

RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Community Hall, Lewis Road, Radford Semele, on Monday 28th April 2014 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr D E Chater (in the Chair), Cllr Mrs J Loveridge, Cllr A J Malin, Cllr Mrs J P Malin, Cllr H E Marriot, Cllr Mrs N Fleuty and Cllr Mrs F Walsh

In attendance: WDC Cllr Michael Doody

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Rev K Pickford.

2. Minutes of the Council meeting on 24th March 2014

The Minutes of the Council Meeting on 24th March 2014 were approved.

3. Police Matters

There was nothing to report.

4. WCC Matters

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

4.2 The Clerk raised the matter of his own inspection over the Easter holidays. Whilst the occupier of Dunbar House had taken down the fencing which had been blocking the footpath across his land at the end nearest the Village, there was a large quantity of rubbish comprising natural material and also broken up building material. It was obviously designed to intimidate passers-by. It was agreed that WDC Cllr Doody would take it up with WCC Cllr Redford for the purpose of further action against the occupier by WCC.

5. WDC Matters

5.1 It was reported that The Local Plan had been voted in by WDC on 23rd April 2014. Approximately 11 Councillors had voted against it. Option 1 from the consultation document (the Church site) had now been removed from the Plan, as had Option 2 and Option 4. The Plan as put forward by WDC and approved shows its preferred site as Option 3.

5.2 Cllr Doody said that there are currently three planning applications for the Sites at 1, 3 and 4. It is proposed that, supported by the Parish Council, he will attend each of the meetings of the Planning Committee on these applications; he will support the application for Site 3 and oppose the other two.

5.3 He said the problem for WDC is that 80% of the land in the WDC area is in the Green Belt and the Government has indicated strongly that green belt should not be interfered with except for special reasons. Within The Local Plan, WDC had allocated two

developments which are in the green belt but the rest of the developments are outside it.

- 5.4 He confirmed that he has convened a meeting at the Baptist Church on Friday 2nd May 2014; this is a public meeting when he will explain the decision making process from 23rd April onwards through to the processing of the planning applications.

6. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 24th March 2014

- 6.1 WDC Cllr Doody reminded the Council that the consultation concerning gypsy sites concludes on 5th May 2014 and therefore any representations on that should be made to WDC before that date.
- 6.2 Cllr Marriott reported that the tree surgeon contracted to lop the willow tree had carried this out satisfactorily (subject to clearance of rubbish). The action by the Chairman and Clerk in confirming the contract was given retrospective approval.
- 6.3 Cllr Marriott reported that, following the action by the Chairman and the Clerk, the householder in Lay Gardens had removed his garden shed from its encroachment on to the Playing Field and it was now back on his own land.
- 6.4 On the matter of recruiting new members of the Council, the Clerk reported that he had contacted the gentleman identified by ex-Councillor Whitehead as a possible candidate but the person concerned had declined. Cllr Walsh suggested that a notice be put up in the Post Office/Village Shop advertising for any councillors and the Clerk suggested that a similar notice be put on the noticeboard. This action was agreed.

Action: Chairman & Clerk

- 6.5 The Clerk said he did not seek to have an extended debate at this meeting on the footpath between The Greswoldes and Chancefields. However he thought he should point out that following his recent circular letter to the householders in The Greswoldes, some had objected and on reviewing the matter he was concerned about the legal status of the householders' obligations in respect of the path. He recommended to the Council that he should review the position further possibility in consultation with WCC. The ultimate position of enforcement by WCC or the Council meant that the legal status of the obligations should be clear.

Action: Clerk

7. Finance and Accounts

- 7.1 The Clerk reported that the balance of the investment account was approximately £19,200 and the balance of the operating account was about £15,300. The latter reflects the recent receipt of the first instalment of the Precept for 2014/2015 in the sum of £13,311.50.
- 7.2 A number of payments were approved by the Council, in particular retrospective approval of action taken by the Chairman and the Clerk to pay for training undertaken by Cllr Fleuty on 26th April 2014 and settlement of the tree surgeon's invoice (referred to above).
- 7.3 The Chairman had asked the Clerk to prepare a financial summary for consideration at the Annual Parish Meeting but the document was considered in the Council meeting, copies were tabled. The Chairman outlined the fact that the expenditure in the past year was £29,100 and the income was approximately £25,800. This reflected the fact that the Council had drawn down some of the reserves. The major items of expenditure

in the year were the third instalment of £6,000 paid to St Nicholas' Church and a sum of approximately £3,800 paid to demolition contractors for removal of the Youth Club building.

- 7.4 The Clerk pointed out that the Council was not insolvent in the true sense because the current balance of funds (shown on the summary) is approximately £34,500 taking into account the two bank balances and the Precept recently received.
- 7.5 The Chairman pointed out that the figures underlined the need to consider carefully the current year's expenditure and how the limited resources of the Council should be applied.
- 7.6 The Council were reminded that the annual public liability insurance expires at the end of May. The Clerk had obtained two competitive quotations from insurance companies with a view to a decision being made on obtaining fresh cover with effect from 1st June next. It was noted that up to now the Council had been insured with Aviva under a three year contract but this was due to end in May 2014. A rival quotation from Zurich gave basically the same cover but at a much cheaper price. It was agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk be authorised to make further enquiries into the Zurich proposal and to make a decision as to which insurance scheme to adopt and pay the necessary premium so that cover was in place for 1st June 2014. **Action: Chairman & Clerk**

8. Correspondence

None other than referred to above.

