

RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Community Hall, Lewis Road, Radford Semele, on Monday 22nd September 2014 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr D E Chater (in the Chair), Cllr Mrs N Fleuty, Cllr B Follett, Cllr A J Malin, Cllr Mrs J P Malin and Cllr H E Marriott

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Rev K Pickford and Cllr Mrs J Loveridge

2. **Minutes of the Council meeting on 28th July 2014**

The Minutes of 28th July 2014 were approved.

3. **Police Matters**

There was nothing to report save for receipt by all of a police newsletter during the preceding weeks.

4. **WCC and WDC Matters**

4.1 In the absence of WDC Cllr Doody and WCC Cllr Redford, there were no reports.

5. **Matters arising from the Minutes of the 28th July 2014**

5.1 The Clerk had received a response from WCC Cllr Redford concerning the congestion of motor vehicles at 4 St Nicholas Terrace; Cllr Redford had said that he had ascertained that the occupier had obtained planning permission and therefore WCC was unable to take any action. Cllr Mrs Malin expressed her great concern at the accumulation of vehicles at this site including the parking of commercial vehicles on the roadway of Lewis Road immediately near the junction with Valley Road. It was agreed that the Clerk should seek to ascertain what planning permission had been obtained.

Action: Clerk

5.2 The Chairman reported that the hedgerow at the rear of 48 Southam Road had not been cut. It was agreed that the Clerk would deliver a further letter to achieve some progress.

Action: Clerk

5.3 It was reported that following the Clerk's recent approach to the owners of The Lodge, the hedgerow around the property had now been trimmed back (although the Clerk had received no response direct from the owners).

5.4 The Clerk reported that he had made a formal request to the Planning Dept at WDC to the effect that when a Section 106 Agreement was entered into between WDC and the developers of the new housing site on Southam Road they should be required to make a contribution to the Parish Council which could be utilised for the replacement of play equipment. No response had yet been received and it was agreed that the Clerk should chase the matter up after a suitable interval.

6. Finance and Accounts

- 6.1 The Clerk reported that the balance on the operating account was approximately £4,800 and the balance on the deposit account was approximately £24,200.
- 6.2 The Council approved a number of payments including the sum of £1,165 with respect to the Clerk's pay for the second quarter and the PAYE payment on that sum. Also a payment of £300 + VAT to Mr H E Marriott was made in respect of tree lopping on the boundary of the Playing Field.
- 6.3 An account had been received at this meeting from Mr Michael Pearson and it was agreed that the Clerk should request his attendance at the next Parish Council meeting so that the terms of reference of his work could be discussed. **Action: Clerk**
- 6.4 The Clerk reported that following the last meeting he had written to Mr David Smith concerning Dunbar House (as instructed by the Council) but had not received any reaction.
- 6.5 The Council agreed that the clerk should write to Mr David Smith concerning the annual payment made to him for footpath patrols and advise him that the payment would no longer be made on the grounds that economies needed to be made where possible. The Council would welcome his continued voluntary support.

7. Correspondence

- 7.1 The Clerk had been contacted by Mr Johnson of 28 Lay Gardens concerning the height of the tree on the boundary next to his house. Cllr Marriott said he would be in touch with Mr Johnson and resolve the matter by reducing the height of the tree. **Action: Cllr Marriott**
- 7.2 The Chairman reported the receipt of a letter from the senior officers at the Baptist Church; the Council had not solicited this letter but it made clear that the officials of the Baptist Church no longer wished to seek a grant from Warwick District Council's funds to assist with the repair of the church clock.
- 7.3 The Clerk had received confirmation from SLCC that a place was booked for him at the Clerks Conference as a day delegate on one day of the conference (AGM etc).
- 7.4 Reference had been received from Mrs Carole Formosa concerning extensive growth of Leylandii trees in the property adjacent to hers. She felt that the Council should focus on the potential problem and raise the issue with the occupier of the property where the trees were growing. It was agreed that the Clerk would investigate the likely objective of referring the matter to the tree enforcement officers of WDC Environmental Health Dept. **Action: Clerk**

8. Report from the Planning Committee

- 8.1 In the absence of Cllr Walsh, there was no general report on planning matters.
- 8.2 The Chairman advised the Council that apparently WDC Planning Dept had been putting together their opposition to the two Appeals in respect of housing development at the Church Lane site and in respect of the Spring Lane site; it was not known whether the Inspector, when he visits the sites, will have an open meeting to decide the Appeal or deal with the matter entirely on advisement. It was agreed that the Clerk would follow

up at a suitable interval to obtain a progress report from the Planning Dept in time for the Council's next meeting on 27th October.

