

# **RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES**

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Community Hall, Lewis Road, Radford Semele, on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at 7.30 pm.

**Present:** Cllr D E Chater (in the Chair), Cllr Mrs J A Edwards, Cllr Mrs J Loveridge, Cllr A J Malin, Cllr Mrs J P Malin, Cllr Rev K Pickford, Cllr F Walsh and Cllr J M Whitehead  
Cllr H E Marriott attended at 8pm

**In attendance:** WDC Cllr Michael Doody and WCC Cllr Wallace Redford

**1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Mrs N Fleuty

**2. WDC Matters – The Local Plan**

Cllr Walsh made a Declaration of Interest in this subject. Cllr Marriott was not present for Item 2.

- 2.1 The Chairman outlined the process of consultation that he and the Clerk had put underway on behalf of the Parish Council. A circular had been distributed to almost every household in the Village drawing their attention to the opportunity to complete a Local Plan Response Form and file it with WDC. The Chairman had also invited the recipients to return their forms to him for lodgement with WDC or (if they preferred) lodge them direct.
- 2.2 On a rough calculation, about 10% of the population had responded. A number had lodged their sealed envelopes with the Chairman and a number of residents had lodged open forms with him.
- 2.3 The Clerk had personally lodged both categories of forms at Riverside House before the deadline of the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2014.
- 2.4 The Chairman and the Clerk and some Councillors had visited the presentation given by WDC Executives in the Community Hall on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2014. Both the feedback from comments made by residents to the Chairman and the Clerk and the forms subsequently lodged with WDC indicated that the majority of residents had favoured Sites 2 or 3 identified under the Local Plan Consultation document and were opposed to Site 1.
- 2.5 The Chairman prepared a detailed response on behalf of the Parish Council and had included in it a statistical analysis of residents observations. The document had been lodged with the WDC together with a schedule of the residents identified from the Open Response forms. The Clerk had retained a copy of the schedule and the forms for future reference.
- 2.6 WDC Cllr Doody said that he was opposed to Site 1 and was in support of Site 3. He will continue to object to Site 1 on the basis that the escalation of traffic flow on the highway may cause a problem with the selection of this site. He had discussed with

WCC Cllr Redford the way forward to obtain WCC observations on traffic flow to put in front of any meeting of the WDC Planning Committee which is likely to consider the various sites in The Local Plan.

- 2.7 WDC Cllr Doody pointed out that if a meeting of the Planning Committee has to consider an application and there are no observations from, say, WCC on traffic flow, then the Committee has to proceed without that information.
- 2.8 He said that, in theory, there could be applications for all four sites identified in The Local Plan Consultation document. The next meeting of the Planning Committee, he advised, is on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2014.
- 2.9 It was noted that 4<sup>th</sup> February 2014 there is to be a presentation at the Community Hall by A C Lloyds in promotion of Site 4. This is an open meeting at 4 – 8 pm. The Chairman said he would not be attending as he will be abroad; the Clerk was committed elsewhere on that date.
- 2.10 The Clerk drew attention to the fact that the Chairman had spent many laborious hours in preparing a number of drafts of the documents which were then circulated publicly including the final response which numbered six pages. The Council expressed its appreciation to the Chairman for all his hard work.

### **3. Minutes of the Council meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

The Minutes were approved, proposed by Cllr Whitehead and seconded by Cllr Pickford.

### **4. Police Matters**

The Clerk reported the receipt of two newsletters by email and also an information email was received advertising a crime and safety event being run by the Police at Warwickshire College at Moreton Morrell on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2014 with particular reference to crime prevention for farms and rural businesses.

### **5. WCC Matters**

- 5.1 WCC Cllr Redford said there was nothing to report. The Clerk reported that he had, since the last meeting, a response to his correspondence from the WCC Road Safety Unit. They said they had the matter in hand; Cllr Doody observed that the Unit had been seen in action in Offchurch Lane; they appeared to be addressing the traffic coming out of the Village towards Offchurch as much as traffic coming inwards – Councillors were pleased to note this as the issue of outward going traffic had been canvassed for some time.
- 5.2 The Clerk reported that he had the Chairman's approval written to WCC concerning Dunbar House; the Clerk had observed over the Christmas holiday that further steps had been taken by the occupier to block up the footpath at the rear of the property; substantial fences had been put up at each end of the footpath which clearly indicate that the occupier wished to forcefully exclude members of the public. The Clerk had accordingly drawn WCC's attention to this. Cllr Redford said that the case was coming up in Court in February.

## **6. WDC Matters – General**

- 6.1 Cllr Doody said that the budget time for the WDC is 9<sup>th</sup> April 2014.
- 6.2 He said it is likely that there will be a revised Local Plan produced, arising out of the Consultation which has just been concluded. It is expected that next year (ie 2015) a final decision about the housing programme will be made.
- 6.3 He said there will also be decisions to be made about Village envelopes and the allocation of gypsy sites. Both these items are still outstanding.
- 6.4 The Clerk enquired whether the MP (Chris White) was making any progress with an overall reduction in the number of houses; Cllr Doody expressed the view that he had not made any impact.

