

RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Community Hall, Lewis Road, Radford Semele, on Monday 22nd February 2016 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr D E Chater (Vice Chairman in the chair), Cllr B Follett, Cllr B Friar, Cllr Mr A T Hitchcox, Cllr Mrs J Loveridge, Cllr A E Malin, Cllr Mrs J P Malin, Cllr H E J Marriott and Cllr S P Sabin. (Cllr M Doody arrived late from another meeting.)

In attendance for the meeting: WCC Cllr Redford

In attendance for part of the meeting: Mr Bill Sandhu, Local Defibrillator Action Group
Mr Fraser Clarke, Local Defibrillator Action Group
Mr James Waters (member of the public)

1. **Apologies for absence:** -

2. **Minutes of the Council meeting on 25th January 2016**

The Minutes of the last Council meeting on 25th January were approved.

3. **Matters arising from the Minutes of the 25th January 2016**

3.1 Cllr Marriott said, with reference to Paragraph 7.2 of the previous Minutes, some cutting had been done and the situation regarding the vegetation on the main road was better. He thought the treatment was however a superficial approach; what was needed was root and branch cutting back of the vegetation.

3.2 The Clerk said that he had not created a separate Agenda item for a Police report but with reference to the absence of Police input at a previous meeting, he had now been asked to put up on the Noticeboard a list of contact members of the Police Force which he had done; in addition, it had been intimated that, commitments permitting, the Police would like to attend some meetings of the Parish Council.

3.3 With reference to Paragraph 3.3 of the previous Minutes, Cllr Chater said his recollection from previous discussion was the Council had decided to adjourn the matter of the flower planters in Hallfields indefinitely. It had transpired from his discussions with the resident concerned that funding from the Council was expected and there was not a coherent plan on siting or costing of the project. It was agreed to let the matter rest.

3.4 Mr Sandhu and Mr Clarke were invited to address the Council on the subject of the defibrillator project. They did so briefly. Although they appeared to have a favourable response from the local manager, no response had been received from the Head Office of the Brewery. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Brewery to chase the matter up.

Action: Clerk

It is still contemplated that the next kit will be installed in the telephone box if the Brewery declines to allow its installation at The White Lion.

Mr Sandhu said there had been an incident on Friday 19th February when it was necessary to use the existing kit at the Village Shop. There was concern that the batteries may have run done but he pointed out that this is an ongoing issue which must be kept in mind once the Parish Council take responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of the units.

4. Report from WCC

- 4.1 Cllr Redford said from May 2016 there was a planned reduction of funding from central government to WCC of £10M. This was likely to be ameliorated by a refund by central government of £2.6M once further calculations had been carried out. However the severe reduction in funding would have a knock on effect on the WCC budget.
- 4.2 He had attended the recent meeting of the Community Forum (as he almost always did) and there was no representative from the Parish Council (Cllr Chater had been away but usually attends such meetings). The Forum had accordingly been poised to refuse the grant in respect of the lighting but Cllr Redford was able to save the application which was granted.
- 4.3 WCC's programme for increasing the installation of LED lighting is being pursued. It is not evident that many units have yet been installed but he said the project had not been abandoned.
- 4.4 A question was raised by the Councillors as to lack of comprehensive wheelchair facilities at road junctions and kerb edges in the Village, for example Lewis Road. Cllr Redford said he would take the matter up with the Highways Dept and report back.

Action: Cllr Redford

5. Report from WDC

On his later arrival, Cllr Doody addressed the meeting concerning issues facing WDC by way of planning applications.

6. Financial Matters

- (a) The Clerk reported that the operating account comprised approximately £28,900 and the investment account comprised approximately £29,250. He said these figures indicated a grand total of approximately £58,000 but it had to be borne in mind that a significant amount of these funds were trust monies and held by the Parish Council for special purposes.
- (b) The Council approved a number of payments as detailed on the attached schedule.
- (c) The Clerk said he had not yet had an opportunity to study some amendments to the Model Financial Regulations and discuss them with the Finance Committee due to the absence abroad of Cllr Chater. The changes to which he had been alerted were modifications of existing regulations and he wanted to assess how significant these changes were. It was agreed that this should be put on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Action: Clerk

7. Correspondence

- 7.1 The Clerk had not received any correspondence other than relating to matters the subject of other items on the Agenda.

8. Bus Shelter

- 8.1 Cllrs Loveridge and Marriott tabled an outline drawing of a design for the further bus shelter which had been prepared for them by Shires Oak Buildings. They had consulted with this company following discussion at the previous Council meeting.
- 8.2 The basic design of this unit being 2.8m wide with glass at the rear commended itself to the Council; the construction is based on 4 panels supported by stainless steel pegs to the ground, thus avoiding incidence of rot from the ground.
- 8.3 The estimated cost of the panel construction together with a roof would be approximately £6,500 and the likely installation costs would be £350. This quotation is higher than the alternative quotation previously obtained by Cllr Loveridge from a different company with a different design. The view taken, supported by the Clerk, was that it was proper to accept the higher estimate in light of the better design and the previous satisfactory work by Shires Oak re the construction of the bus shelter installed a few years earlier. Before the expenditure was incurred he thought it wise to examine cash flow options.
- 8.4 It was agreed that Cllr Marriott would negotiate further with the company to firm up prices and consolidate the design drawings for further approval by the Council.

