

# RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Community Hall, Lewis Road, Radford Semele, on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2010 at 7.30 pm.

**Present:** Councillor J M Whitehead (in the Chair), Cllr D E Chater, Cllr Mrs J A Edwards, Cllr Mrs J Loveridge, Cllr H E Marriott and Cllr Mrs F M Walsh

**In attendance:** Chairman of WDC – Cllr Bertie McKay and WDC Cllr Doody

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr J Hodder, Cllr A J Malin and Cllr Mrs J P Malin

2. **Minutes of the last meeting**

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved subject to some amendments. It was agreed the Clerk would produce a retyped copy and the Chairman was authorised to sign it in advance of the next meeting.

3. **Police Matters**

3.1 There was no police presence or report but the Clerk tabled an email newsletter from the police for the period from 1.10.10 to 21.10.10. He reminded Councillors that the previous email before the last meeting of the Parish Council was for the period 19.9.10 to 30.9.10 so the present one was a follow-on from that.

3.2 Cllr Chater referred to an incident regarding the CCTV installed at the Post Office. There was an incident but the Police response to being invited to study the recorded material was negative. P/S David Kettle, based at Kenilworth Police Station, is now the area officer responsible for affairs local to the Parish. He attends meetings of the Warwick East Rural Community Forum.

3.3 It was agreed that the Clerk should invite P/S Kettle to a meeting and at the same time raise the issue of the negative response of the incident concerning the CCTV. **Action: Clerk**

4. **WCC & WDC Matters**

4.1 Cllr Doody reported that there was continuing debate on the proposed withdrawal of the swimming pool subsidy. A final decision will be made at the WDC in the near future. The cost to WDC was approximately £160,000 and they had to find ways of cutting down their overheads generally. The preservation of the swimming pool itself would be maintained and so it was likely that the subsidy would go.

4.2 He confirmed that WDC must have a target of reduction in their budget of 7.1% for each of the next four years consecutively. WDC receives approximately £11M from the Government and £7.5M from raising Council Tax. He said that they had been at pains to have no

redundancies amongst staff but had reduced staff by natural wastage. He also confirmed there would be a 0% in rates at the present time.

- 4.3 He said that the case for preserving the fire stations was not viable. They had secured that the fire station coverage for the future would be on the south side of Leamington which WDC considered would give better coverage to the south and east of Leamington than if the fire station were based elsewhere.
- 4.4 He said the WDC and WCC were totally opposed to the high-speed railway. Neither had status as consultees to the Government proposals but they were going to make clear that they were both opposed. There was clearly no advantage to people in Warwickshire and the whole scheme was flawed because of the connections at St Pancras and at Birmingham.
- 4.5 Cllr Doody said the Council were considering the imposition of Council Tax upon second homes.
- 4.6 Cllr Doody reported that County Forum had approved a grant of approximately £2,000 to Canalside Foods for the development of their project on the Southam Road. The project to be undertaken is the education of children in the locality (particularly Radford Semele and Cubbington) on ecological matters which are connected with the canal side development.

Cllr McKay, the Chairman of WDC, addressed the meeting on a number of issues:

- He considered that the emphasis should be on support for the rural areas which had been neglected in an earlier Administration of WDC / WCC which had concentrated on the urban areas.
- He said the rural challenge had been taken up and useful papers produced by the CPRE, ACRE and LGA. A member of the rural community himself, he was keen to see participation and to have their ideas acknowledged.
- A particular issue was sustainable rural communities. To avoid the rural environment withering away, it was necessary to ensure sustainability outside the major towns. This is particularly so in sparse areas. He had ideas of promoting IT and other facilities to sustain working from and in rural areas.
- He said he was particularly concerned about the impact of the high-speed rail on the Warwickshire community –
  - (a) At present the proposed route ran directly through the National Agricultural Centre which did not make sense.
  - (b) It is anticipated that the selected route will be decided by the end of 2010.
  - (c) It will followed by a consultation in 2011 between the Government and the public.

- (d) The advent of the railway will drive a significant number of commuters from living in Warwickshire with the result that Warwickshire will not have the benefit of their spending. he has calculated that there are about 1,000 commuters who travel from Coventry to Euston on a regular basis. Each one represents a household.
- He was asked about the possibility for a bye-law in respect of Offchurch Lane to prohibit parking on the grass verges and it appears that Whitnash Town Council have this provision in place. Cllr McKay said he could see no objection to the principle – arguably the Parish Council already has powers in dealing with the matter.
  - In his capacity as Chairman of the WDC Planning Committee, he said that planning applications are up to date and the department is keeping abreast of developments.

## 5. Matters Arising

- 5.1 Cllr Walsh reported that she had investigated further the question of putting speed limitation stickers on wheelie bins on the public roads. Also the idea of having A3 size notices put up. The WDC Dept had come back to her on the basis that stickers can be issued in bulk provided they are presented to identifiable people from the Electoral Roll. It was agreed that the Clerk would supply Cllr Walsh with details of the Electoral Roll. **Action: Clerk**
- 5.2 There was further debate about limitation of speed in Offchurch Lane. It was agreed to pursue this.
- 5.3 The Clerk reported that the telephone box had now been transferred by BT to the Council; a coloured notice had been issued by BT with instruction to place it on the kiosk to notify the public. The Clerk was currently negotiating the insurance position; previously he had been advised by the insurers that no further premium was necessary for cover which would be immediately applicable but recent correspondence with the insurance brokers suggested otherwise. He will pursue the matter. **Action: Clerk**
- 5.4 Cllr Marriott reported that the pond at the rear of the Village had been cleared by the contractors Blue Boar and it was now satisfactory. It had previously been a marl pit and had a firm clay base. The Clerk confirmed that he had received an invoice from Blue Boar.

