

RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Community Hall, Lewis Road, Radford Semele, on Monday 28th January 2013 at 7.30 pm.

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

In attendance: WCC/WDC Cllr Michael Doody

1. Apologies for Absence - none

2. Minutes of the Council meeting on 26th November 2012

The Minutes were approved.

3. Police Matters

Apart from the receipt of the usual newsletters via email, there was no report. The Chairman confirmed that he and the Clerk will attend the WALC seminar on 2nd March 2013, a significant part of which will be a presentation by Police Commissioner Ron Ball.

4. WCC & WDC Matters

Cllr Doody referred to the following:

- 4.1 He said that, as a representative of elected councillors, he is on Commissioner Ball's new Police Committee. Mr Eric Wood has been appointed Deputy Police Commissioner (Mr Wood was previously Chief Education Officer at WCC).
- 4.2 Mark Gore has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer for a period of six months.
- 4.3 There is no increase in the Police Precept.
- 4.4 There is a 1% increase in the Precept for WCC's portion of the Council Tax but they are still seeking to save money; for example, cuts in the street lighting system. They can save £ ½ m off the budget if the lights go off all night but there has been political pressure to keep them on for some of the time.

- 4.5 There will be no Council Tax increase so far as WDC is concerned. The Government have reduced the Revenue Support Grant by £2.8 m but WDC are counteracting this by various measures. For example, there has been a 10% reduction in staff.
- 4.6 The WDC Chief Executive is working on setting figures for further savings; once that has been achieved, it is proposed that the staff will get a 1% pay rise. They have not had anything for 3 years.
- 4.7 The Concurrent Services Grant of £3,640 will still be paid to parish councils.
- 4.8 WDC is having to conduct a stringent review of benefits paid out, in particular in relation to housing, WDC expect to reduce benefits by £100,000 in the forthcoming financial year but WCC will not share on a pro rata basis the reduction in the funding.
- 4.9 He confirmed that the Local Plan is going forward and WDC is likely to reach its conclusions on the Consultation by May 2013.
- 4.10 They have recognised that the target figure proposed of 550 houses per year may be too high but he does not think this will affect the proposal to build 100 houses in the designated villages (which will include Radford Semele). This is over a 15 year period.
- 4.11 WDC is currently working on a conclusion to install two sites for travellers.
- 4.12 A review of the Gateway Project is still pending. This is a proposal to have an engineering site adjacent to the A45 at Baginton Airport of which WDC will put in £8,9000 and Coventry City will put in about £4,000 to support the development which will be privately funded. Due to a hung vote at the recent Planning Meeting, there will be an Adjourned Meeting towards the end of March when it is expected an expert's report will be called in by WDC Planning Committee.
- 4.13 He drew attention to the fact that a car has been seen parked regularly on the grass near the Trevor Ashborne memorial trees and this will have a long term adverse effect upon the grass. It was agreed that enquiries should be made into that to see this could be stopped.

Action: Clerk

- 4.14 He advised that his Civic Service as Chairman of WCC will be on 3rd March 2013 at St Mary's Church Warwick.
- 4.15 He confirmed that his Civic Reception at Shire Hall on 16th March 2013 is open to all Councillors from the Parish but numbers should be notified as soon as possible.
- 5. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 26th November 2012**

- 5.1 The Chairman reported that he and the Clerk had arranged for a donation of £1,000 to Warwick Responders to support the purchase of a defibrillator which the Council had expressed a wish should be used primarily in the Parish. The Clerk had received a letter of thanks from Mr Rowlands who gave the presentation at the previous Council Meeting – this letter incorporates the NHS logo.
- 5.2 With regard to the enquiry by Stephen Hay to meet with the Council on planning issues, neither Cllr Walsh nor the Clerk have been able to make substantive contact with him to arrange a meeting. It was agreed that it would be left for him to contact either of them again.
- 5.3 A request had been received from local solicitors for a copy of a Housing Survey said to be prepared in 2005. The Clerk did not have a copy. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask the solicitors to explain why it was required and upon the explanation given the Clerk would then take steps to locate a copy if possible. (WDC Councillor Doody concurred)

Action: Clerk

6. Finance and Accounts

- 6.1 The Clerk reported that the current balance on the operating account was approximately £26,200 and the current balance on the investment account was approximately £5,400.
- 6.2 The Council approved a number of payments including the charges for grass cutting which covered the whole of the financial year, and approval was given to payment of the charge for the Chairman and the Clerk to attend the WALC training session as above.

