

RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

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

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

In attendance: WDC Cllr Doody, WCC Cllr Redford and Mr Stan Sabin (former Chairman of the Parish Council) and Mr Michael Pearson (for part of the time).

Mr Michael Pearson

The Chairman went through with Mr. Pearson the terms and nature of his contract with the Parish Council to clear rubbish from the Playing Field. Mr Pearson said he was happy with the terms and conditions set out in the letter sent to him from the Clerk dated He said the only issue he had was that he needed larger bags to cope with the overspill of rubbish, particularly from the football clubs. This resulted in a large number of abandoned water bottles which increased the bulk of the rubbish that he had to remove. It was agreed that he should have a discretion to buy larger bags as he saw fit.

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Mrs J Loveridge.

It was noted that Cllr Walsh had been absent from Council Meetings for many meetings in the last six months; this could give rise to her seat being declared vacated. It was agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk should look into this.

Action: Chairman & Clerk

2. Minutes of the Council meeting on 22nd September 2014

The Minutes of the last Council meeting on 22nd September were approved (proposed by Cllr Marriott and seconded by Cllr Follett).

3. Police Matters

There was nothing to hand and nothing to report.

4. WCC and WDC Matters

WCC

4.1 It was noted that WCC had had second thoughts as to the alignment of the footpath through the rear of the property at Dunbar House, despite action having recently been taken against the occupier. The issue was as to the legal authority for the precise delineation of the footpath; it was noted that WCC are to review this.

4.2 The fire service are to go on strike from 31st October to 4th November. This is a token against their complaint about a review of fire service pensions. It appears that there is back-up provision should firefighting be required during those dates.

- 4.3 There was a warning that Offchurch Lane is liable to be closed for repairs in the foreseeable future but it is not known when the precise date will be.
- 4.4 The realignment of some boundaries is out for consultation and the closing date for the consultation is in early November. It is likely that, so far as the Parish is concerned, there will be no change on revision of the boundary.

WDC

- 4.5 Cllr Doody said the opinion appears to be that the boundaries of parish councils within the area of WDC should coincide with the boundary of WDC.
- 4.6 He said that the land on Harbury Lane comprising the sports ground was liable to be moved into Whitnash area.
- 4.7 He wanted to mention in addition that there had been a licensing case involving a public house in another area of the district; the upshot of the case was, because of neighbourhood complaints, the licensing committee had banned any activity outside this public house (e.g. barbecues and late night open air drinking).

5. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 22nd September 2014

- 5.1 Tracey Darke **Action: Clerk to chase up**
- 5.2 The Clerk reported that he had written to the occupiers of 48 Southam Road and had delivered the letter by hand; this had had the reaction of someone at the property stating they were new tenants and they had referred the letter to the managing agents. He had asked them for details of the managing agents but had not received a reply.
Action: Clerk to pursue
- 5.3 The Clerk reported that he had written to David Smith following the last meeting to indicate to him that the Parish Council would no longer pay an honorarium for supervision of the footpaths. He had invited Mr Smith to carry out that function on a voluntary basis but had not received a reply as yet.
- 5.4 Referring to the previous Minutes when there was a complaint about trees overshadowing a property at Lay Gardens, Cllr Marriott reported that, so far as he was aware, the householders were happy with the action he had taken by cutting down a tree. It was agreed to let the matter rest.
- 5.5 Following a complaint to the Chairman about some Leylandii trees, the Clerk had investigated the legal position. He advised that it was perhaps not a matter for the Council to become involved in firstly because it was essentially a neighbours' dispute and secondly, the subject of Leylandii trees was a specialist area of the law. He had obtained details of the Enforcement Officer of WDC. It was agreed that he would supply these details to the complainant householder so the householder could pursue the matter further if warranted.
Action: Clerk
- 5.6 The Clerk reported that he had written in the summer to the head of planning concerning the potential Section 106 Agreement that was likely to be entered into between WDC and the developers of the site to the north of Southam Road. He had not had a reply despite the letter having been sent out in July. It was agreed that the Clerk would chase it up with a further letter.
Action: Clerk

