

RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Community Hall, Lewis Road, Radford Semele, on Monday 30th July 2012 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, and Cllr J M Whitehead

In attendance: WDC Cllr Michael Doody

:

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr K Pickford

2. Minutes of the Council meeting on 25th June 2012

The Minutes were approved and also approved were the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held on the 23rd July 2012 to consider the Council's response to the Local Plan Consultation.

3. Police Matters

One email newsletter had been received. The Clerk tabled a questionnaire received by email issued by one of the candidates for the post of Police Commissioner which is due for election in the autumn. A response to the questionnaire would involve the Council in the politics of the post so the Council would not respond.

4. WCC & WDC Matters

4.1 WDC Cllr Doody on aspects of the Local Plan Consultation with reference to a large scale plan which he had with him. He demonstrated that a large area to the east of the Village was not a practical area for house building because of substantial gas pipes in the ground.

4.2 WDC Cllr Doody was asked what his personal position was in view of the fact that, as District Councillor, he represents the Parish. He explained that he had lobbied hard on behalf of the Parish in a number of ways:-

(a) There had been a suggestion that 150 houses be built in the Parish area but he had reduced that figure to 100

(b) He had preserved the principle of the area of restraint between the Village and the urban area of Leamington

(c) For 25 years he had lobbied successfully against any houses being built in the Parish but one had to acknowledge that times move forward.

4.3 He acknowledged that the target for building houses in the WDC area was 550 houses a year but he thought that might not be achieved. It could be twice as long due to the market. (He indicated that there were approximately 1000 houses in new developments south of Leamington which were on the market, pending sale)

- 4.4 He was asked whether there was a bargaining element to be explored by the Parish Council. He indicated that there was not an option for the Parish to see the number reduced below the target of 100. He recommends writing a letter to WDC accepting the plan for 100 houses as stated in the Plan.
- 4.5 He indicated that he had met strong opposition from the Milverton area of Leamington and from Bishops Tachbrook – his point being that each area had its own agenda and WDC had the task of apportioning new build throughout the District Council area which brought them back to identifying Radford Semele as a suitable area for some houses.

WDC Cllr Doody then left the meeting.

- 4.6 It was agreed that the Clerk would display on the Noticeboard a copy of the Parish Council's response to the Local Plan Consultation. The map would not be included as it marked general areas not related to the size of plot needed and could therefore be misunderstood. The Council agreed to stand by its reply to the WDC Plan as the reply was considered a balanced response which would reflect the views of many in the Village.
Action: Clerk
- 4.7 The Clerk reported that the Chairman of WDC was due to attend a meeting of the Parish Council on the 29th October 2012.

5. Matters Arising

- 5.1 Under item 5.4 of the previous Minutes, the Clerk reported he had received a letter from EHB Residential stating nothing was amiss with The Lodge. This had crossed over a site inspection carried out by the Chairman and the Clerk when clearly items needed attention. He had written again to EHB Residential but had not had a reply as yet. It was agreed that Cllr Whitehead would telephone EHB to obtain a response.
Action: Cllr Whitehead
- 5.2 Under item 9 of the previous Minutes, the Chairman said that he and the other two designated Cllrs had not had an opportunity to examine the feasibility for a further bus shelter. The Clerk confirmed that he had written to Ms Law, who represents those seeking the installation of a new shelter, to advise that the matter was under review. The item be put on the agenda for the September meeting
Action: Clerk
- 5.3 Under item 10 of the previous Minutes, Cllr Marriott reported that there had been no movement on refurbishment of the telephone box due to a number of factors. It would be under review before the next meeting and to be on the next agenda.
Action: Clerk

6. Finance and Accounts

- 6.1 The Clerk reported that the balance on the current account is approximately £8,100 and the balance on the investment account is approximately £21,200.
- 6.2 A number of payments were approved by the Council including the payment to Cllr Whitehead for works in connection with the noticeboard. He withdrew from the meeting while the matter was reviewed.
- 6.3 The Clerk reported that the audit papers were currently with the External Auditor who had not yet responded but no doubt would do so during the month of August.

