

# RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Community Hall, Lewis Road, Radford Semele, on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at 7.30 pm.

**Present:** Cllr M Doody (in the chair), Cllr D E Chater, Cllr B Follett, Cllr B W Friar, 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:** Mr Bill Sandhu (for part of the meeting) representing the defibrillator group  
Mrs Naomi Northey and others interested in the play equipment project

### 1. Report on defibrillators

- i. The Chairman had received the total sum of £1189.13 by way of donation towards the purchase of a defibrillator kit and he confirmed that this would be banked by the Clerk as a ring fenced sum in respect of defibrillators. An acknowledgement of receipt of this sum was issued to Mr Sandhu.
- ii. The expectation is that a grant of about £950 could be obtained on the Neighbourhood Forum. The next meeting of the Forum is on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015 – the Chairman said he would brief WCC Redford who will be attending the Forum in the hope that an application for funds might be pursued through Cllr Redford. The Chairman indicated that the Parish Council will see fit to put in a contribution. **Action: Chairman & Cllr Chater**
- iii. Cllr Sabin asked what was the outcome of enquiries on the whereabouts of the defibrillator which the Council paid for a year or so earlier; the Chairman said that in the course of the enquiry about the old defibrillator in the context of purchasing further defibrillators he had established that the equipment was still in the possession of the young lady resident of the Village but she had indicated that it was being used in a location wider than the Village and he pointed out that the Council had seen fit to make a donation without condition when the kit was acquired by her.
- iv. The Chairman explored briefly the location of sites other than outside the Village Shop and the potential sites were the White Lion, the gate house at Riccardo's premises and a site in the location of Cedar Tree Farm. These avenues to be explored

### 2. Circular delivered by the Rosconn Group

In respect to their proposals for the development of a site in Southam Road.. The purpose of the circular (as delivered to Councillors) was to canvass support from the Parish Council for the scheme. Cllr Marriott declared an interest in the matter and it was agreed that he could remain in the meeting in light of the following. IT WAS RESOLVED that the matter would not be debated and that the Council would not publish any observations on the proposals.

### 3. Play Equipment Project

- a) A short presentation was made by Mrs Northey as to the state of progress on application for grant of funding. She also gave an indication of pricing for the project which is approximately £30,000. A short debate ensued from which the following emerged:-

- b) The way forward with the above project to be put in place as soon as possible if the grant of funding came through with input from the Parish Council. The sum to be further discussed. The second project also costing £30,000 would be considered as a second stage.
- c) A feasibility study be prepared as to the items to be installed under the first tranche of financing. **Action: Cllr Follett & Mrs Northey**
- d) The swing which had been in store at Cllr Marriott's premises be installed as soon as possible in order to make a start on the project. (It was noted that this installation would not interfere with the planning of the rest of the project.) **Action: Cllr Marriott**

**4. Apologies for Absence:** Apologies from WCC Cllr W Redford were accepted.

The Council noted with sadness that former Cllr Brian Willis (a distinguished member of the Council) died in August. The Clerk had attended his funeral.

**5. Minutes of the Council meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

The Minutes of the last Council meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2015 were approved with minor amendments – the Clerk to rectify the typed record. **Action: Clerk**

**6. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

With reference to:

Clause 6.2 Cllr Chater reported that confirmation had now been received from Jonathan Huxley of WDC that WDC will be responsible for emptying the litter bins on the Playing Field.

Clause 10 It was noted that planning permission had been granted for the alterations to Radford Barn .

Clause 19(a) The Clerk reported that WCC had apparently had responded to his correspondence because builders advertising sign had been removed.

Clause 19(b) Cllr Sabin raised the question of how the hazard from chippings was to be dealt with; he thought some action should be taken. The Council thought that there was a potential difficulty in dealing with the matter and it should be further reviewed. The Clerk declared an interest as one of the households concerned was known to him in his professional capacity.

**7. WCC Matters**

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

**8. WDC Matters**

The Chairman reporting from WDC, as a member of that authority, said there was now a move towards an element of housing in the Kingshill area between Coventry and Kenilworth/Leamington. The rejection of the WDC Local Plan by the Government earlier this year resulted in a push to find more sites for housing; the view taken was that the local area of Warwickshire could absorb more housing for the benefit of Coventry so that the Kingshill site was on the way to being confirmed as this is a convenient site for Coventry.

## 9. Financial Matters

- 9.1 The Clerk reported that the balance on the investment account was approximately £19,200 and the balance on the operating account was approximately £14,400.
- 9.2 The Council approved a number of payments following explanation from the Clerk; (a schedule of these approved payments have been filed with these Minutes). Retrospective approval to action by the Chairman and the Clerk was given in respect of three of the items. The Clerk's pay for the second quarter of the year being the net sum of £1,209.95 was approved and also approved was the tax payment on that sum. The payment of £144 to H E Marriott was approved for work carried out on tree lopping adjacent to Lay Gardens.
- 9.3 The Chairman of the Finance Committee (Cllr Chater) tabled a revised analysis of the Council's budget for the current year; this was accepted. The Clerk confirmed that would assist in his preparation of the paperwork for the Precept for the forthcoming year 2016/2017.

## 10. Annual Donations

The Clerk had tabled a list of regular donations undertaken by the Council in previous years in accordance with the Council's custom of considering the donations annually at their September meetings. It was agreed that the same amounts should be given to the same donees as in the previous year 2014/2015 and recorded in the schedule filed with these Minutes.

## 11. Chairman's Allowance

The Chairman stated that, notwithstanding the proposal by the Council at the previous meeting that he should have an allowance of £200, he had decided not to pick up the allowance.

