

# RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Community Hall, Lewis Road, Radford Semele, on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016 at 7.30 pm.

**Present:** Cllr D E Chater, Cllr B Friar, Cllr Mr A T Hitchcox, Cllr Mrs J Loveridge, Cllr A E Malin, Cllr Mrs J P Malin and Cllr S P Sabin.

**Also present:** WDC Cllr Michael Doody

### 1. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year

- 1.1 The Clerk began the meeting by asking for nominations for the office of Chairman, it being the relevant first meeting of the year when the new Chairman had to be elected (and preferably also election of vice-chairman and committees). WDC Cllr Doody made it clear that he was not undertaking the office of chairman again.
- 1.2 A proposal was put forward to nominate him as Chairman but he declined the nomination. He then wished to address the meeting to explain why he did not want the nomination as Chairman and he proposed to resign from the Parish Council.
- 1.3 The Clerk advised that the meeting was not duly constituted by law until a chairman was elected and called for another nomination. At that point WDC Cllr Doody withdrew from the meeting.
- 1.4 The Clerk called for an alternative nomination and Cllr Chater was proposed as temporary Chairman by Cllr Sabin, seconded by Cllr Loveridge which proposal was approved by all present. It was agreed that Cllr Chater should occupy the post of Chairman on a temporary basis, subject to review at the next meeting of the Parish Council on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2016. **Action: Clerk**
- 1.5 The Clerk advised that it would be in good order to elect a vice chairman and it was agreed that consideration should be left in abeyance (as also the question of committees).

### 2. Apologies for absence: Cllr B Follett and Cllr H E J Marriott

### 3. Minutes of the Council meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016

The Minutes of the last Council meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> May were approved (including an amendment to paragraph 11 which had been requested by WDC Cllr Doody and was approved by the Council).

### 4. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2016

- 4.1 There was no further feedback from the Police regarding the issue of speeding and parking on Lewis Road. A report from them had been expected. In the ensuing discussion, it was suggested that a refuge at the junction of Lewis Road and the A425 could be a useful adjunct to stop drivers from turning across the junction sharply and at speed. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Police over the issue of the report and the suggestion of improving the junction. **Action: Clerk**

- 4.2 The Clerk reported that he had previously thought that the Police wanted the entry code to the CCTV system but in correspondence with them since it appears they want the pin code for the defibrillator outside the Village Shop. It was pointed out that the Police could dial 999 like anyone else and obtain the code. The Clerk is to advise them.

**Action: Clerk**

## **5. Report from WCC**

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

## **6. Financial Matters**

- (a) The Clerk reported that the investment account contained a balance of approximately £24,250 and the operating account contained a balance of approximately £5,900.
- (b) The Council approved a number of payments including the Clerk's subscription to SLCC. The Clerk confirmed that Ludus Leisure Ltd had been paid their charges for the installation of Phase 1 of the children's play equipment area.
- (c) The Clerk had just received notice from WALC of the concluded pay negotiations between NALC and the unions but had not had an opportunity to digest the figures or discuss them with the Finance Committee; it was agreed that the matter be reviewed at the next Council Meeting.

**Action: Clerk**

- (d) The Clerk reported that he had today received from his outsource bookkeeper a set of accounts for the year end 31<sup>st</sup> March; these would be put before the Internal Auditor shortly so as to complete the Annual Return; the Clerk tabled the Financial Statement as unaudited figures.

## **7. Correspondence**

- 7.1 The Clerk had received a common form letter from the Secretary to WALC drawing attention to the fact that grants for local residents who had connections with the Armed Forces were available and were worth enquiry.
- 7.2 The Clerk had received correspondence from Adrian Jones who was questioning the arrangements for the new play equipment; the Clerk understood that Cllr Follett is dealing with the correspondence with this gentleman.
- 7.3 The Clerk had received a report from the local defibrillator group which he had not had an opportunity to discuss with the Council due to the departure of their representative at the outset of this meeting. He will put it on the Agenda for the next meeting.

**Action: Clerk**

- 7.4 The Clerk had been engaged in considerable correspondence with a lady who is keen to belong to the core of a group to create the Neighbourhood Plan; she is now in touch with Cllr Friar and it was hoped that she could form part of the backbone of a suitable group. (See item below)

- 7.5 The Clerk had received a copy of the estimate of Phase 2 of the play equipment from Ludus Leisure which had been addressed to Mrs Northey; as Cllr Follett was not present to speak to it, it was agreed that it would be put on the Agenda for the next meeting. (The Clerk said that the quoted price was approximately £31,000)

**Action: Clerk**

## 8. Neighbourhood Plan

- 8.1 Cllr Chater said it was heartening that the lady mentioned was interested in the Neighbourhood Plan and it was essential that the Parish Council should press on to promote the formation of a group. It was recalled that some time ago it had been suggested that the working party for a Plan should consult with the Head of Planning Services, Tracey Darke, who had previously advised Cllr Chater and the Clerk that her department would be available to assist/train the relevant group in the creation of a neighbourhood plan.
- 8.2 It was agreed that Cllr Friar (who was present) and Cllr Follett (who was not present) should form a steering group from the Council to gather sufficient people to form a working party. **Action: Cllrs Friar & Follett**