Action: Clerk

9. Report from the Playing Field Committee

- 9.1 The Chairman had an appointment on Tuesday 23rd September (the next day) with a commercial representative to discuss refurbishment of the skateboard area. He will discuss with him also the following matter minuted below.
- 9.2 Through the Clerk, the Council had received a complaint from the mother of a three year old child who had had an accident in the playground area. It appears he pushed open the gate and it sprung back on him. The metal plate handle cut his forehead. Photographs had been received. It was resolved:-
- a) The Clerk would reply to her recent email to confirm that the matter was being taken seriously and investigated.
 - b) The Chairman would raise with the commercial representative the design of the metal plate handles to the gates at the play enclosure.
 - c) The Chairman and the Clerk were authorised to follow up the matter as appropriate.
- 9.3 It was agreed that Cllr Fleuty would join the Chairman, if possible, to confer with the commercial representative concerning the skateboard area.
- 9.4 The present arrangements for the collection of rubbish off the Playing Field was discussed; the Council did not regard the present level of clearance as satisfactory. It was agreed to invite Mr Pearson to come to the next Council meeting to discuss the position – the discussion to be the first item on the agenda for his convenience.

Action: Chairman & Clerk

Action: Clerk

10. Report from the Sports and Social Club

Cllr A. Malin reported that there had been burst water pipes in the Club and he wondered whether they would request financial assistance but none had been made as yet. It was agreed that he should raise it with the Club Committee.

11. Report from the Community Hall Committee

- 11.1 In the absence of Cllr Loveridge, the Chairman outlined the current position concerning the changing rooms. A contract had been entered into with Jon Whitehead to replace the water tank by inserting a new one into the roof and repairing the changing rooms and piping. It is also proposed to change the boiler but only if a new boiler could be shown to give significant improvements over the existing unit. The Chairman had identified a replacement boiler (as outlined in the Minutes of the previous Council Meeting).
- 11.2 There was evidence of roof leaks but a contractor was being contacted and he would deal with that.
- 11.3 The Chairman had entered into an agreement with a new bookkeeper to be paid £60 per month for the service. This lady will replace the work previously done on a voluntary basis by Peter Dove who had now retired from the post. The Committee were very appreciative of the work that Mr Dove had been doing for very many years.

12. Report from the School Governors

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

13. Any Other Business

- (a) The Council carried out their annual review of donations as per the list tabled by the Clerk and finance and accounts were discussed earlier. With one exception the items were approved.
- (b) The Chairman outlined the general position concerning the two planning appeals (referred to in the minute above).
- (c) The Chairman expressed his concern at the volume of traffic parked along the length of Lewis Road causing potential obstruction and also the speed of the vehicles passing along the road giving fears to a safety hazard. The Clerk reported that he had written again to the WCC dept dealing with the imposition of double yellow lines with reference to the junction of Lewis Road and Southam Road and the junction of School Lane and Southam Road but he had had no reply. It was agreed that he should write again and raise the question of congestion and speed on Lewis Road to see if WCC had any initiatives on that.
Action: Clerk
- (d) In passing, the Clerk reported that he was still awaiting information as to the responsibilities of property owners joining the footpath between The Greswoldes and Chance Fields. He will pursue the matter in due course. **Action: Clerk**
- (e) As indicated at the previous Council meeting that he would, Cllr Marriott tabled a survey report on trees in and around the Playing Field as at 21st September 2014 which was noted with interest by the Council.

14. Date of next meeting: 27th October 2014

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

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

Chairman of the Parish Council

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

Clerk to the Parish Council