9. Report from the Planning Committee

There was nothing to report.

10. Report from the Playing Field Committee

- 10.1 Some matters arising are referred to above under 6.2 and 6.3.
- 10.2 Cllr Marriott pointed out that the roundabout unit in the children's play area needs some attention. He was authorised to repair/modify the roundabout as he thought appropriate. **Action: Cllr Marriott**
- 10.3 Cllr Marriott said that a number of paving slabs in the area of the Youth Club building had been damaged at the time of demolition. He had now replaced them. The view was expressed that he should be paid for his services and it was agreed he would send an invoice in due course for this item together with other items when convenient. **Action: Cllr Marriott**
- 10.4 It was agreed that Cllr Marriott would undertake repairs to the footpath on the Playing Field; this is a time consuming operation but he will plan a time budget to deal with it in due course. **Action: Cllr Marriott**
- 10.5 The Clerk reported that following previous discussions of the Council, he had had an informative telephone discussion with the lady who was leading the group of parents seeking grant funding for refurbishment of the children's play area. She advised that a fresh application was being prepared by her but it had been slowed up due to other commitments. She had obtained assistance from someone else who had achieved a successful application from The Big Lottery funding. She was in the process of seeking

to use this as a guideline. She had informed the Clerk that the charitable fund in memory of Sunny Dhillon now amounted to £6,000 and she was hoping to increase that by another £2,000 with a series of forthcoming fund raising activities. The Clerk said that he had pointed out to her that her original quotation from building contractors amounted to an outlay of about £25,000; this was beyond the Parish Council's resources but the Council were still minded to support the scheme if the parents group could obtain substantial funding from other sources.

- 10.6 Cllr Fleuty said that she would act as a liaison between the Council and the lady concerned as they both had children at the School. They can progress the matter together with the Council being informed of the state of progress and giving such assistance with the application as is necessary.

11. Report from the Finance Committee

There was nothing in addition to the items above.

12. Report from the Sports and Social Club Committee

- 12.1 Cllr A. Malin reported that it was very quiet in the Club.

- 12.2 The new lease for the Sports & Social Club was discussed. It appears that three names have been put forward as trustees of the lease (one of whom is ex-Councillor Sabin).

- 12.3 The Chairman outlined the discussions he had had with the Clerk as to him providing services in his professional capacity with the drafting of the lease; there were some outstanding questions on that which the Chairman would pursue with the Clerk and report back.
Action: Chairman & Clerk

13. Report from the Village Emergency Committee

There was no report; Cllr Marriott undertook to review the position as to this Committee generally in the absence of a current Chairman.
Action: Cllr Marriott

14. Report from the Community Hall Committee

- 14.1 Cllr Loveridge said attention was being given to the question of whether asbestos found in the building needed to be cleared.

- 14.2 The question of the water heater is still outstanding – the general feeling is to go for a gas boiler instead of an electricity led service.

- 14.3 The soffits to the building have now been repaired.

- 14.4 The Chairman outlined again the fact that the current voluntary treasurer wishes to retire from the post (he has given loyal service for many years). The question is how to arrange a successor – the Chairman's view is that the duties are at a level of responsibility and consumption of time that it would be more practical for someone to be paid to carry out the function. For example, there are numerous small transactions which need to be entered in the ledgers. The Chairman had discussed the position with a person suggested by the Clerk but had not reached a conclusion on that. The matter to be further reviewed.
Action: Chairman

14.5 The Chairman stated that the new projector acquired recently had already proved an asset to the Community Hall in the presentation by Cllr Marriott.

15. Report from the School Governors

In the absence of Cllr Pickford, there was no report.

16. Any Other Business

(a) The Clerk had received a quotation from the grass-cutter, Mr. Bunn, for the forthcoming year; the amount was the same as last year so the Council approved the quotation. Mr Bunn to be informed. **Action: Clerk**

(b) Cllr J Malin expressed her concern as to excavation work proposed to the bank opposite 104 Lewis Road to facilitate the apparent proposal to carryout car repairs on land belonging to the house on the corner of St Nicholas Road and Lewis Road. It is thought that the occupier has proper planning permission for this project but it must be a matter of concern due to traffic density on Lewis Road, both parked and moving vehicles. Cllr Walsh agreed to investigate. **Action: Cllr Walsh**

(c) The Chairman reminded the Council that the next meeting is on 19th May. This is an unusually close date to the current date but is created by a number of factors including the Bank holiday at the end of May. He will be absent from the meeting on 19th May and submitted his apologies for absence.

Cllr Walsh tendered her apologies for absence on that date also.

It was agreed that in the absence of the Chairman and the Vice Chairman, Cllr Marriott would chair the meeting.

The Clerk reminded the Council that this is technically the first meeting of the year so there is a requirement to elect a new Chairman of the Council and approve the constitution of committees.

17. Date of next meeting: 19th May 2014

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman of the Parish Council

Signed.....

Date.....

Clerk to the Parish Council