- 5.7 With reference to the issue raised in the last Minutes concerning 4 St Nicholas Terrace, the Clerk reported that he had sought to obtain from the Planning Department of WDC a copy of the paperwork giving planning permission (apparently) to the occupier of 4 St Nicholas Terrace. He said he had carried out an inspection himself and it was clear that the hardstanding now created by the occupier with capacity to take about 4 vehicles of a large type e.g. small commercial vehicles and also there were commercial vehicles including a breakdown truck parked in Lewis Road immediately outside the property. The question therefore arose as to whether this activity constituted a clear breach of planning permission as it amounted to a business activity being carried on at a domestic premise. It was agreed that the Clerk would pursue the matter further. **Action: Clerk**

6. Finance and Accounts

- 6.1 The Clerk reported that the balance on the operating account is approximately £12,900 and the balance on the investment account is approximately £24,200.
- 6.2 The Council approved a number of payments set out on the appropriate schedule including a payment of £20 to the Clerk to reimburse him for car parking fees undertaken whilst attending the Annual Conference of parish clerks.
- 6.3 It was reported that the External Audit had been completed. The Auditor had highlighted an amendment to the audit rules which meant that next year the Council would have to review/approve the year end accounts at an earlier stage in order to meet the deadline set by the new regulations.

7. Correspondence

- 7.1 The Chairman outlined the complaint received from a resident (recorded in the last Minutes) that her child had received a injury whilst playing with the fencing/gate at the play equipment area in the Playing Field. The initial problem with the gate had been resolved and had met with the lady's satisfaction. The wider issue of how to manage the play area's fencing remained. By coincidence, the Chairman was due to meet a representative from Caloo with a view to the latter supplying replacement skateboard material at the adjacent skateboard area; the Chairman had asked the representative to give an opinion on the fencing but he was hesitant to do so.
- 7.2 It was felt that the quotation provided by Caloo for the skateboard area was on the high side and it was agreed to obtain another quotation elsewhere.
- 7.3 The Clerk reported that he had recently observed the skateboard area in the centre of Cheltenham and he volunteered to contact Cheltenham Town Council for information on the costings of their equipment.
- 7.4 The Chairman reported that the gass cutting of the Playing Field was overdue but he had had no success in focusing the attention of Mr Bunn on the function despite his contractual relationship with the Parish Council. The Chairman said he was doing his best to either raise Mr Bunn into action or to find an alternative grass cutter. **Action: Chairman**
- 7.5 The Clerk reported that he had again assisted Mrs Northey to compile the application form to be submitted afresh to The Big Lottery Fund in respect of the play equipment. It was agreed that the Clerk would continue to assist her. **Action: Clerk**

8. Report from the Planning Committee

8.1 In the absence of Cllr Walsh, there was no report.

9. Report from the Playing Field Committee

There was nothing to report that had not already been said.

10. Report from the Sports and Social Club

Cllr A. Malin said there was nothing to report.

11. Report from the Community Hall Committee

In the absence of Cllr Loveridge, Cllr Chater updated the Council:-

Jon Whitehead has started work on the roof to install a new tank

An analysis of the flat roof has been carried out because of leaks. It was clear that a decision will have to be made in the not too far future to replace the roof over the changing room area because it is a flat roof made of bitumen.

12. Report from the School Governors

12.1 Cllr Pickford said that there had been no meeting this term so there was no report as such.

12.2 She said that the Head Teacher is working towards retirement and has reduced the number of his working hours whilst his deputy has filled the gap.

12.3 There is a new curriculum which is heartening and the School seems to be measuring up to the prospect of an Ofstead Inspection next year.

12.4 A new curriculum has been introduced which is in the process of being tried out.

13. Any Other Business

(a) The Clerk confirmed receipt of the poppy wreath and Cllr Marriott confirmed that he would present the wreath at the Remembrance Day service on 9th November.

(b) The Council approved the list of draft dates for future meetings which had been circulated.

(c) For this item, Cllr Marriott had withdrawn from the meeting. The Chairman outlined the current position over the two appeals which had been presented to the Secretary of State in respect of the site at Church Lane and the site at Spring Lane/Slade Meadow.

The hearing of the Appeal for Spring Lane will be on 7th, 8th and 9th January 2015 and the hearing of the Appeal for the Church site will be on 22nd and 23rd January 2015 and then on 27th January for a full week.

It is expected that WDC Cllr Doody will speak at both Appeals and it may be that the Chairman of the Parish Council will be called upon to say something also.

14. Date of next meeting: 24th November 2014

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman of the Parish Council

Signed.....

Date.....

Clerk to the Parish Council