

RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Community Hall, Lewis Road, Radford Semele, on Monday 26th September 2016 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr D E Chater (in the chair), Cllr B Follett, Cllr B Friar, Cllr 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

In attendance: -

1. **Apologies for absence:** WCC Cllr W Redford and WDC Cllr M Doody

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

The Minutes of the meeting on 25th July were approved (proposed by Cllr Loveridge and seconded by Cllr J Malin).

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

3.1 It was noted that the rubbish bin on the Southam Road was overflowing and had not been attended to recently. The Clerk is to write to WDC to counteract the problem with a larger or second bin. **Action: Clerk**

3.2 It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council should be on 24th October 2016 instead of the projected date of the end of that month. (This is due to the absence abroad of the Clerk at that time.)

3.3 It was agreed that the Chairman of WDC, Cllr Jane Knight, be invited to attend a meeting of the Council on 24th October – the Clerk to confirm early provisional arrangements. **Action: Clerk**

3.4 It was noted that despite a letter prepared by the Chairman and the Clerk and sent to the MP, Jeremy Wright, no substantive response had been received. The Clerk to chase up a response. **Action: Clerk**

3.5 The Clerk reported that he had approached his business contact with reference to the graffiti on the rear wall of the Community Hall and his contact is looking into this; the Clerk to chase up. **Action: Clerk**

4. **Report on matters from Warwickshire County Council**

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

4.2 It was observed that WCC have a contact/help line called 'Fix My Street'; it is possible to contact this facility and ask for specific attention be given to a specific location.

5. **Report on matters from Warwick District Council**

In the absence of WDC Cllr Doody, there was no report but it was confirmed to the Clerk that Cllr Doody has challenged the planning application in respect of The Valley; his challenge will result in a hearing before the Planning Committee in due course.

6. Financial Matters

- (a) The Clerk confirmed that the balance in the investment account is approximately £24,250 and the balance in the operating account is approximately £3,600.
- (b) A number of payments were approved, in particular a retrospective payment to C J L Warr in respect of annual maintenance of the website, payment to the Clerk of the relevant quarter's salary of £1,221.35, a payment to HMRC in respect of that in the sum of £144.20 and a payment of £12 expenses due to the Chairman in respect of distribution costs on notices and a payment of £489.18 to Mr H E Marriott in respect of groundworks.
- (c) The Clerk tabled a schedule of donations made in the previous financial year and a discussion ensued as to whether those donations would be paid in the current year. It was agreed that the donations to the same institutions with the same amounts in the previous year should be made. The Clerk to action. **Action: Clerk**

7. Vacancy for Parish Councillor

The Clerk confirmed that the relevant notice period to the public had had now expired and he had been advised by the Electoral Registration Officer that it was open to the Council to seek co-option of a replacement councillor. It was noted that a suitable person had not been identified although the Clerk referred previously to a possible person he could approach but it was agreed to leave that for the time being. This is to be put on the Agenda for the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

8. Correspondence

- 8.1 The Clerk had received an email request from a presenter with the local BBC seeking an interview with one or more Councillors and the Clerk about planning applications in the neighbourhood. A discussion ensued in which the Clerk advised that, in the face of current planning applications, it would be unwise to participate in such an interview. It was agreed that the invitation would not be accepted.
- 8.2 The Clerk reported that the former Chairman of the Council, Jon Whitehead, had asked when it came to naming new streets in the developments around the Village, one could be named in commemoration of his late father, Mr Derek Whitehead.

9. Neighbourhood Plan

- 9.1 Cllr Friar reported that there had been a useful meeting of the FORGE group in respect of the Neighbourhood Plan on 9th September 2016. Mr Olly Aries of Offchurch Lane had made a significant contribution. He was due to approach Mr Dave Barber of WDC (Local Plan Co-ordinator) on 29th September 2016 for guidance on the basic preparation of the Plan. It was noted that it would be useful to enter the Council's details in a register of interests contained by WDC; although this was not the same as registration of the Plan itself, it had the potential to create a pause for a progression of development in the area of the Village. It was agreed that the Clerk should arrange for registration of the interest. **Action: Clerk**
- 9.2 The Clerk reported that he had identified a potential contact in the Canalside Trust who were based in Birmingham, and he had written to this individual to see if the co-operation of the Trust could be obtained in improving footpath facility with access to the canal from the A425. He had yet to receive a response.