Action: Cllr Marriott

9. Report on Playing Field Matters and Play Equipment

- 9.1 The Clerk reported that together with the Chairman he had concluded the terms of the written contract with Ludus Leisure Ltd who are the contractors to install the play equipment on the Playing Field; this project is phase 1 of the expected installation – the 2nd phase will be looked at later with a further application.
- 9.2 Cllr Follett reported that negotiations with WREN had been successful to provide funding for Phase 2 of the works. As a result the Parish Council itself will not be required to make a contribution.
- 9.3 Cllr Follett and the Clerk reported that the timetable envisaged by Ludus Leisure for commencement of the work was approximately 6/8 weeks from the signing of the contract at the end of February and so an expected commencement date was in May.

10. Scout Hut

Cllr Friar said he was still looking for a suitable site for construction of a new Scout Hut and also a firm of builders due to the needs of the Group in order to construct the new premises. It was agreed that this should be put on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Action: Clerk

11. Sports and Social Club Matters

Cllr A J Malin said the Sports & Social Club had admin matters in hand. He had however suggested that the Parish Council should have an entry in their newsletter from time to time about items under review by the Council and of particular interest to residents. It was agreed that members of the Club and/or Councillors should be invited to prepare a short article for insertion into the Club newsletter concerning Parish Council affairs, a draft of these articles to be submitted to the Clerk in the first instance.

12. Report from Community Hall Committee

Cllr Loveridge reported that the issue of the drain in the car park has become a live one again. It is causing periodic flooding. Cllr Marriott thought this might be attributable to the adjacent willow tree and its roots and will investigate. **Action: Cllr Marriott**

13. Village School Matters

Cllr Loveridge reported that it had been hoped to obtain a report from Rev K Pickford but she is currently on a sabbatical in South Africa and was not available to prepare a report. It had however been agreed by the School Governors that copies of their Minutes should be forwarded to the Parish Council. **Action: Cllr Loveridge**

14. Any Other Business

(a) The Clerk drew attention to the fact that notice had been received that Bishops Tachbrook had put a Neighbourhood Plan in place. To facilitate the Council's potential action in dealing with planning applications, it was advisable to put one in place as soon as possible. It had been noted that a draft one had been submitted to WDC Planning Dept and this needs to be pursued.

Action: Cllr Doody

(b) Cllr Marriott referred to the matter of burial facility not being available at St Nicholas' Churchyard which had been discussed at a previous meeting of the Council.

Rev Green had advised that it was very clear that the Coventry Diocese would not purchase more land to extend the facilities in the graveyard for burial.

Cllr Marriott said that, of his own knowledge as a parishioner at St Nicholas' Church and his professional expertise, he vouched for the fact that there was no room in the graveyard for further burials. This was despite the appearance that the graveyard might have from visual observation.

There was discussion on the issues and the conclusion was reached that it was beyond the remit of the Council to take the matter further.

15. WDC and Planning Matters

15.1 Cllr Marriott left the meeting for this item. Cllr Doody had arrived at the meeting for this item. He outlined the position facing WDC at the present time.

15.2 The Village envelope had been changed to include the site east of Southam Road.

15.3 AC Lloyd had agreed to fencing being installed alongside the garages at Slade Meadow to protect them while the new development in Spring Lane is created.

15.4 WDC's change in the Village Envelope extend the line to the vicinity of Williams Road to cover a potential site of 60 houses being installed in addition to the existing site in Spring Lane for which planning permission was granted by a Government Inspector last year.

15.5 It was hoped that the new Local Plan will be completed in draft by May/June 2016 but the likelihood of it being signed off by the Minister is not going to occur until well into the new year 2017.

- 15.6 Whilst the Local Plan is still in limbo it is open to any developer to make an application for planning permission in respect of any site nearer the Village. Because WDC have to be mindful of target figures which they have to achieve this has a potential of creating a 50% increase in the number of houses in the Village. (In real terms this is approximately 400 new houses).
- 15.7 WDC envisages a 25% increase across the area of WDC. A significant number of villages in the northern side of the Warwick/Leamington conurbation are in the Green Belt and this inhibits development.
- 15.8 The sites seen by WDC as having potential for more housing development are the growth villages of Radford Semele, Bishops Tachbrook and Hampton Magna.
- 15.9 He said the problem had been exacerbated by the fact that Coventry City said that they could not accommodate any new housing within the city boundaries and were looking to create their new target housing sites outside their boundaries. They own the site at Kingshill which is in the northern end of WDC area. Cllr Doody's view is that the site had a potential of absorbing 4000 new houses.
- 15.10 He said the combination of the different factors meant that WDC's previous target figure for the revised Local Plan of approximately 12,800 houses had now to be revised upwards to 16,776 houses.
- 15.11 With reference to the new planning application for the site adjacent to Offchurch Lane that would be contested by himself as District Councillor and on behalf of the Parish Council; this would be along with the application in respect of the new site at Spring Lane and the site adjacent to Riccardo's on the main road.
- 15.12 He said that at the public meeting on 18th February he had urged the many residents who attended the meeting to submit written arguments against the development on Offchurch Lane to make sure they were lodged with WDC before 4th March 2016. He himself would be filing submissions in conjunction with the Clerk; the members of the public at the meeting were invited to either lodge written submissions with the Clerk or send him copies if they decided to lodge those direct with WDC.

16. Date of next meeting: 25th April 2016

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

Chairman of the Parish Council

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

Clerk to the Parish Council