

# **RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES**

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Community Hall, Lewis Road, Radford Semele, on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 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 Rev K Pickford and Cllr J M Whitehead

**In attendance:** Cllr Richard Davies (Chairman of WDC), WDC Cllr Michael Doody and WCC Cllr Wallace Redford, Mrs Nicola Flutey (prospective Councillor) and approximately 20 members of the public

**1. Apologies for Absence** - Cllr H E Marriott and Cllr F Walsh

### **2. WDC Matters**

2.1 The Chairman invited Cllr Davies to address the meeting. He spoke to his charity events and was brief in anticipation of a lengthy address by Cllr Doody on the Local Plan.

2.2 Cllr Doody stated that he would step down as leader of WDC on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2013. During his time representing the Parish he had worked hard to preserve the amenity of the Parish with resistance to building development. There had been only minor infill in the Village to date but it had to be borne in mind that there was no green belt with reference to the Parish.

2.3 He said the position had come to a head because negotiations with the Planning Dept of WDC had reached a point where there was a prospective scheme for installation of an approximate number of 100 houses required under the Local Plan. A decision had not been reached but negotiations had been taking place and surveys had been carried out etc. On this particular site it was feasible; there was a developer on hand who was prepared to undertake the scheme and a landowner willing to sell.

2.4 He had therefore taken the step of distributing notices the day before amongst households which were liable to be affected giving notice to a limited number of the residents of the Parish that he would make an announcement at this meeting. The presence of members of the public was in response to his notice.

2.5 He said the site identified as potential was the land between Church Lane and the canal. He emphasised that at present this was only a recommendation by the planning officers as a way to implementing obligations under the Local Plan.

2.6 He said that the precise number of houses and the type of houses had not yet been identified. Nor had the access way been finally identified although it was likely to be a comprise arrangement by way of a roundabout or traffic lights at the junction of Church Lane and Southam Road. To that junction, the occupiers of the new houses would have access.

- 2.7 He said that the Parish Council had identified two sites on either side of Southam Road but the County Council had previously rejected similar proposals because of the complexities of traffic management in that area.
- 2.8 He said he did not want to go into detail at this meeting but he will call a special meeting for the public when more is known. He expected the site to go out for planning consultation in the middle of 2014. He estimated that there would be about 40 homes in the category of affordable houses and the balance of just over 60 would be more substantial houses. He thought that rather than have houses of different types interspersed with one another they are likely to be built in blocks. Ancillary access / exit point would be a gap in the houses in Offchurch Lane giving access to Offchurch Lane.
- 2.9 He held up a plan which members of the public inspected which gave the outline position only without any specific allocation of buildings or roadways.

At the conclusion of his address, Cllr Doody left the meeting followed by members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Nicola Fleutey to the meeting. He said that the Clerk and himself had had a private meeting with her as a result of which he welcomed her to this meeting and to her prospective position as a Parish Councillor. The Clerk advised that he had been unable to check the protocol with the Electoral Registration Officer, who is currently on leave, but he will do so in the course of the next few days. **Action: Clerk**

### **3. Minutes of the Council meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2013**

The Minutes were approved.

### **4. Police Matters**

- 4.1 The Clerk said there were only two points of contact he had received from the Police since the last Council meeting. Firstly he had agreed to them having a notice on the notice board relating to forthcoming mobile police stations and secondly, Councillors had received the circular form of email comprising a notice by the Police for the householders to put in their windows to discourage Trick or Treat activity on Halloween.
- 4.2 The Chairman expressed his dissatisfaction, and that of others, of the incisiveness on speed checking by the Police. It transpired that there are, in practice, two separate enforcement units. One is a Police unit at Rugby who is concerned broadly with traffic management and the other is the WCC unit concerned with speed enforcements. It appears that the effective unit is the WCC one. It was agreed that the Clerk would pursue matters with them for more positive action in particular with regards speeding in Offchurch Lane. **Action: Clerk**

### **5. WCC Matters**

- 5.1 Cllr Redford outlined the current position. The County Council are required to achieve further cuts in their budget having suffered serious cuts over the last three years. In the next three years they were required to reduce their budget by £92M.

- 5.2 This is the result of the withdrawal of Government subsidy to County Councils and there is no support for any saving (such as grants). Therefore the required reduction will have to be implemented with full effect.
- 5.3 This will obviously have a serious effect on the services that can be provided by the County. He estimated that about 600 jobs with the County Council will go and there could be a rate rise in the County of 2 or 3%.

