

RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Community Hall, Lewis Road, Radford Semele, on Monday 22nd February 2010 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillor J M Whitehead (in the Chair), Cllr D E Chater, Cllr Mrs J A Edwards, Cllr J Hodder, Cllr Mrs J Loveridge, Cllr A J Malin, Cllr Mrs J P Malin and Cllr H E Marriott.

In attendance: WDC/WCC Cllr Doody and, for part of the meeting, Mr Chand Aujla of the Village Post Office (and his son).

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Mrs F M Walsh

1a. **The Village Post Office**

Mr Aujla reported that he had been advised by builders whom he had asked for quotations that because of the gradient of the forecourt outside the Post Office, a zig-zag construction would be needed to comprise a footpath with possibly a handrail at certain points. The cost envisaged by him and the Parish Council previously at around £6,000.

After some discussion, Councillors emphasised that it was not for them to tell the Postmaster how to deal with the matter but it seems that the proposed project is impractical. It was noted that there would be no financial contribution from the Post Office and their attitude was that it was for the individual postmaster to decide what to do with his premises. The Council therefore did not see how they could take the matter forward.

Mr Aujla said he had had two quotations for the cost of the CCTV. It was noted that the Clerk was still waiting for a detailed reply from the Information Commissioner as to details of licences etc required for the system. Cllr Chater said that he had been on the telephone to the Information Commissioner's office from which it appeared that the matter was relatively simple; someone had to apply for the licence and the obvious person to apply for it would be Mr Aujla. It had been made clear that the system proposed was self-contained and would not be monitored by the Police nor periodically checked. In the event of an incident occurring, the aid of the Police would have to be brought in to open up the device and examine it.

It was agreed to leave the matter in abeyance for further discussion after a reply from the Information Commissioner was received. **Action: Clerk**

2. **Minutes of the last meeting**

The Minutes of the last meeting on the 25th January 2010 were approved.

3. Police Matters

- 3.1 In the absence of Police Officers or Police report, the Clerk tabled an email received by way of a newsletter (in line with previous procedure); the email was dated 21st January 2010 – 9th February 2010. The Clerk advised that he had not received any more newsletters to cover the period from the 9th February to the date of this meeting.

4. WCC & WDC Matters

- 4.1 Cllr Doody reported that Council Tax will be at a rate of 2.5% in the forthcoming year. The District Council has got to improve its funds because for the next year or so, it will lose the equivalent of 2.5% of its funding from central government.
- 4.2 He reported that Warwick County Council established the use of travel tokens throughout the whole district following Government direction. The Government saw fit to give the service to the over-sixty year olds and the under-sixteen year olds; funding had now been withdrawn but the County Council felt it was right to continue this service as it was already established.
- 4.3 He said the WDC report on the Spatial Strategy had gone to central government who had altered parts of the scheme; they had taken out certain areas and put in new ones, in particular Cubbington and the site of Champion School. He did not think it likely that Champion School would be demolished for housing as indicated in the local press nor did he think that Cubbington would be an eventual site under the Spatial Strategy because of the flooding problems.
- 4.4 There was discussion about traffic regulation in the Village. There was a reminder from the Chair that there had been discussion about implementing a speed restriction scheme at 30 mph speed signs at both ends of Offchurch Lane. Cllr Doody said that he had not forgotten the project and he was looking into it.

5. Matters Arising

- 5.1 There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting which were not to be dealt with under other headings.

6. Finance and Accounts

- 6.1 The Clerk reported that the operating account has a balance of approximately £7,000 and the investment account has a balance of approximately £35,000. The differential from last month's figures is mainly due to a transfer of £5,000 which is made to preserve liquidity.
- 6.2 The Council approved some payments including one to Cllr Marriott for reimbursement of his outlay on the cost of a number of robust bushes to be installed in the Playing Fields as previously approved by the Council.

7. Correspondence

- 7.1 The Clerk had received information on the Leamington & District Flood forum had been received; Cllr Chater continued to input on that.
- 7.2 The Clerk received a thank you letter from the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust for the recent donation.
- 7.3 The Clerk had attended a Licensing Seminar on the 8th February held by WDC as previously advertised.
- 7.4 The Clerk and Cllr Chater had responded to an invitation from the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association of Leamington when they held a seminar on Saturday 20th February at the Community Hall. A number of local people had attended and there had been a frank exchange of views.

8. Report from the Planning Committee

The Council was advised by Cllr Walsh that there was nothing to report.