7. Correspondence

- 7.1 The Clerk had written to the Police concerning the incident involving the Chairman and Cllr Marriott in Southam Road on 23rd November 2012 and awaited a reply.
- 7.2 The Clerk had written to the Highways Dept concerning the cutting back of vegetation on the drainage system in The Valley and Valley Road and awaited a reply.
- 7.3 An invitation had been received for a member of the Council to put their name forward in the draw for attendance at a Royal Garden Party for civic officials; it was agreed that Cllr Chater's name should be put forward.

Action: Cllr Chater

7.4 The Clerk had chased up enquiry into having double yellow lines on Lewis Road and School Lane with their junctions with Southam Road.

8. Further Bus Shelter

Cllr Marriott reported further developments were likely to take place in April / May this year and he would report back.

Action: Cllr Marriott

9. Telephone Box

Cllr Marriott reported that further work to complete the refurbishment of the telephone box was pending.

Action: Cllr Marriott

10. Website

10.1 Cllrs were reminded that the Clerk had forwarded to them a piece of material received by email from the Clerk to Cubbington Parish Council demonstrating their use of a comparative study of a website and also a Website for East Adderbury Parish Council. It was agreed that Cllrs would give further consideration to this material and the matter would be discussed at a future Council meeting. This is to be put on the agenda.

Action: All Councillors

11. Youth Club building

11.1 It was agreed that a proforma letter would be sent to all potentially interested parties as a final attempt to raise interest in the use of the building. A notice would be put up on the notice board. It was also agreed that if no interest was shown by early summer 2013 then steps should be taken to demolish the building. It was noted that it may be necessary to have an asbestos survey carried out as that would affect the process of demolition.

Action: Cllrs Chater & Whitehead

12. Report from the Planning Committee

12.1 Cllr Walsh reported on the outcome of two planning applications which have been concluded and she anticipated the submission of paperwork in respect of a planning application to develop the Fosse Garage premises on the Fosse Way. This is to be reviewed with care.

Action: Cllr Walsh & Planning Sub Committee

13. Report from the Playing Field Committee

13.1 The Clerk reported that he had submitted the completed application to The Big Lottery Fund.

13.2 Cllr Whitehead referred to certain items of existing equipment which had been passed in course of ROSPA surveys in recent years but he anticipated the equipment would need to be replaced because it is going rusty. It is likely these items will be reviewed after the result of the application to The Big Lottery Fund. **Action: Cllr Whitehead**

13.3 Cllr Marriott drew attention to continuing problems with the land drainage in the Playing Field and the advance of tree roots into the piping. It needs to be reviewed.

Action: Cllr Marriott

14. Report from the Finance Committee

14.1 It was reported that the Precept application has been filed with WDC. The Precept amount remains the same as last year, at a figure of £19,523.

14.2 This total figure this year is affected by a special grant from WDC which represents funding under the Localism Act 2011. It remains to be seen if it is repeated in forthcoming years but the net effect on the Parish Precept in the year 2013/2014 is that the figure received by the Parish Council will be the same as last year. **Action: Clerk**

15. Report from the Sports and Social Club Committee

Cllr A. Malin reported that there were no current issues. He had recently been reappointed to the Committee for a further four years.

16. Report from the Village Emergency Committee

Cllr Edwards reported that there was nothing to report.

17. Report from the Community Hall Committee

Cllr Loveridge reported that there was nothing to report.

18. Report from the School Governors

Cllr Pickford reported that there was nothing to report.

19. Any Other Business

(a) Declarations of Financial Interest and Complaints

Councillors expressed their satisfaction with the explanation given in an email several weeks ago by Cllr Walsh following her discussion with the Deputy Monitoring Officer at WDC. It was therefore agreed that Cllrs would complete the new forms of declaration so as to conform with their obligations under the Localism Act 2011 which came into force in the latter half of 2012.

The Clerk reported that he had sought consultation with the Deputy Monitoring Officer on the outstanding form at of the declarations and also the procedure for complaints against a parish council but he had so far not had a reply from him despite several reminders. He will continue to chase that up.

Action: Clerk

The Clerk had been advised there was debate in certain quarters, e.g. WALC, as to whether the declaration form should include the interests of councillors' spouses and partners. It appeared to be an ongoing debate.

(b) Leylandii trees

The issue of the Leylandii trees in Southam Road (referred to Paragraph 7.1 above) is still under review by the Chairman, Cllr Marriott and the Clerk. They were awaiting feedback from the Highways Dept and the matter would be kept under review.

Action: Clerk

(c) Parish Supper

It was agreed that the Parish Supper held on 26th January, funded by Cllrs personally, had been a success and thanks were given to the Chairman for organising it.

(d) There was a discussion about the provision of further grit boxes. Three locations at Overtons Close, The Greswoldes and the junction of Lewis Road and St Nicholas Road were identified. The matter to be reviewed.

21. Date of next meeting: Monday 25th February 2013

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman of the Parish Council