

RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Community Hall, Lewis Road, Radford Semele, on Monday 29th October 2012 at 7.30 pm.

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

In attendance: Chairman of WDC, Michael Kinson OBE & WDC/WCC Cllr Michael Doody

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Mrs J P Malin, Cllr A J Malin and Cllr F Walsh

2. Minutes of the Council meeting on 24th September 2012

The Minutes were approved.

3. Police Matters

There were no Police matters arising.

4. WCC & WDC Matters

4.1 The Chairman introduced Michael Kinson who spoke briefly. He expressed his pleasure in being able to visit this Council along with many other Parish Councils. He has got around a dozen councils so far and aimed to complete his tour by the end of his period in office. He said that some of these meetings with Parish Councils had been lively because there was widespread disquiet with the Local Plan. He asked specifically whether the Parish Council are happy with the current planning procedures. It was acknowledged that notice of planning applications now arrive by electronic means and plans can be obtained in hard copy if specifically requested but they do not come automatically. He said he had asked the question because other parish councils had expressed their concern.

4.2 WDC/WCC Cllr Doody gave his report.

1. The WCC scheme to reduce expenditure and relieve environmental pollution from street lighting is to go ahead. The designated streets will have their lights turned out from 12 midnight to 5 am.
2. After many years of debate, a zebra crossing has been secured in front of the shops at Cubbington which will be installed on 12th November.
3. The Local Plan is still under consideration by WDC following the extensive consultation period earlier this year. About 3,000 objections have been put in by institutions and individuals which are being sifted. He said that it had to be acknowledged that 80% of the land in the District Council area was in the green belt; this had to be balanced with problems of simply expanding the urban area, e.g. joining Whitnash up to Bishops Tachbrook which was generally considered undesirable. Further there was an issue as to whether the projected number of houses would actually be reasonable in the wake of the recession – are there

going to be enough builders who would be interested and capable of building so many houses?

4. He said the group of district councils known as "51M" are still fighting over the installation of the HS2 railway. It had a substantial fighting fund of about £50M with which to do this and will continue fighting.
5. WDC have achieved a 0% increase in Council Tax. This is despite the fact that the base budget relates back to 3 years ago.
6. There has been considerable publicity recently relating to two sex club applications in WDC's area. One of them had a licence for 5 years to which no-one took objection but the issue has now become very political. WDC is putting the matter out to consultation with residents because of the political debate.
7. The Police Commissioner is likely to be elected on 15th November. He will be assisted by a panel of ten councillors to give him guidance and Cllr Doody is included on the panel. The Commissioner will put up a precept which will appear in Council Tax demands.
8. WDC are working on being able to supply equipment those interested in planning applications who do not have electronic equipment to pick up notice of planning items.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 24th September 2012

- 5.1 The Clerk reported that he had served notice on two occupiers of properties re hedgerows in the Village following previous discussion by the Council. To date he had not had a reaction.
- 5.2 Cllr Whitehead reported on The Lodge and its hedgerow. He had taken the matter up again with the managing agents for the property and had been advised by them that they had the matter in hand. He had pointed out that it was their job to maintain the hedgerow in good order and not simply react to complaint by the Council.
- 5.3 Cllr Chater reported on the possible acquisition of a defibrillator, he had commissioned Paul Rowlands to speak at the next Council Meeting and he requested Councillors to attend at 7.15 pm so that Mr Rowlands could deliver his presentation as the first item on the Agenda.
Action: Clerk

6. Finance and Accounts

- 6.1 The Clerk reported that the balance on the operating account at the bank is approximately £16,200 and the balance on the investment account at the bank is approximately £21,200. The relatively high amount on the operating account is due to recent receipt of the second half year Precept.
- 6.2 The Council approved a number of payments.
- 6.3 It was noted that the Clerk will prepare the Precept this year.