10. Report concerning Bus Shelter

Cllr Marriott reported that he had discussed the current position with the manufacturers of the bus shelter; they had supplied to him the name of a construction contractor with whom they work alongside on a regular basis. He had ordered a competitive quotation from this contractor but it was disappointing. The Clerk advised that in a contract of this nature and amount, it was appropriate for the Council to obtain competitive tenders. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Highways Dept for a list of contractors versed in this type of work and so that tenders could be obtained. **Action: Clerk**

11. Issues around Speedwatch and Traffic Control

There was a brief discussion and disappointment as to Police action in respect of yellow lines in Lewis Road and Hatherall Road. It was recognised that the Speedwatch Scheme was potentially ineffective and it was agreed that this item should be removed from the Agenda for the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

12. Report on the Playing Field and Play Equipment

- 12.1 The Clerk reported that he had exchanged contracts with the suppliers of the play equipment (Phase Two) following confirmation that WREN funding had not only been approved but confirmed the facility had been confirmed in writing and that the Council's documentation was in order.
- 12.2 The Clerk had been advised by the contractors that they had ordered the equipment from Sweden (place of manufacture) and were in the course of preparing a program of works and men on site when the equipment arrived on site.
- 12.3 Cllr Follett confirmed this position and said that he had been advised that site work should start in early November and be concluded in about 2 weeks.
- 12.4 Cllr Follett and the Clerk confirmed that in respect of the complaint from the neighbour in Godfrey Close as to the height of the towers of the current equipment (Phase One) a compromise with the resident had been achieved and the contractors had ordered replacement equipment from Sweden. The resident had been advised.
- 12.5 Cllr Follett said that it had been a condition of the funding project that a plaque be put up on the equipment to inform the public; he had purchased the plaque and installed it – the Clerk confirmed that the retrospective payment to Cllr Follett had been approved earlier in the meeting was in respect of this.

13. Update on Scout Hut project

There was nothing to report.

14. Report on Sports and Social Club Matters

Cllr Tony Malin reported that decorating had been carried out and new chairs installed.

15. Report from Community Hall Committee

Cllr Loveridge reported that the decorations were now in place (the Council had noted that at this meeting). A satisfactory audit had been recently carried out by Mrs Hodge.

16. Update on any School Matters

There was nothing to report.

17. Report on current Planning Matters

17.1 The Chairman said that all were aware of the recent outline planning permission and there was no need to debate those at this meeting. It was noted that a tree preservation order had been made in respect of a tree in Chance Fields.

17.2 All Cllrs were aware of the application in respect of The Valley; it was confirmed that the Chairman and the Clerk had prepared a submission in opposition to the planning application and this had been lodged by the Clerk.

18. Risk Assessment Analysis / Policy

The Clerk had tabled a copy of the Risk Analysis/Policy which had last been approved for the year 2014/2015. He saw no need to amend it. It was agreed that it would be approved for the current year 2016/2017.

19. Any Other Business

(a) The Chairman outlined the current position on the installation of the defibrillator on an external wall of The White Lion Public House. He explained that a quotation for electrical work had been obtained and agreed and thought had been given to whether a listed building consent was required for that particular part of the pub (which is recognised as not being part of the older building which is listed). Following an equivocal response being received from a Planning Officer, it had been decided to lodge an application for listed building consent which the Clerk had deal with. A response was awaited.

(b) Cllr Marriott drew attention to the deplorable amount of plastic items found in the canal, both floating and wedged against the sides of the canal. Although this is outside the remit of the Council, it was felt that an expression of disappointment with the cleanliness of the canal should be recorded.

(c) It was noted that on 27th August 2016, due to exceptional rainfall, some of the drains in the area were unable to contain sewage which floated free. There appears to be an issue between WCC and Severn Trent as to who is responsible for maintaining these drains in the highway.

20. Date of next meeting: 24th October 2016

The meeting ended at 8.45pm.

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

Chairman of the Parish Council

Counter signed..... Date.....

Clerk to the Parish Council