

RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Community Hall, Lewis Road, Radford Semele, on Monday 28th February 2011 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillor Mrs F M Walsh (in the Chair), Cllr Mrs J A Edwards, Cllr J Hodder, Cllr Mrs J Loveridge and Cllr Mrs J P Malin

In attendance: WDC Cllr Michael Doody

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr A J Malin, Cllr J M Whitehead, Cllr D E Chater and Cllr H E Marriott

2. **Minutes of the last meeting**

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed having incorporated an amendment proposed by Cllr Chater to para 7.2. This is to be inserted by the Clerk after the meeting.

3. **Police Matters**

3.1 The Clerk tabled a newsletter from the Police which appeared on 28th February 2011 and it was confirmed that all Councillors are now on an email link to the Police for future new items from them.

4. **Matters Arising**

4.1 The Clerk reported that, in response to his enquiries about speeding enforcement, he received a note from the WCC Traffic Control Section stating that Offchurch Lane had been referred to the Mobile Camera Enforcement Unit for consideration. It has been issued with a warning that, due to budget cuts, there may be a problem. He had also been advised that the Council should contact the Safer Neighbourhoods Team via the Police. It was agreed that the Clerk should pursue the matter and press for some outcome. **Action: Clerk**

4.2 With reference to the Council's consideration of a donation to the Church Graveyard Fund, Cllr Loveridge reported that there is still a need for the funding despite the presence of construction people in the graveyard.

4.3 In the absence of Cllr Whitehead, the question of a new grit bin outside the shops was not known; the matter to be put before the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

4.4 With reference to para 17.2, Cllr Hodder explained that, although he is not representative of this Council with School Governors, matters there had settled down as indicated in the previous Minute. There had been a difference of opinion over SATS but that had been resolved.

4.5 The Clerk reported that the misaligned flagstone referred to in the previous Minutes had now been rectified – he had tested it personally.

- 4.6 The Clerk reported that he had received an acknowledgement as to yellow lines being applied in Lewis Road and School Lane and he had been told that the matter was under consideration. The Clerk is to pursue. **Action: Clerk**
- 4.7 The Clerk reported that he had had an acknowledgement to his application for a sign on Hatherell Road and he was told that this was in hand. The Clerk is to pursue. **Action: Clerk**
- 4.8 The question of extra funding for the Scouts was raised again as to what they needed by way of storage; Cllr Doody said that was being looked into and hopefully there would be some feedback.
- 4.9 It was agreed that the question of the Clerk's pay be deferred until the return from holiday of Cllr Chater. The Clerk reported that he had received information from WALC on the topic. **Action: Clerk & Cllr Chater**

5. WCC & WDC Matters

- 5.1 WDC Cllr Doody had tabled his report in advance of the Meeting which had been circulated by the Clerk but he spoke to various matters.
- 5.2 He said that WCC's budget was being cut drastically because of Government pressure and they would have to lose 28% of their funding over four years. WDC would be down by £3M.
- 5.3 He said there would be a cut in expenditure on interactive speed signs, subsidies to bus companies and other ancillary services with reference to highways generally. His budget was having to be reduced from £3M to £1.6M.
- 5.4 He had been very active on the matter of the HS2 high speed train. There was a working group of all the Council Leaders for each area along the line of the track from the Chilterns northwards. Sums paid into a 'fighting fund' by the different Councils amounted to approximately £1M. WDC had contributed £100,000. He said he had received some criticism about spending that amount of money in a time of recession but he pointed out the importance of fighting the railway for the good of the community for decades to come and it was worth it. There had recently been a meeting of the Councils in Warwickshire and there was very little opposition to the principle of fighting the proposal.
- 5.5 He said the Police Force is going through a difficult time. PS Kettle is now our person to contact and in his view the Force management is top heavy when compared with the ranking of senior officers in Coventry (who come under West Midlands Police). The Police Authority is to be abolished and the appointment of a Police Commissioner is going to happen – it is not yet known when. The Commissioner will be responsible for finance instead of the current WCC Police Finance Committee.

6. Finance and Accounts

- 6.1 The Clerk reported that the investment account currently stands at approximately £41,180 and the current account stands at approximately £4,500.
- 6.2 The Clerk presented the schedule of annual payments with reference to February – with particular reference to payments where no invoices are delivered. It was

agreed that a donation of £100 each should be made to Radford Semele Brownies and Radford Semele Rainbows and that a donation of £200 should be made to Radford Semele Scouts. It was agreed that £700 should be allocated for the upkeep of St Nicholas' Church graveyard.

