

RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Community Hall, Lewis Road, Radford Semele, on Monday 21st March 2016 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr M Doody (in the chair), Cllr D E Chater, 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.

1. **Apologies for absence:** WCC Cllr Redford

2. **Minutes of the Council meeting on 22nd February 2016**

The Minutes of the last Council meeting on 22nd February were approved subject to some amendments being put in place and signed off by the Chairman.

3. **Matters arising from the Minutes of the 22nd February 2016**

3.1 With reference to Paragraph 3.4 of the previous Minutes, the Chairman handed to the Clerk a quotation for £1560 inc VAT which had been submitted by the suppliers of the further defibrillator. It was agreed the Council should proceed to purchase the second defibrillator. The Chairman also handed the Clerk £10 received from a resident as a further donation to the defibrillators. This was in appreciation of the kit outside the shop being used in her case. **Action: Clerk**

3.2 With reference to Paragraph 12 of the previous Minutes, Cllr Marriott said he had investigated the recent flooding which he found was attributable to the adjacent willow trees. It was agreed that he be authorised to purchase a new tungsten carbide bit for his chainsaw with the object of cutting back the tree roots encasing the drain and to insert a reinforced covering to protect against ingress of tree roots. **Action: Cllr Marriott**

3.3 With reference to the recent flooding in The Valley, Cllrs Marriott and Loveridge had filled a significant quantity of sand bags to the point where their supply of sand had nearly run out. It was agreed that Cllr Marriott should purchase two industrial bags of sand to replace the sand which had been used up. **Action: Cllr Marriott**

4. **Report from WCC**

In the absence of Cllr Redford, there was no report

5. **Financial Matters**

(a) The Clerk reported that the balance on the operating account was approximately £29,308 and the balance on the investment account was approximately £29,200.

(b) A number of payments were approved including a payment to Cardiac Science in respect of the purchase of the second defibrillator. (See Paragraph 3.1 above)

(c) Due to the absence of information from WALC/NALC as to overall national pay settlements for Clerks and the Clerk's current position at the top of the relevant pay

spine, it was agreed to adjourn the review pending further review information being obtained from WALC.

- (d) An invoice for the Clerk's office support services was approved.

6. Correspondence

There was no correspondence apart from matters raised under other headings.

7. Neighbourhood Plan

It was acknowledged that action should be put in hand without delay for the preparation of a new Neighbourhood Plan. The Chairman had located someone who has shown enthusiasm for this and who hopefully could be persuaded to form the core of a working party.

Action: Chairman

8. Bus Shelter

Cllr Marriott reported that he had not heard recently from the alternative contractors favoured by the Council for the second bus shelter; he thought this was due to in-house illness etc. It was agreed that Cllrs Marriott, Loveridge and Hitchcox would comprise a working party to consolidate the commissioning of the new bus shelter along with responsibility as to the detail costings (to be within the parameters of the figures stated in Paragraph 8.3 of the Minutes of 22nd February.

The Clerk raised the question of whether it would be appropriate to obtain the approval/collaboration of the Highways Authority. Cllr Marriott thought that as the proposed installation was more than one metre from the edge of the highway it was not necessary. There appears to be an issue as to whether the land concerned is highway land or not in any event.

9. Speedwatch and Traffic Control

This item has been put on the Agenda at the request of Cllr J Malin who spoke to it. She felt it would be a useful adjunct to controlling the speed limit within the area of the Village but it was felt that this could be of doubtful benefit. It was agreed to put the matter on the Agenda for future discussion.

Action: Clerk

10. Report on Playing Field Matters and Play Equipment

- 10.1 Phase One of the playground works are due to start on Monday 4th April 2016 and are expected to take two weeks to complete.
- 10.2 WDC have formally confirmed the award of the RUCIS grant to the Council for the Third Party Funder payment for the grant application made to WREN for Phase Two of the playground works, up to a maximum of £3,800 ex VAT.
- 10.3 The outcome of the WREN grant application for £35,352 will be decided by their board on 27th April 2016.