## **6. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2013**

- 6.1 The Clerk had written to WDC concerning progress on the blocked up footpath at the rear of Dunbar House and for an update on the intended action concerning the Leylandii trees at the front of the property. Cllr Redford said that he would seek to exercise his influence on WDC officers for progress. **Action: WCC Cllr Redford**
- 6.2 The Clerk had not had a reply to his letter of enquiry concerning the potential downgrading of a bridle path. Whilst at the Clerks Conference recently he had sought legal advice from the solicitor permanently retained by the Clerks Conference and accordingly the Clerk was able to explain to the meeting the ramifications of the law. This is to be pursued. **Action: Clerk**
- 6.3 The Clerk had had a letter from WCC undertaking to repair the paving slabs outside the Village shop.
- 6.4 The Clerk had written to WCC requesting replacement of the street signage notice for Lythall Close which had been demolished.
- 6.5 It was confirmed that the prospective dates for hire of the Community Hall by the Parish Council in 2014 had been agreed.

## **7. Finance and Accounts**

- 7.1 The Clerk reported that the current balance on the investment account was approximately £21,200. The current balance on the operating account was approximately £14,200. (This included the second instalment of the Precept)
- 7.2 The Council approved a number of payments in particular a further payment of £225 in respect of the creation of the website and a payment of £585 for rubbish clearance (this represented a large number of weeks of clearance between July and the date of the meeting).
- 7.3 The Clerk reported that the External Audit had now been completed and the accounts approved. He had put up Notice of Closure of the Audit on the notice board for the required period and it was currently there.

## **8. Correspondence**

There were only two items of correspondence, other than those covered under parts of these Minutes:-

- On 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013 there is the WALC AGM at Shire Hall, Warwick.
- On 16<sup>th</sup> November WALC are holding a seminar on how to make effect responses to planning applications.

## **9. Bus Shelter**

It was agreed that this item be taken off the Agenda until March 2014. **Action: Clerk**

## **10. Website**

The Chairman reported that the website is now fully operational and he gave out the website address. It was agreed that this item could be removed from the Agenda until July 2014 for review. **Action: Clerk**

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

In the absence of Cllr Walsh, there was no general report but she had sent an email to say that there was no planning history in respect of the premises in Chance Fields. This had been raised with the Clerk as a matter of enquiry by a member of the public. It was agreed that the Clerk would so advise the member of the public who had contacted him. **Action: Clerk**

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

- 12.1 The ROPSA report prepared by Playsafety and emailed to all Cllrs was considered. Cllr Whitehead acknowledged that there were a number of items which needed attention but the most important is to repair the aerial slide. He expected this to be dealt with before the November meeting of the Parish Council. **Action: Cllr Marriott**
- 12.2 Cllr Whitehead said there were a number of references to surface water, the condition of the ground and the fencing. All these would be overtaken if the proposed involvement of the parents group got underway. The difficulty was knowing when this would be achieved in view of problems in getting grant funding.
- 12.3 He said he would examine the report and obtain a quotation for the cost of all work to be done. **Action: Cllr Whitehead**

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

There was nothing in addition to matters mentioned above.

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

Cllr A. Malin said he had not attended the last meeting of the management committee but his overriding impression of the position is that the management is improving steadily but slowly.

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

Cllr Edwards reported there was nothing to report. She had not received any relevant reports about flooding. (This is basically a matter for the County Council.)

## **16. Report from the Community Hall Committee**

- 16.1 The Chairman explained that the Community Hall Committee was looking for a grant of £4,650 from WDC. He was doing the paperwork as WDC required a lot of detail and he was in the process of putting this together.

16.2 Cllr Loveridge said that the Hall was well used and there were lots of bookings currently (in the main these are fee-paying).

**17. Report from the School Governors**

Cllr Pickford said that the next Governors Meeting was on 7<sup>th</sup> December so she had nothing current to report.

**18. Any Other Business**

(a) At the meeting of the Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2014, reference had been made to a residual sum of £150 which had been in a bank account awaiting the outcome for expenses for Care in the Community. At that meeting the Council had agreed that this sum be transferred to the general fund of the Community Hall for the benefit of the community as a whole. At this meeting this decision was confirmed

(b) At an earlier meeting the Council had been agreed in principle to accept a request from the Chairman of Bubbenhall Parish Council to come to our Council Meeting to give a short address on the implications of the Gateway Planning Scheme. The Clerk had provisionally booked him to come on the occasion of the next meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2013. It was agreed that this be made a definite event. **Action: Clerk**

(c) The Clerk reminded the Council that, on an earlier occasion, he had said he would check the legal position on the constituent numbers of the Council as provided by legal regulation but he had not yet reached a conclusion on the matter but was pursuing this with the Electoral Registration Officer. **Action: Clerk**

**19. Date of next meeting:** 27<sup>th</sup> January 2014

**The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.**

Signed.....

Date.....

**Chairman of the Parish Council**