

RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday 28th March 2022 at 7.30 pm in the Community Hall, Lewis Road, Radford Semele.

Participants: Cllr S Sabin (in the chair), Cllr D Carter, Cllr A T Hitchcox, Cllr Mrs J P Malin and Cllr R Munn

In attendance: Mr Jack Dempsey and Mrs Barbara Wyatt

1. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies for absence from Cllr B Follett (family), Cllr B Friar (family), Cllr Musa (work), Cllr J Sudbury (Covid), WDC Cllr Mrs Leigh-Hunt (family) and WCC Cllr W A Redford (funeral). There were no declarations of interest.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting on 28th February 2022

The Minutes of the meeting on 28th February 2022 were approved; proposed by Cllr Carter and seconded by Cllr Munn.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Council meeting on 28th February 2022

A number of items had been identified by the Clerk in advance:

- a. Activity by Severn Trent on the A425 appears to have been completed satisfactorily and approved by WCC (Gerald Brooks).
- b. It was noted that the hedges adjacent to the School had been trimmed.
- c. No response had been received from WCC on the Clerk's request for a review of the incline in Lewis Road.
- d. The Chairman and the Clerk were due to attend a training course shortly on the WDC/SDC new Code of Conduct.
- e. Cllr Munn reported that he had tabled a supportive submission for PC King's request for policing priorities.
- f. Cllr Carter had dealt with the Levelling Up paper.
- g. The Clerk had written to a resident requesting a new burial ground but had not received any response.

4. Speedwatch update

Cllr Munn gave a verbal update and tabled a report.

1. They have three new volunteers; they still await a response from the Police for training volunteers. Teams conducted two sessions on Thursday 24th March 2022. In the morning session 5 cars were reported for speeding – the fastest being 39mph; a total of 139 vehicles were checked. In the afternoon session, 84 vehicles were checked and 5 cars reported for speeding, the fastest also being 39mph. Both checks were at the Southam Road / Kingshurst junction, this being the worst area for speeding in their experience.
2. At the previous Council meeting, approval had been given in principle for the purchase of a tripod for the laser speed device in the sum of £346.99. At this meeting it was RESOLVED that the purchase go ahead, proposed by Cllr Munn and seconded by Cllr Sabin. **Action: Clerk & Cllr Munn**

5. Traffic management issues

1. The Chairman reported that despite a note from the Clerk about a week ago, no further update had been received from Charles Barlow and his team beyond the preliminary report which he had sent to the Clerk a couple of weeks before this meeting and had been circulated to all. It was pleasing to note that, in principle, the team consider that the installation of double yellow lines at the junction of

Lewis Road/A425 and the area of School Lane in the vicinity of the A425 and the School are feasible options.

2. It was disconcerting to note their observation that in order to assess whether refuges were required at the Lewis Road junction and the Kingshurst junction, it was necessary for a fee of £500 for each junction to be paid by this Council for the investigation. The view of this Council was that the dimensions of the junctions were self evident and refuges would not need to be bedded very deep in the ground so the process of assessment was not necessary. It was AGREED that the Clerk should raise this with WCC. **Action: Clerk**
3. It was noted that the various issues raised at the meetings and referred to Jeff Morris and his department had yet to be answered. In particular this is signage and the allocation of dragons' teeth on the A425 in the vicinity of Semele Park.
4. It was noted that the feed-back received so far had not addressed the submissions made in the report of Tom Head which this Council had presented to the WCC representatives at the meeting on 21st January 2022. It was AGREED that the Clerk should pursue this with Mr Barlow. **Action: Clerk**
5. A considered email had been received from Judy Steele regarding the construction of a footpath from the area on the Canalside Food site along the A425 in the direction of Semele Park and beyond towards the Village. Her submission was this could be taken into account when a review of traffic management on the A425 is being carried out. It was AGREED in principle that this should be taken up with Mr Barlow's team. The Chairman opined that it would be practical for himself and the Clerk and one or two Cllrs from this Council to carry out a site inspection of the relevant areas of the A425 and to respond to Jeff Morris' request at the meeting on 21st January for more information. **Action: Chairman & Clerk**
6. The Chairman reported that the motion of support for the 20's Plenty campaign, as passed at the last PC meeting, had been forwarded to WCC Cabinet members, MP's and the Police and Crime Commissioner. The 20mph for Warwickshire campaign is due to be discussed at the WCC Cabinet meeting on April 12th.