7. Correspondence

- 7.1 The Clerk reported that he had had pleasant thank you letters from the Scouts and Brownies with reference to the recent donations.
- 7.2 The Clerk referred to email correspondence he had received and passed to the Chairman earlier. The complaint was about the very messy state of the football pitch on the Playing Field. Cllr Whitehead agreed to take up the matter with the football club. It was agreed to monitor the position with rubbish clearance on the Playing Field generally.

8. Further Bus Shelter

Cllr Marriott gave a detailed report on the projected structure of the new bus shelter. This would be about 12 – 14 feet high reaching to the existing trees on the Southam Road but with a very thin profile. The canopy nature of the structure would blend with the environment taking into account the narrow piece of land available at the side of the highway. He is to review the costings and report back to the Council.

Action: Cllr Marriott

9. Telephone Box

Cllr Marriott reported that the outstanding item of work is the installation of three window panels of toughened glass. He had received a quotation from Tamara Glass and it was agreed that this should be taken up, following which he will arrange for installation.

10. Website

In the absence of Cllr Walsh there was no report. This item is to be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Action: Clerk

11. Youth Club building

- 11.1 Cllr Whitehead referred to the fact that he had discussed the interest shown by Mrs Nicky Powers but the project did not appear to have been advanced.
- 11.2 If those interested had cleaned up the building internally and externally but they needed to deal with fitting out the building to make it usable as a youth club.
- 11.3 He estimated that an outlay of about £6,000 would be needed to fit it out.
- 11.4 He then posed the question as to who is likely to raise that sum in order to progress matters.
- 11.5 The Council reaffirmed their view that unless a viable project was put forward by an interested group within the next year, it was the Council's intention to demolish the building, subject to further review.

12. Report from the Planning Committee

In the absence of Cllr Walsh there was no report. It appears that there are no pending applications.

13. Report from the Playing Field Committee

- 13.1 It was noted that new bins had been acquired for the Playing Field. Action is to be taken to obtain bin bags for insertion into the bins to make rubbish collection easier.
- 13.2 A group of residents who are interested in obtaining Lottery funding to purchase better quality equipment for the Playing Field have their application in hand. They are looking for a sum of about £20,000.
- 13.3 Cllr Whitehead expressed the view that this figure does not include the cost of fencing and making good around the area and incidental administration of health and safety issues. £4,000 may be required for these extra items.
- 13.4 It was agreed that the Parish Council would support this application for Lottery funding and so there will be documents to be processed. **Action: Cllr Whitehead & Clerk**

14. Report from the Finance Committee

There was nothing to report in addition to the above.

15. Report from the Sports and Social Club Committee

In the absence of Cllr A. Malin, there was no report but it was noted that the Club were up to date with the rental payments to be made to the Community Hall.

16. Report from the Village Emergency Committee

- 16.1 Cllr Edwards reported that there is nothing to report. She has not had an opportunity to explore the content of services offered by Michael Enderby of CSW Resilience Team, the trading arm of Coventry City Council, Solihull Metropolitan Council and WCC.

17. Report from the Community Hall Committee

Cllr Loveridge reported that all repairs had been completed, in particular replacement tiles and incidental damage.

18. Report from the School Governors

Cllr Pickford reported that she had been assisting the School with their mission statements. The students had expressed an interest in the functions of a parish council and she hoped she may arrange a visit by the pupils to a meeting of the Parish Council.

19. Any Other Business

- (a) It was noted that the local Remembrance Service will take place on Sunday 11th November 2012. Cllr Marriott and the Clerk will attend.
- (b) Cllr Doody reminded the meeting that at the end of his office as Chairman of WCC he will not seek re-election.
- (c) Cllr Doody reminded the meeting that the election day for the Police Commissioner is the 15th November 2012. It was noted that the post carries a

salary of £68,000 and the estimated turn-out for the election would be 15% of the electorate.

- (d) It had been noted that a car was almost permanently parked on the grass in the vicinity of the Memorial Tree to the late Clerk, Trevor Ashbourne. It was agreed that a letter should be written to the car owner who lives in the adjoining house, to remove the car. **Action: Clerk**

21. Date of next meeting: Monday 28th January 2012

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman of the Parish Council