made by developers for sites in this parish had been appropriated to support the costs of the new swimming pool complex at Newbold Comyn. A collateral to obtaining finance from the principal authority for use by this Council was the issue of CIL payments. The position is not clear. It was AGREED that the Chairman and the Clerk will investigate. **Action: Chairman & Clerk**

20. Date of next meeting: 29th January 2018

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman of the Parish Council

Counter signed.....

Date.....

Clerk to the Parish Council