6. Section 106 and CIL issues

1. Regarding The Cricketers site, the Clerk had now received a response from Helen Hancox of WDC with a revised draft of the Funding Letter; the Chairman and the Clerk were in the process of responding to that – the outcome looks good
2. There was no further update the position on the Canal and River Trust and the proposed pedestrian canal access from the main road.

7. Warwickshire County Council – update report

In the absence of WCC Cllr Redford, there was no report.

8. Warwick District Council – update report

In the absence of WDC Cllr Mrs Leigh-Hunt, there was no report.

9. Telephone box

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

10. Financial Matters

1. The Clerk had circulated in advance of the meeting a bank reconciliation statement; the balance on the investment account is approximately £64,300 and the balance on the operating account is approximately £6,000.
2. A list of payments to be made which had been previously circulated were approved; proposed by Cllr Mrs Malin and seconded by Cllr Carter.

11. Applications to hold events on the Playing Field

1. An application to hold an event presented by Lisa Johnson on behalf of Sunbeams was approved; the Clerk had received satisfactory details of relevant insurance cover and answers to other questions
2. The occasion presented through the Sports & Social Club projected for 26th March 2022 had not been presented further following the Clerk's requirements for satisfactory insurance cover; it was presumed the event did not take place.
3. Cllr Hitchcox had been approached by another party to hold an event on the Playing Field on 4th June 2022. It was AGREED that the lady should be advised to submit a written application to the Clerk which could then be considered by this Council at the next meeting on 25th April; Cllr Hitchcox will advise her.
Action: Cllr Hitchcox

12. Correspondence

1. The Chairman took the opportunity to report that he and the Clerk had attended a virtual meeting held by the Chairman of WCC (Cllr I Seccombe) to engender support from the local population to provide welcome and ongoing assistance to Ukrainian refugees who were expected to come to Warwickshire. (Note: meeting subsequently reported in The Courier) Further thought is to be given by this Council as to action that it might take, the point having been made at the meeting that there is a role for parish councils to contribute whether or not any of their residents take in refugees as lodgers. This matter is to be reviewed at the next meeting of this Council.
Action: Clerk
2. Cllr Hitchcox reported that he had received a request/suggestion that this Council consider the installation of lighting on the Playing Field. After discussion, the Council came to the conclusion that this is not something which this Council can undertake, there are a number of reasons for this for example light pollution, heavy commitment as to costs of the installation and an ongoing commitment for maintenance. Cllr Hitchcox is to advise the party.
Action: Cllr Hitchcox
3. Cllr. Carter, in his capacity as Chairman of the Planning Sub-committee, had been reviewing the progress of the action by WDC officers on scoping sites. He contacted the relevant officer at WDC (Hayley Smith) as to an opportunity for this Council to make representations as to the various sites. He had been advised that it was not currently open to this Council to make representations; these will be called upon once the WDC officers have completed their assessments of the sites (which will include editing the list). This Council had been advised by WDC Cllr Mrs Leigh-Hunt previously that the conclusion of this work was likely to be a long time ahead towards the end of the current year.

