

# RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Community Hall, Lewis Road, Radford Semele, on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 7.30 pm.

**Present:** Cllr M Doody (in the chair), Cllr B Follett, Cllr Mr A T Hitchcox, Cllr Mrs J Loveridge, Cllr A J Malin, Cllr Mrs J P Malin, Cllr H E J Marriott and Cllr S P Sabin

**In attendance:** -

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr D E Chater and Cllr B W Friar

2. **Minutes of the Council meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

The Minutes of the last Council meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> November were approved.

3. **Matters arising from the Minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

3.1 Minute 4.1 was corrected to refer to Chance Fields instead of The Greswoldes.

3.2 The Chairman reminded the meeting that there had been previous discussion about presenting a list of potential street names for the new development on the north side of Southam Road and it was agreed that Cllrs Loveridge and Marriott would put in hand a list to the Clerk.  
**Action: Cllrs Loveridge & Marriott**

3.3 Re Minute 4.2 in the previous Minutes, in the absence of Cllr Chater, the Chairman enquired as to the position on the flower planters at Hallfields; the Clerk reported that Cllr Chater had looked into the matter with a resident and it became apparent that there was an issue of cost. It had been left that Cllr Chater would have further discussion with the resident and report back.  
**Action: Cllr Chater**

3.4 With regard to Minute 9, Cllr Marriott reported that the bulbs had been distributed via the Scouts and had been planted out. They had been greatly assisted by Mrs Marriott. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Mrs Marriott thanking her for her contribution.  
**Action: Clerk**

4. **Report from WCC**

In the absence of WCC Cllr Redford, there was no report.

5. **Report from WDC**

5.1 Cllr Doody stated that the WDC budget would be under discussion at their next meeting in February 2016. It was likely that the effective increase in rate demands would be 1.9%.

5.2 The Local Plan was still in preparation. There was currently discussion for provision of one permanent gypsy site and two sites for gypsies in transit. The identity of the sites was still under discussion.

- 5.3 In discussion with national government funding, WDC expected to receive a grant of £1M to refurbish the Pump Rooms with particular reference to improving the appearance of the garden area around the Pump Rooms and some improvement in Jephson Gardens.

## **6. Financial Matters**

- (a) The Clerk reported that the balance on the operating account was approximately £21,000 and the balance on the investment account was approximately £29,200. The figures took account of the fact that since the last Council Meeting he had made a transfer of £10,000 from the operating account to the investment account and also funds had been placed there from the donations for the play equipment and the defibrillators.
- (b) A number of payments were approved by the Council ( as per the schedule filed with the Minutes), in particular, the Clerk's pay for the third quarter in the sum of £1,210.15 and tax on that sum and also a payment to Mr Marriott of £254.00 inc VAT for work connected with the bulb planting (including purchase of materials).
- (c) The Clerk tabled the draft application for the Precept for 2016/2017 he had prepared; the Council approved the application and budget statements as drawn.
- (d) The Clerk had put on the Agenda reference to Model Financial Regulations; this followed notice from NALC/WALC of an amendment to the Regulations which had only been being for about two years. The Clerk had intended to discuss any issues with the Finance Committee but due to pressure of other work he had not been able to. This item is to be put on the next Agenda. **Action: Clerk**

## **7. Correspondence**

- 7.1 The Clerk had received a request from the Police to put up a notice on the noticeboard advertising the ir services and telephone numbers etc for members of the public to call them and the Clerk had agreed that could be done and the notice was now up.
- 7.2 The Clerk had received nice thank you letters from St Nicholas' Church, the Brownies, the Rainbows and the Scouts for the donations recently awarded to them by the Council.
- 7.3 An email of complaint had been received from a resident with reference to the verges on Offchurch Lane and on the Southam Road adjacent to Hill Cottage; it was acknowledged that it is a continuing problem to keep the vegetation back but the Chairman said it was the responsibility of WDC to take action. It is not merely a question of trimming the vegetation but cutting it right back. He would see what could be done by WDC. **Action: Chairman**