## 12. Correspondence

There was only one significant item of correspondence – the Clerk reminded Councillors there was a relevant training course organised by WALC on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2015 and it would be of benefit to new Councillors to attend the course.

## 13. Planning Matters

- 13.1 The Planning Committee looked at a number of applications; one in particular for Slade Meadow and Ashley House. There had been nothing contentious but the main issue for the Council was the siting of the footpath giving pedestrian access to the new development by Bovis Homes on the Southam Road. The current position is uncertain and therefore unsatisfactory. Cllr Sabin expressed the view that there ought to be a form of zebra crossing at a suitable position for residents of the new site together with others in the Village could cross and recross the busy A425 road. The Chairman said he would make enquiries with the WDC Planning Dept to see how the matter was progressing. **Action: Chairman**
- 13.2 There was debate about funding being passed to the Parish Council as a result of new Section 106 Agreements with the developers of the site in Southam Road and the developers of the site in Spring Lane. To date no details of potential funds for the Parish Council have been revealed. The Clerk has not had a response to his correspondence.

- 13.3 It was noted that the two sites have the potential of creating 125 new homes for the Village so that the financial return at the start of a Section 106 Agreement should be significant. The Chairman will pursue this with the WDC Planning Dept in the light of the fact that the Clerk had not had replies to correspondence. **Action: Chairman**

#### **14. Neighbourhood Plan**

The Clerk had tabled a document prepared by a private consultant (Peter Edwards) offering assistance with developing a Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk had also circulated copies of an email received from Warwickshire Rural Community Council; both these quarters were offering assistance on developing a Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed to review this when a working party could be established.

#### **15. Bus Shelter**

Cllr Loveridge was keen to pursue the project of a bus shelter to be positioned at Church Lane to facilitate, in the main, school children travelling to and from schools at Southam and Leamington. The views expressed by the Councillors were divided as to whether it is a project to be adopted; the two main issues are whether it is necessary and whether the Council can afford funding in view of its other commitments. It was agreed that a working party would review the project and update it from when it was last considered, including its costings. **Action: Cllrs Loveridge & Cllr Marriott**

#### **16. Playing Field Matters**

Cllr Marriott reported the successful outcome of his attention to heavy tree growth with complicated undergrowth in the vicinity of Lay Gardens following on a complaint by a resident. The action to commission the work by the Clerk and Cllr Marriott was approved including his invoice for the work.

#### **17. Play Equipment**

There was nothing to add in addition to the above.

#### **18. Scout Hut**

It was acknowledged to Cllr Friar (on behalf of the Scout Group) that provision of premises specifically for the Scout Group would be an asset but it was recognised that the cost will be considerable. It was agreed that Cllr Friar would organise a report with costings of a potential project and bring this back to the Council. **Action: Cllr Friar**

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

- 19.1 Cllr A Malin reported that, from the point of view of the management of the Club, there was nothing to report.
- 19.2 Cllr Chater expressed his concern that, on behalf of the Community Hall, he had procured a new lease to be prepared (with consequent legal and surveyors costs), that the lease had been signed by the Trustees of the Community Hall but had not been signed by the Trustees of the Club. He was concerned that the matter was drifting without a satisfactory outcome. It had been indicated by the Club that of the two Trustees nominated to sign the lease on behalf of the Club, one was willing to do so but the other was not. No satisfactory reason had been given for that.

19.3 The Council acknowledged the concern on behalf of the Community Hall but took the view that it was not a matter for this meeting of the Council.

## 20. Community Hall Matters

Cllr Chater reiterated his concern about the outstanding signature of the lease. It was noted that the matter would be further reviewed at a meeting of the Community Hall Management Committee the following day. Advice would be obtained from the lawyer who prepared the lease.

## 21. Village School Matters

It was noted with regret that there was no report in respect of the School. It was agreed that Cllr Loveridge would approach former Councillor Rev Pickford, to see if reports could regularly be brought by her to the Council. **Action: Cllr Loveridge**

## 22. Any Other Business

(a) The Clerk reissued Forms of Declaration of Interest to those Councillors who had not previously completed them (he had three in hand but the remainder were outstanding). It was agreed that they would all be completed promptly. Anyone with difficulty in completing the form should consult with the Clerk. Pending completion of the documents, the Council was in default of the rules of local authority procedure. **Action: All Cllrs and Clerk**

(b) The Clerk said it had been reported that attention that the footpath outside the old police house was seriously overgrown and needed attention. Traditionally WCC had been slow to deal with it. Cllr Marriott said he would deal with the matter as soon as possible. **Action: Cllr Marriott**

(c) The Chairman said he was keen to promote the installation of flowering bulbs around the Village to brighten it up. He had received a comprehensive brochure from a bulb producer which the Clerk had located. It was agreed that the Chairman should organise the purchase of about 1,000 bulbs which were calculated to cost approximately £300/£400 to be distributed to different sites in the Village. **Action: Chairman**

(d) The Clerk reported that he was having ongoing difficulties in respect of the flower planters at Hallfields because of bureaucratic procedures by the insurers but he will pursue it. **Action: Clerk**

(e) The Chairman said that he had received a request for a grit box to be purchased by the Council and installed at Chance Fields. It was acknowledged that the cost of a box was fairly low but the real question was where it should be sited. It was agreed that the Chairman and Cllr Chater would look into this and report back. **Action: Chairman & Cllr Chater**

23. **Date of next meeting:** 26<sup>th</sup> October 2015

**The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.**

Signed.....

Date.....

**Chairman of the Parish Council**

Signed.....

Date.....

**Clerk to the Parish Council**