7. Correspondence

- 7.1 The Clerk had received an effusive letter from Mr Godbert, the Group Scout leader, thanking the Council for their donation.
- 7.2 The Clerk had received a similar note from Mrs Barbara Wyatt thanking the Council for their contribution to the expenses for the Jubilee celebrations. She asked specifically for thanks to be passed to the Council. The Chairman reported that a £160 recovery was still awaited from WDC for Jubilee celebration costs. He would continue to chase up recovery. **Action: Chairman**
- 7.3 The Clerk had written to Mr and Mrs Morrell to thank them for their appreciation of the new bus shelter.
- 7.4 The Clerk had received over the internet, a consultation paper from the Department for Communities & Local Government inviting comments on the potential for abolishing the use of cheques in Local Government. Whilst the proposal was for 2018, the circular was seeking comments. It was decided not to respond to this.
- 7.5 An invitation from WALC had been received with respect to a training course on Saturday 22nd September 2012 on the Localism Act. It was agreed that the Clerk would attend the training course. **Action: Clerk**
- 7.6 The Clerk had received a telephone call followed by an email from Mrs Compton who was a former resident of the Village. She had been visiting recently in company with her grandchildren and had been witness to an unpleasant incident involving a dog in the Playing Field and also unpleasant mess created by dogs. Although requested by the Clerk, she had not put in her email details so as to identify the people involved. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to her to explain that the Council had the position constantly under review in difficult circumstances. **Action: Clerk**

8. Website

In the absence of Cllr Walsh, this item is to be put on the Agenda for the September meeting. **Action: Clerk**

9. Youth Club building

Cllr Whitehead confirmed that he had discussed the position with Mrs Powers, who had originally approached the Clerk. It had been left that she should review her position in the light of the history of the building and come back to Cllr Whitehead in the autumn and this item should be put on the next Agenda. **Action: Clerk**

10. Report from the Planning Committee

There was no report.

11. Report from the Playing Field Committee

- 11.1 Cllr Whitehead reported there had been no movement from the group who are considering new play equipment etc so it was agreed to leave the matter in abeyance until the group responded to the Council.
- 11.2 Cllr Marriott confirmed that he had in hand replacing the poles in the aerial runway.

11.3 The Chairman confirmed that two further bins had been ordered but had not yet arrived.

12. Report from the Finance Committee

There was nothing to report in addition to the above matters.

13. Report from the Sports and Social Club Committee

Cllr A. Malin reported he attended a meeting of the Committee recently and it showed promise. It appeared that they were working towards profitability.

14. Report from the Village Emergency Committee

14.1 Cllr Edwards reported that there was nothing to report.

14.2 An approach had been received to install in the Village a defibrillator. The object of this machine is to apply immediate resuscitation procedures to individuals to cover the time before an ambulance could reach the site. There was some discussion as to if the Council purchased one where should it be sited. It was agreed that further investigation should be carried out. **Action: Cllr Chater & Cllr Edwards**

15. Report from the Community Hall Committee

Cllr Loveridge reported that the Gnome Olympics had raised a sum of about £1100 This was highly successful and satisfying.

16. Report from the School Governors

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

17. Any Other Business

(a) Cllr Whitehead reported that the work to the Noticeboard was now complete and it was fully operational.

(b) In the absence of Cllr Walsh, it was agreed to leave until the next meeting a review of the post of Deputy Chairman. **Action: Clerk**

(c) The Clerk said he had reviewed the Risk Assessment Analysis which was approved by the Council for the year 2009/10. Whilst in substance it was still applicable, there were two variants which were agreed by the Council:-

(i) Amend to update the public liability insurance provision

(ii) Amend to make it clear that the trees for which the Council were responsible are those within the Playing Field.

(d) It was noted that Cllr Marriott and the Footpaths Overseer, David Smith, had reviewed the consultation paper concerning the Government's review of recording of footpaths. The result of which it was not necessary for the Parish Council to participate in the response.

18. Date of next meeting: Monday 24th September 2012

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman of the Parish Council