13. Planning Matters

The following was reported by the Chairman and Cllr Carter:

1. W/15/1635 - 56 Southam Road – ongoing
2. Canalside Development Plan Document Consultation – ongoing
3. W/21/0862 - St Andrews House – ongoing
4. W/22/0015 - Fallowfield, 18 Southam Road - ongoing
5. W/22/0056 - 6 Offchurch Lane – granted on 10th March 2022
6. W22/0109 – 28A Southam Road – granted on 9th March 2022
7. SDC22/00001 – Middle Road Farm, proposed solar farm in Harbury; this is pending
8. W/22/0399 – 5 Hemmings Close – pending
9. W/22/0437/TCA – Radford Hall Farm - pending

14. Website

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

15. Update on the Playing Field

1. At the previous meeting on 28th February, a report had been received from Cllr Follett on the practicality and the costing of trimming the willow tree on the Playing Field and carrying out a trimming exercise to the tree outside the Village Shop. The former project is to be dealt with by Henry Marriott and latter to be dealt with by AP Services. The cost of these two projects had been approved by the Council (reference para 14 of the previous Minutes) and it was AGREED that Cllr Follett (not present) be asked to arrange implementation of these two projects.
Action: Cllr Follett

2. The Chairman referred to the previous discussion about the installation of a plaque adjacent to the tree planted to recognise the Queens Platinum Jubilee; he had been advised that, over time, the plaque he had in mind would be liable to deterioration by the elements and would likely stain the plinth on which it would be mounted. He recommended that the proposal be put on hold whilst he investigates the question of a suitable material. **Action: Chairman**

16. School Matters

In the absence of Cllr Sudbury, there was no report save that approval of the Sunbeams project is noted above.

17/18 Update on the Community Hall and Sports & Social Club

1. Cllr Mrs Malin reported that, although she had attended the Sports & Social Club at the normal time and day of the Committee Meeting, on arrival it became apparent that the meeting had started earlier and was almost over. She was able to take the opportunity of raising several matters on behalf of the Community Hall Committee in Any Other Business. Whilst Cllr Malin is content to continue as the Community Hall representative at Club meetings, she felt that it would be easier and more productive if in continuing with representation of the Hall Committee at Club meetings, she relinquish her representation of the Parish Council at such meetings and this was agreed.
2. The Chairman is to take soundings as to a replacement for her on the Sports & Social Committee from another member of this Council. **Action: Chairman**

19. Any other business

1. Mr Jack Dempsey signified his willingness to become a councillor so his induction will take place at the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**
2. Consideration of the Complaints Policy deferred until after the above mentioned training session.
3. Further thought is to be given by the Chairman and the Clerk as to the situation concerning the footpath W123; they are due shortly to attend a virtual training session on Public Rights of Way organised by WALC.
4. It was still the wish of this Council to have an Assembly on Saturday 30th April when facility would be given to local groups to attend, to present themselves and to be advised by the Chairman and Cllrs on the work of this Council. The formal aspect of an Annual Parish Meeting would have to be dealt with on 25th April 2022 at the end of the next Council meeting (following a similar format to previous years). It was AGREED that Cllr Mrs Malin would draw up a list of relevant Village groups; they would then receive in invitation to attend the event on 30th April. The Community Hall has been reserved for this purpose from 10.30am onwards. The Chairman reported that he had been in touch with the Chairman of Long Itchington Parish Council and had received some most helpful advice, from her, about running such an event. **Action: Cllr Mrs Malin, Chairman & Clerk**
5. Mrs Barbara Wyatt was invited to address the meeting on her project to create a new footpath. She outlined the location of the track she wished to have formerly registered on the WCC Definitive Map. She had gone into legislative procedure and prepared a draft of forms – she tabled a copy of a plan to show the location. She sought the support of the Council by way of letter which would be filed with the other papers and it was AGREED that this Council would support the application and the Clerk agreed to draft a suitable letter on this Council's behalf. She will forward the papers to him. **Action: Clerk**

20. **Date of next meeting** - The next meeting will be on 25th April 2022. This meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Signed.....
Chairman of the Parish Council

Date..... 2022

Counter signed.....
Clerk to the Parish Council

Date.....2022