9. Report from the Playing Field Committee

- 9.1 Cllr Whitehead reported that he had completed preparation of drawings in respect of the drains on the Field which he and Cllr Marriott had cleared some weeks ago. The drawings are to be kept for posterity – one copy in particular to be lodged with the Clerk.
- 9.2 The Clerk raised the question of whether the football club should be pursued for rent as previously he had been instructed to leave the matter in abeyance. This is to be further considered. **Action: Cllr Whitehead**

10. Report from the Finance Committee

The Chairman reported that the Finance Committee had made an initial assessment of the Clerk's pay review and it had been decided to complete an appraisal process with him. **Action: Clerk**

11. Report from the Sports and Social Club Committee

Cllr Tony Malin reported that the Sports & Social Club is suffering drastically from lack of finance. They had had to cut the hours of staff to save the wages bill and rearrange charges with the brewery. Cllr Chater pointed out that this was foreseen – he had in fact mentioned it some time ago and the Club was now facing the consequences of having over-deployed their resources in earlier years.

12. Report from the Youth Club Committee

Cllr Whitehead reported that there had been no developments with the management of the Club, the premises were still closed. He had found the door open recently and damage to the wall by vandals but nothing had been stolen.

13. Report from the Community Hall Committee

Cllr Loveridge reported that there was nothing to report save the question of insulation to the roof to come up on a future agenda.

14. Report from the Emergency Planning Committee

Cllr Edwards had no emergencies to report but is in the process of a major update of the Village Emergency Plan. Other councillors assisted with various details for inclusion in this. Cllr Edwards agreed to complete a draft and circulate this to councillors for their perusal and correction any errors or omissions. The Clerk agreed to allow her use of the 2010 Register of Electors.

Action: Clerk

15. Report from the School Governors

The Clerk reported that the Clerk to the School Governors, Peter Morrell, had been enquiring whether the Parish Council had any response to filling the vacancy of their representative. Cllr Hodder said there had been a discussion but the lady who originally volunteered to the Clerk had not responded to contact. It was agreed that Cllr Loveridge would approach this person again and see if progress could be made.

Action: Cllr Loveridge

There was discussion about putting a notice in the shop windows in the Village to advertise for a person to fill the post. It was decided to leave that in abeyance.

16. Any Other Business

- (a) In the absence of Cllr Walsh, it was felt that any discussion about the website would be fruitless. The Clerk reported that he had supplied to Cllr Walsh details of other parish council websites as previously requested.
- (b) The Clerk supplied the Chairman with a copy of the draft contract which he had obtained over the internet from BT. He advised that this is a standard form contract creating liability on the Parish Council. The purchase price was only £1 but the Council had to consider the responsibilities of maintaining the unit including liability for any injury to a member of the public and also the cost of maintaining the structure. He had not had a specific response from anybody in BT – clearly they are laid back about the disposal of telephone boxes which they no longer want themselves. The basic criteria for taking over the box is obtaining permission from WDC to have the telephone service discontinued, it is not part of the game plan for BT to continue telephone services at the same time as the Parish Council taking over the physical structure of the box. It was agreed that this should be put on the Agenda for future discussions.
Action: Clerk
- (c) The Clerk reported that he had at last received a response from the Highways Dept of WCC. They had no basic objection to a new notice board being reinstated in the same position as the existing one but raised the query that if the board was put in a different position then there might be an issue as to cables, pipes and various things underground. Cllr Whitehead said he had been looking on the internet

and would look further and the matter could be discussed in due course. This item is to be put on the Agenda for the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

- (d) Cllr Hodder reported that he had made enquiries with the Highway Dept and had been directed down a blind alley. He had come to the preliminary conclusion that a bus shelter at the end of Lewis Road was not appropriate so we were focussing on the bus shelter at the end of School Lane. He had arranged for Gerald Brooks of the Highways Dept to come on site to review the matter. He said the funding position looks favourable. **Action: Cllr Hodder**

- (e) Cllr Hodder had had a discussion with Steve Patalong who had spoken to the Parish Council about a year ago. He is an officer of the Warwickshire Rural Initiative. Cllr Hodder said it was not progressing at present because of the difficulty of identifying people in the Village who would form a working party to get it going. It was acknowledged that it was not for the Council to initiate it. As Cllr Doody had not yet called his meeting on the Spatial Strategy, there had not yet been an opportunity to convene a meeting of the Village in general. It was still in contemplation but when Cllr Doody called his public meeting then the Village Plan would be put before it by Cllr Hodder. It was agreed that this would be put on the Agenda for future discussion. **Action: Clerk**

- (f) With regards to the Lil Lay memorial, there had been no progress so far. The School had been approached but had no ideas of how it could be dealt with. One suggestion is that there should be prizes for the school children; because of their repetitive nature, this would perpetuate Mrs Lay's memory whereas it was difficult to decide where to put a plaque if that was going to be the memorial. the Clerk reminded the Council that previously it had been suggested that the matter be left for discussion with the St Nicholas Church Council to see whether any suitable memorial could be established in the church when it was reopened. It was agreed that this should be put on the Agenda for future discussion. **Action: Clerk**

- (g) The Chairman reported that no progress had been made on the Sunny Dillon memorial. He was mindful of the need to come to a decision because money had been raised in his memory and it could not be left to stand idle. It was agreed that this would be put on the Agenda for the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

17. Date of next meeting: Monday 29th March 2010

The meeting closed at

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman of the Parish Council