6.3 The Council approved some other payments detailed on a schedule tabled by the Clerk.

6.4 The Council also approved a payment of £210.

7. Correspondence

7.1 The Clerk had received an email from Mr John Clark praising Cllr Marriott and Cllr Whitehead's work in connection with a chestnut tree in the Playing Fields. The Clerk had forwarded this to Cllr Marriott who had done the work.

7.2 The Clerk had received a nice thank you letter from the resident in Lythall Close who had complained about dog mess in Hatherall Road expressing her appreciation of the Council's efforts.

7.3 The Clerk had received a notice from the Electoral Roll Registration Officer as to the forthcoming local elections on the 5th May 2011. The paperwork should be forthcoming soon so that Councillors could file an application to stand for the Council again. The Clerk to pursue enquiries on this. **Action: Clerk**

7.4 The Clerk had received a verbal and email approach by Zurich Insurance interested in the Council's business for the forthcoming insurance renewal in June; the Clerk reported that following discussion with Came and Co, brokers, and the quotation received from them at the last Council meeting, he had recently had a meeting with one of their representatives (this was a meeting where they hoped to meet a Councillor but the Council had declined).

The Clerk had agreed with Came and Co that they would produce a fresh quotation at the end of April in good time for the Clerk to consider the position with the Council's existing insurers, Allianz / AON; the Council agreed that the Clerk should respond to Zurich so Council could end up with two rival quotations to the renewal figures offered by Allianz /AON nearer the due date. **Action: Clerk**

7.5 The Clerk reminded the Council that there were still courses available on 5th March 2011 and the 9th April 2011. The first was dealing with interfacing between parish council and its community and the second was a seminar on being a good councillor. There were no takers for either of these courses.

7.6 The Clerk had received notice of a meeting on 31st March 2011 concerning care of the elderly. It was decided not to take up the invitation.

7.7 The Clerk had received laminated notices designed for noticeboards containing information on how to contact WCC re highway problems of repair etc. It was agreed that the Clerk should have these details inserted into the Minutes of this meeting as a reference point for Councillors and he should fix up the laminated notices for 2010 for public awareness. **Action: Clerk**



8. The future of the Youth Club building

In the absence of Cllr Whitehead, the Clerk reported that he had received a copy of a report by Mr Davidson and others on their proposals for utilising the building which had been passed to Cllr Whitehead. It was agreed that this matter should be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Action: Clerk

9. Sports & Social Club land application

Cllr Walsh reported that Cllr Whitehead had not yet had an opportunity to discuss details with the Chairman of the Sports & Social Club and this matter should be put on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Action: Clerk

10. Report from the Planning Committee

- 10.1 Cllr Walsh reported that applications had been approved in respect of Leasowes Farm and of 9 Lewis Road.

11. Report from the Playing Field Committee

- 11.1 Cllr Walsh reported that wording to go on the plaque commemorating Sunny Dillon had been formulated and approved by his family. In the absence of Cllr Marriott, it was agreed to put this on the agenda for the next meeting to progress towards installing the plaque. A note confirming the wording was filed with the Clerk.

Action: Clerk

12. Report from the Finance Committee

In the absence of Cllr Chater, the Clerk said there was nothing further to items already canvassed.

13. Report from the Sports and Social Club Committee

See Minute in relation to report from the Community Hall Committee.

14. Report from the Emergency Planning Committee

Cllr Edwards proposed that in the face of the retirement of Mick Potter it would be best to leave arranging a meeting with his successor until several months down the line in the summer when she will deal with this. **Action: Cllr Edwards**

15. Report from the Community Hall Committee

- 15.1 Cllr Loveridge reported that the Committee has a serious issue with the Sports & Social Club. they have recently paid £750 on account of their debt to the Hall but there is still a considerable shortfall.
- 15.2 The arrears relate to utility accounts which the Club is required to pay under their Lease. After making adjustments accumulated arrears for the period from June to October 2010 are £1,794.00. Due to the illness of Cllr A Malin (the Parish Council representative on the Club Committee) it has not been possible to monitor meetings of the Club management Committee. They have not been forthcoming on any issues including any proposals to reduce the arrears.
- 15.3 It was agreed that Cllrs Chater and Loveridge will continue to monitor the position. It was proposed by Cllr Hodder and agreed that, for the time being, either he or Cllr Loveridge should attend meetings of the Club management Committee on an alternate basis to monitor the position during Cllr Malin's illness.
Action: Cllrs Hodder & Loveridge

16. Report from the School Governors

There was nothing to report.

17. Report from the Youth Club

There was nothing to report in addition to the previous item of the building.

18. Any Other Business

- (i) The subject of wheelie bin stickers is to be put to the next meeting.
Action: Clerk
- (ii) The subject of the web site is to be put to the next meeting.
Action: Clerk

20. Date of next meeting: Monday 28th March 2011

Signed..... Date.....

Chairman of the Parish Council