## 6. Finance and Accounts

- 6.1 The Clerk reported that the operating account at the bank contains approximately £6,300 and the investment account contains approximately £46,000. The relatively high level of the operating account was the result of a recent transfer of funds which he had made to preserve liquidity.
- 6.2 The Council approved a number of payments including reimbursement to the Clerk of his travel expenses in attending the Clerks' Conference (previously approved). The invoice submitted by Cllr Marriott for land

works carried out by him recently (approved by the Council in the absence of Cllr Marriott from the meeting room).

## **7. Correspondence**

- 7.1 The Clerk had received a circular letter from the MP's agent requesting assistance in putting up posters to promote the MP's availability at surgeries. As this is a non-political service, it was agreed that the Clerk would put up the notices.
- 7.2 The Clerk had received an unsolicited email from the Clerk to Beaconsfield Town Council offering consultation on the preparation of a Parish Website. He passed this to Cllr Walsh.
- 7.3 The Clerk reported again details of training sessions made available by WALC, in particular a briefing event for chairmen and aspiring chairmen on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at Rugby. There were no takers.
- 7.4 The Clerk had received from WALC the usual notice for their AGM – to take place on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2010 at the Shire Hall, Warwick – all invited.
- 7.5 The Clerk had received details of bus service changes affecting Radford Semele which were available on his file for Councillors' reference.

## **8. Notice board**

The Chairman said he and the Finance Committee had taken the view that the undertaking of renewing the noticeboard should be put off until May 2011 in view of the other commitments on the Council's budget (including the particularly large donation to Sunbeams recently).

## **9. Public Insurance Review, Risk Management Policy and Declarations of Interest by Councillors**

It was agreed that in view of the short amount of time, these items should be put off until the next meeting of the Council. The Clerk to table on the future occasion the Declarations of Interest and his draft form of Register of Interests.

**Action: Clerk**

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

Cllr Walsh said there was nothing to report.

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

The Chairman reported that the application of the memorial fund for Sunny Dhillon had been resolved. The family had provided facilities for the football club which had been appreciated there.

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

Cllr Chater said there was nothing to report and reminded all that he and the Clerk would be looking at the forthcoming budget in December/January.

**Action: Cllr Chater & Clerk**

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

13.1 The Chairman said he had not managed to get a detailed discussion with the chairman of the Sports Club so as to achieve any Heads of Terms on the proposal for the Sports & Social Club to have the use of land outside their building.

13.2 Cllr Marriott reported that the telephone wire he had discovered embedded in a tree (referred to in previous Minutes) had been identified as being a telephone wire linked to the Sports Club (clearly not in current use).

13.3 It was agreed the matter of the occupation of land would be put on the Agenda for the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

## **14. Report from the Emergency Planning Committee**

Cllr Edwards secured the agreement of the Council to have a visit from Mr Mick Potter of WDC (Emergency Department) to update the Council on emergency procedures. It was agreed he be invited to attend the meeting of the Council in February 2011. **Action: Cllr Edwards**

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

Cllr Loveridge reported that minor expenditure had been undertaken in respect of the windows, exits and letterbox. It had also been necessary to repair some of the tiles.

## **16. Report from the School Governors**

The difficulty for Cllr Hodder in attending Council meetings was discussed in the light of his recent email to the Clerk. It was agreed that Cllr Hodder should continue in office and it was not necessary at this stage for him to consider withdrawing from his duties as a Councillor. With reference to the School, continuing enquiries would be made to find someone to represent the Council on the School Governing Body, not necessarily a serving member of the Parish Council. A check should be made to see whether it would be necessary for the representative to be a serving member. **Action: Chairman & Clerk**

## **17. Report from the Youth Club**

17.1 The Chairman reported that he had had an approach from some who claimed to be engaged with youth activities in the county and expressed an interest in preserving the Youth Club building. Despite trying to contact this person, no progress had been made.

17.2 The Chairman had learned that there was £5,000 in the County budget to cover 15 villages, which sum did not appear to be adequate.

- 17.3 He had managed to obtain no interest at all from the football club in the building.
- 17.4 The LEA had had no interest in using the club building because they use the School building for youth activities.
- 17.5 The Chairman expressed in strong terms that he was not prepared to carry on the physical work of constantly reviewing the state of the building and repairing it. The facility was not appreciated by the Community as no-one would come forward to run a management committee and the building was continually vandalised. A debate ensued as to whether to now defer the trial period but the decision was reached to take steps to demolish the building.

It was RESOLVED that notice of discontinuance should be given and a time limit for any response from the public. It was agreed that the Chairman would arrange the fixing of notices in four different locations, giving a time limit for new representations to be made, or following which steps would be taken to demolish the building. **Action: Chairman**

**18. Any Other Business**

There was none.

**19. Date of next meeting: Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

Signed.....

Date.....

**Chairman of the Parish Council**