11. Football pitches

- 11.1 The Clerk had circulated a letter from Terry Davidson to remind the Councillors that there had been a issue about a year ago about the state of the football pitches. This boiled down to players wanting a service but not contributing to the cost. Some years ago rental had been charged but he had not been authorised to collect rent from football

teams for many years. Cllr Sabin declared an interest on behalf of himself and the Sports & Social Club.

11.2 It was agreed that a working party comprising the Chairman, Cllr Chater & Cllr Sabin would discuss the position with the football teams to see if a level of compromise could be achieved. (Cllr Chater pointed out that the Community Hall funded the cost of the showers and changing rooms which was a service expected by the football teams of £150 pa towards heating costs.

11.3 Cllr Sabin made the point that the Council is entrusted with the municipal park as a whole as a playing field and not specifically as a football ground.

12. Scout Hut

Cllr Friar reported that he had not made any progress finding a new site for the Scout Hut or relevant funding but asked that the matter be left on the Agenda for the future.

Action: Clerk

13. Sports and Social Club Matters

Cllr A Malin reported that the recent flu type bug had overtaken him so he had been unable to attend a recent meeting of the Club Committee.

14. Report from Community Hall Committee

Cllr Loveridge reported a programme of refurbishment of the Community Hall. A sum of approximately £500 was to be spent on replacing the three main pendant lights in the Hall and attention to repair of the overhead spotlights is to be also carried out. A sum of approximately £3,000 is budgeted for internal redecoration.

15. 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 and a recent set had been received by the Clerk.

16. Defibrillators

The Chairman reviewed the situation. One is installed at the Village Shop, there are three on the Ricardo's commercial site and a fourth is projected at The White Lion site. It was contemplated that there should be another kit installed in the vicinity of Cedar Tree Farm on the Fosse Way.

17. Any Other Business

(a) There was a discussion about the state of roads and footpaths in the Village. A resident had sustained a fall on a footpath off the main road between Offchurch Lane and School Lane. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Highways Dept requesting repair. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr J Malin drew attention to the fact that other footpaths, such as Lewis Road, Hatherall Road and The Valley, are in need of repair.

- (b) There was a discussion about the bad state of parking and the speed of vehicles along Lewis Road. It was agreed to refer the matter to Cllr Redford.

Action: Cllr Redford

- (c) Cllr Loveridge asked whether Cllrs would participate in a celebration of the Queen's birthday on 12th June 2016. Members of St Nicholas' Church were going to organise a tea party at about 3.30pm to 5.30pm in the Community Hall. There would be entertainment from a jazz band.

18. Report from WDC and Planning Matters

- 18.1 Cllr Marriott left the meeting for this item. Significant discussion took place concerning the Village Envelope. This had recently been altered by WDC so as to include a larger area of the Village within a wider potential area for planning sites. The WDC objective is to increase the amount of land available for development within the WDC area as a whole. It was agreed that the Parish Council would formally oppose the extension of the village envelope. Closing date for objections is 22/3/16. Cllr Chater agreed to prepare a Paper based on previous concerns for developments affecting School Lane. The Clerk to liaise and sign the Paper on behalf of the Parish Council.
- 18.2 The potential for development in the Village is already an increase of approximately 400 homes. This level of development has occurred against WDC's previous Local Plan (2015) which required only fifty new homes in Radford Semele.. This is likely to increase further with the uncontrolled development which is now occurring within the Village.
- 18.3 An obvious site for development would be the Kingshill site between Stoneleigh and Coventry but the County Council had advised that several thousand houses built on that site would cause gridlock on the adjoining roads. WDC are therefore now only contemplating about 1,000 houses on that site. This means that they need to look elsewhere to make up numbers.
- 18.4 An inhibition on the number of houses that could be installed in the Village is the number of school children that the Village School could cope with but it appears that this equates to 150 houses.
- 18.5 An application for planning permission on the site next to Ricardo's has been made the subject of several conditions which are still being explored and processed through the Planning Office

19. Date of next meeting: 25th April 2016

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman of the Parish Council

Signed.....

Date.....

Clerk to the Parish Council