## 9. Bus Shelter

The Clerk confirmed that following the direction of the Council at the last meeting he had written to the manufacturers to order the production of a new bus shelter in accordance with the physical specification and price which the Council had previously examined and had approved. He was however concerned that the project should not be jeopardised by difficulties such as lack of approval from the Highways Dept and/or Planning Office. He had written to the Highways Dept for their comments/approval and was awaiting a response. Although the view had been expressed by WDC Cllr Doody earlier that planning permission was not required, the Clerk advised that it would be wise to check the position. It was agreed that he should do and meanwhile arrange for the manufacturers to put on hold the production of the new shelter. **Action: Clerk**

## 10. Speedwatch and Traffic Control

There was nothing further to report on this. Cllr J Malin was asked to speak to it. Following that it was agreed to leave the matter in abeyance as such but the Clerk should take up the issues with the Police when he made contact with them concerning Lewis Road. **Action: Clerk**

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

In the absence of Cllr Follett, the Clerk reported that Ludus Leisure had been paid (see above) and they were now engaged in discussion with Mrs Northey and Cllr Follett to follow it to the next phase. The Clerk was not up to date with action taken by Cllr Follett for financing – to provide a report at the next Council Meeting. **Action: Cllr Follett**

## 12. Football pitches

Cllr Chater reported that he and Cllr Sabin had discussions with representatives from the football clubs, in particular Terry Davidson. Some accommodation had been reached in their discussions. It had been agreed with Terry Davidson that should he wish to use the pitch from September 2017 he should formally make a request to the Parish Council. The existing user team, which is a non village organisation, would then be requested to make alternative arrangements. Early notification is vital to secure the changeover. **Action: Clerk**

## 13. Scout Hut

Cllr Friar reported lack of progress on this; the Scouts are still looking for a location and funding - possibly the location of the new site being constructed by Bovis Homes at Southam Road. It was agreed that this matter should be left on the Agenda for further discussion as appropriate. **Action: Clerk**

#### **14. Sports and Social Club Matters**

- 14.1 Cllr Tony Malin said he had been ill on the occasion of the previous meeting of the management Committee of the Club and was unable to go but by chance Cllr Chater had become involved as he was in the Club premises for another purpose. The feedback was that the Management seemed to be in better shape than a year or so ago. Finances are in better shape and there is a more positive outlook.
- 14.2 There was a discussion as to whether the toilets in the Community Hall used by the Club could be refurbished and at whose cost; It was known that the Club would be seeking financial support. It was questioned whether the Parish Council might at a future date consider a contribution to the Club as it was a facility used by many in the village.
- 14.3 Whilst the toilets are used to a large extent by the members of the Club, they are used by other members of the public. The matter is to be reviewed by the Council.  
**Action: Clerk**

#### **15. Report from Community Hall Committee**

Cllr Loveridge reported that there is a project to redecorate the interior of the Hall and box in overhead pipes to improve the general amenity of the Hall.

#### **16. Village School Matters**

No report had been received.

#### **17. Report from WDC and Planning Matters**

- 17.1 In the absence of WDC Cllr Michael Doody, there was no update on the Local Plan.
- 17.2 It was observed that the Bovis site on Southam Road comprised seven types of houses from which Cllr Sabin had calculated that the turnover to be made by Bovis on the total number of houses was approximately £13M.
- 17.3 There was a discussion as to the deplorable outcome of the Planning Committee's decisions on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016. It was felt that the Planning Committee were given a trite briefing by the Planning Officers whose hidden agenda is to have the applications approved to achieve a quiet life. It was noted that the chief planning officer had actually said at the hearing there was little point in refusing the applications because on appeal the applicants would win and this would possibly cause time and effort and cost for the WDC Planning Office. The Parish Council felt this was a negative attitude and expressed concern at the outcome put by the planning office has in effect created a risk to the Village of an increase in housing of approximately 50%.
- 17.4 There was discussion as to whether a letter should be written to the MP for the area or the MP of the urban area of Leamington and Warwick; it was agreed that Cllr Sabin would draft the basis of a letter to Jeremy Wright, MP, to be comprised in a formal letter from the Clerk by way of complaint.  
**Action: Cllr Sabin & Clerk**

**18. Any Other Business**

The only item raised was by the Clerk as to the formation of committees; it was agreed that this should be left in abeyance for the time being and put on the Agenda for the next meeting.  
**Action: Clerk**

**19. Date of next meeting: 27<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

The meeting ended at 8.45pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

**Chairman of the Parish Council**

Signed.....

Date.....

**Clerk to the Parish Council**