## **7. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

- 7.1 The Clerk said he and the Chairman had put out an invitation to the Chairman of Bubbenhall Parish Council to come and speak on 27<sup>th</sup> January but after a brief acknowledgement the Clerk had not heard any more. It is to be assumed that his interest in coming to speak has dropped off since the Gateway project has been called in by the Minister.
- 7.2 Other matters are dealt with elsewhere in these Minutes.

## **8. Finance and Accounts**

- 8.1 The Clerk reported that the amount on the investment account was approximately £21,200. The amount on the operating account was approximately £5,800.
- 8.2 The Council approved a number of payments including six retrospective approvals for action taken by the Chairman and the Clerk during the recess from the last meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2013. The Council also approved payment of the Clerk's pay for the third quarter; the net sum of £1,137.60. A payment was made to H E Marriott of £1,000 + VAT for extensive works carried out by him on the Playing Field. Approval of the payments was proposed by Cllr Whitehead and seconded by Cllr Pickford.
- 8.3 The Chairman reported that Financial Statements for the purposes of submitting the Precept had been completed by the Clerk and himself. The Precept to be claimed this year will keep the Parish Council's income at the same level as the last two years. Taking into account the Special Grant, the income would be £19,523 (the same as the previous year). The Chairman asked for the Council's approval – the Precept was approved unanimously.

## **9. Correspondence**

- 9.1 An invitation had again been received for a representative from the Parish Council to be put forward in the draw for a ticket to the Royal Garden Party this year. With some reluctance on his part, the Chairman was proposed unanimously by the Council to be nominated for this.

- 9.2 The Clerk had received a request from the Clerk of Bishops Tachbrook for information as to the cost of the new bus shelter recently erected by the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Clerk would provide a response.

#### **10. Report from the Planning Committee**

Cllr Walsh reported that there was nothing to report.

#### **11. Report from the Playing Field Committee**

- 11.1 The Chairman thanked Cllr Marriott for the extensive work carried out on the Playing Field to refurbish the aerial ropeway.

- 11.2 Cllr Marriot drew attention to the potentially serious condition of the large willow tree in the corner of the Playing Field adjacent to buildings. It was agreed that the Clerk should commission three quotations from experts in tree-logging and felling to ascertain what they would advise by way of treatment for the tree and the likely costs.

- 11.3 The Chairman reported on his observation that a householder in Lay Gardens had constructed a shed in their rear garden which clearly came across the boundary into the Playing Field. The Chairman was in the process of identifying the householder with the object of a letter being sent to the householder requesting the repositioning of the shed.

**Action: Chairman & Clerk**

- 11.4 The Clerk reported on a complaint which had been referred to him through WDC (having received the original complaint from a member of the public). This raised the issue of the large hole which had been observed in the Playing Field near to the skateboard area. It was agreed that Cllrs Marriott and Whitehead would investigate.

**Action: Cllrs Marriott and Whitehead**

- 11.5 The condition of the play area was discussed; it was acknowledged that some work needed to be done but the view expressed was to see what transpired from the application for Lottery Funding currently undertaken by the group of local parents.

#### **12. Report from the Finance Committee**

There was nothing in addition to matters mentioned above.

#### **13. Report from the Sports and Social Club Committee**

Cllr A. Malin said the Club had done well at Christmas but had recently been presented with substantial bills for central heating repairs; these were for of £1800 + VAT of £360 and for £450 with VAT of £90.00. The question was whether their funds were robust enough to be able to support that. It was agreed that Cllr Malin would obtain a report from the Club for presentation at the next Parish Council meeting.

**Action: Cllr Malin**

#### **14. Report from the Village Emergency Committee**

Cllr Edwards reported there was nothing to report.

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

- 15.1 Cllr Loveridge reported that bookings were up so from the revenue side the Community Hall was busy.
- 15.2 The Chairman said that following the rejection by WDC of the grant application for the refurbishment of the heating system the Community Hall Committee were looking at alternative ways of funding the project and it may be the case of the Parish Council providing a grant to them.

**16. Report from the School Governors**

Cllr Pickford reported there had not been a recent Governors meeting and accordingly there was nothing to report.

**17. Any Other Business**

- (a) The Chairman had observed that the footpath on the Playing Field adjacent to the Community Hall was in need of repair. Cllr Whitehead pointed out that the linear measurement of the path was significant in terms that if tarmac and edging were to be used there would be a considerable cost for the manpower and time involved. It might be better to go for simply resiting the existing flagstones. It was agreed that the Chairman and Cllr Whitehead would look into the cost.

**Action: Chairman & Cllr Whitehead**

- (b) Cllr Whitehead said he had received a request as to whether the grass area in front of the Village shop 'the Village Green' could be available for purchase from WCC. WDC Cllr Doody said that a request had been received in the past and each time it was put forward it was refused.

- (c) Cllr J Malin said that she had received representations for more board space inside the bus shelter for the public to put up notices. It was agreed that the amount of the facility at present was on the small side and the Chairman will arrange for a larger board to be provided.

**Action: Chairman**

**18. Date of next meeting:** 24<sup>th</sup> February 2014

**The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.**

Signed.....

Date.....

**Chairman of the Parish Council**

Signed.....

Date.....

**Clerk to the Parish Council**