## **8. Planning Matters**

Cllr Mrs Malin said there was nothing of significance to report. It appears that Cllr A J Malin is still not on the email circulation list from the Planning Dept on a regular basis – it is patchy. It was agreed that the Clerk would chase it up. **Action: Clerk**

## 9. Bus Shelter

- 9.1 There was extensive debate on specifications and pictures produced by Cllr Loveridge from installers who had quoted for her. An expression of appreciation was made to her for her input. It was decided to enquire whether alternative installers had a competitive price to offer – it was agreed the installers of the existing bus shelter would be approached. The price offered by the existing people was £5,970. It was agreed that Cllrs Marriott, Loveridge and Hitchcox would review the existing quotation in comparison with the fresh quotation and make a decision on which quotation should go forward, it being agreed by the Council as a matter of principle that the bus shelter project should proceed.

**Action: Cllrs Marriott, Loveridge and Hitchcox**

## 10. Report on Playing Field Matters and Play Equipment

- 10.1 Cllr Follett reported that he has been negotiating with installers of play equipment with a view to a contract being placed with them – Ludus Leisure Ltd of Todmorden, Yorkshire. In broad terms, there are three pots of money available for the project; a £10,000 grant from The Big Lottery Fund, £10,000 raised by public subscription locally and a commitment from the Parish Council to put in funds up to £10,000.
- 10.2 Cllr Follett reminded the Council that the application for a WREN grant has been made but the terms under which WREN operate is that their grants must be match funded in this case by WDC. Cllr Follett had made an application to WDC which was pending and he hoped for an outcome shortly. It was agreed that the Clerk should notify WREN that the Parish Council were to put in funds if monies were not forthcoming from WDC via the RUCIS grant to match fund the WREN contribution.
- 10.3 It was agreed that the price to be paid to the contractors was the price quoted by them at £30,918 + VAT. (The Parish Council will be able to recover the VAT.) It was also agreed that the contract would be placed between the Parish Council and Ludus Leisure Ltd and not between Ludus Leisure Ltd and other parties.
- 10.4 It was agreed that the project should be progressed and a contract signed as soon as possible under the direction of a sub-committee comprising the Chairman, the Clerk and Cllr Follett who should have discretion to conclude matters.

**Action: Chairman, Clerk & Cllr Follett**

- 10.5 The Chairman had received a request from Mr and Mrs Ghag in the Village Shop for a letter confirming receipt of the funds collected by public donation which had been recently passed over to the Clerk.

**Action: Clerk**

- 10.6 Cllr Marriott raised the issue that there is a potential for at least six posts at the far end of the Playing Field to rot away in the foreseeable future. He recommends that they should be changed in about July/August 2016 when the weather and ground are better. He would be prepared to carry out the work and then relay the grass to fill in the various ruts which have been created in the area due to the inclement weather. It was agreed that he should proceed.

**Action: Cllr Marriott**

## 11. Scout Hut

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

## 12. Sports and Social Club Matters

Cllr A J Malin reported that there was nothing to report.

**13. Report from Community Hall Committee**

Cllr Loveridge reported that a leak in the roof had been repaired in November. There was nothing else to report.

**14. Village School Matters**

Cllr Loveridge said it was hoped that Rev K Pickford would attend the Parish Council meeting next time in order to provide an update on the School.

**15. Any Other Business**

- (a) It was agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan should be left in abeyance (to be put on the Agenda again).
- (b) The flower planters have been dealt with above.
- (c) The Chairman reported that there was now a fund of £2,379 collected from various sources for the defibrillators. He and the Group are still exploring the possibility of installing a unit at the White Lion but they are awaiting a reply from the brewers, thought is being given to a installation at Cedar Tree Farm and the possibility of installing one of the units in the telephone box on the Southam Road.

(The Clerk had already obtained approval from the Council earlier for payment of a supplementary premium to the Council’s insurers so that the defibrillators would be covered by insurance against mishap.)

**16. Date of next meeting:** At the Clerk’s request (as he has another commitment on the 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016), it was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council should instead be on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016. Cllr Marriott observed that that date would suit him better than the original one.

Signed..... Date.....

**Chairman of the Parish Council**

Signed..... Date.....

**Clerk to the Parish Council**