

RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

2024/5

APPROVED MINUTES

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday 5th August 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Community Hall, Lewis Road, Radford Semele.

Participants: Cllr S Sabin (in the chair), Cllr A J Dempsey, Cllr B Friar, Cllr Mrs J P Malin, Cllr R Munn, Cllr S Roe and Cllr Mrs J Sanderson

In attendance: Mrs Christine Wilson (Minutes)

1. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

There were apologies from the Clerk, Mr David Leigh-Hunt (illness), Cllr D Carter and WCC Cllr W Redford (holidays). There were no Declarations of Interest.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting on 24th June 2024

The Minutes of the meeting on 24th June 2024 were approved, proposed by Cllr Malin and seconded by Cllr Roe.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Council meeting on 24th June 2024

Any matters arising will be covered under the agenda items below.

4. Update on SpeedWatch

Cllr Munn spoke to his report which had been tabled.

- a. In the last month there had been only 2 sessions; one of these sessions at 4pm had recorded only one speeding vehicle as it was very busy so there was no opportunity to speed.
- b. A new recruit had passed his induction and was welcomed to the team.
- c. A newsletter came from the Traffic Safety Officer, Gary Strain, which said they should submit data within minutes of end of session. Cllr Munn has queried this and suggested 48 hours is more achievable and he was awaiting a reply. There will be no SNT (PC Ed King) until end of September.
- d. In 20mph limits zones, no SpeedWatch events are allowed. The Chairman has raised with Police Commissioner Seccombe on 23rd July but only automated reply had been received.
- e. Cllr Munn said that on 11th Sep in Shire Hall there would be 'A celebration of Long Service Awards' from 1.30pm – 4pm. Pre-registration is required by 15th Aug 2024 and Cllr Munn is prepared to submit an attendance list should other Cllrs wish to attend. Questions are requested at this event so Cllr Munn will formulate a relevant question.
- f. Cllr Roe expressed concern about School Lane speeders and poor parking locally.
- g. Cllr Munn thanked the Chairman for his recent letter which he distributed to his SpeedWatch group.

5. Update on traffic management issues

- a. The Chairman reported that he was still awaiting a walk round the Village with WCC Senior Engineer, Jessica Consolaro, regarding the outstanding items. She replied on 31st July and gave the 9th Aug as a completion date for these items. The work still to be done includes the bollards that were smashed and still need replacing. In addition, many signs are disappearing into the vegetation and the bus stop sign is incorrectly placed. The Chairman has copied in WCC Cllr Redford in all recent correspondence.
- b. On 16th July, Cllr Mrs Sanderson and the Chairman attended an online meeting with Jeff Morris and he talked about pot holes. The repair strategy previously was if the pothole was 20cm deep then it was urgent but now a risk-based appraisal is used. If there is a risk to health and safety then it should be repaired within two hours then there are incremental timings after that.
- c. Regarding hedgerows, Cllr Mrs Sanderson has been in correspondence with WCC highways and the Chairman has also forwarded photos of areas of concern in the Parish. She reported that she has heard back

following these photos and they clarified that the verge cutting team is different from hedge cutting team and that the areas she highlighted will be addressed.

- d. Offchurch Lane is still a matter of concern regarding inappropriate parking combined with overgrown hedgerows. This is an issue in the Village and the Safer Neighbourhood Team should be made aware of any vehicles which obstruct the highways.

6. **Update on Section 106 and CIL issues**

The Chairman reported on the Cricketers Section 106 funding and reminded Cllrs that the original planning agreement was in 2014. He confirmed that the Clerk had asked that Alistair Clark's confirming letter be put with the Funding letter and that six wording changes should be made as per his recommendation; in particular he asked that the job title of Greenspace Development Officer be stated and not the Officer's name.

It was AGREED by Council that the Chairman and the Clerk sign this latest updated offer letter of £62,350.21. Proposed by Cllr Roe and seconded by Cllr Malin. The Chairman stated that he would arrange for the Clerk and himself to sign the offer letter and deliver the documents to Leamington Spa Town Hall the following day. It was to be hoped that the Parish Council would receive the payment within a few days.

7. **Warwickshire County Council – update**

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

8. **Warwick District Council – update**

In the absence of WDC Cllr Mrs Noonan, there was no report.

9. **Financial Matters**

- 1) Cllr Friar referred to the statement which he had circulated; the balance on the investment account is currently £98,428.87 which includes a total Restricted Reserve of £46,198.21 and the balance on the operating account is £2,189.80. He had recently effected a transfer of £5,300 in order to give that account liquidity in respect of the payments to be approved at this meeting.
- 2) A number of payments identified on the list which had been circulated were approved, proposed by Cllr Mrs Sanderson and seconded by Cllr Mrs Malin and passed unanimously.
- 3) There had still been on response the External Auditor.

10. **Correspondence**

The Chairman has been dealing with the correspondence in the Clerk's absence and reported that there was a very large amount of unsolicited email and mail correspondence being delivered.

- a. Notification of a large number of courses which are available to Cllrs has been received and noted that the key points of these courses could be passed on rather than requiring attendance.
- b. An email had been received regarding an apple tree on the footpath W123A; the footpath team were aware of this.
- c. He reported that he had spoken to the nursing home regarding their hedge and this has now been dealt with.
- d. Although not correspondence, the Chairman reported that the travellers' attempted incursion into the Playing Field had been thwarted and they had moved on to Cubbington.
- e. The Chairman has also cleaned the bus shelter and put up new noticeboards.
- f. Cllr Dempsey said that he had received an email from Steve Hitchcox who is chairman of Warwick Utd enquiring about having training sessions on the Playing Field. Although Steve used to live in Radford Semele, he is not a current resident and outside village requests have previously been turned down. It was confirmed that the field is for the exclusive benefit of the current residents of the village and Cllr Dempsey will reply as such.
- g. Cllr Mrs Sanderson has had a request from FoRGE regarding a shared noticeboard for all the village events, talks, etc. It was confirmed that there is a plan to put one outside the Community Hall and that the Bovis site

will also have a shared noticeboard in due course. In addition the new boards in the bus shelter which could now be utilised.

11. Current Planning Matters

In absence of Cllr Carter, the Chairman spoke briefly to the following matters:

- 1) W/23/0471 & W/23/1574 – The Leasowes, Southam Road is still ongoing
- 2) W/24/0640 – 108 Lewis Road (ongoing)
- 3) South Warwickshire Local Plan – there is a possibly a reduction in housing need
- 4) Fosse Way Solar Farm – nothing new to discuss and no application has been put in so far
- 5) W/24/ 0951 TCA – The Vicarage, Church Lane (ongoing)

12. Playing Field update

Cllr Dempsey spoke to his report which had been tabled:

- a. The inspection of the play equipment by RoSPA highlighted minor repairs and a date for the works to commence is awaited.
- b. A meeting took place with Paul Rawlings and Cllrs Dempsey and Sanderson to discuss green maintenance on the Playing Field and clarify the Council's requirements.
- c. He is still awaiting an update from Bubbenhall Parish Council as to whether they want the four dog waste bins.
- d. The new park bench which Lisa Ptassek is organising is still awaited.
- e. Repairs to the goalposts and the goalmouths have been completed and will be ready for the new football team's upcoming season.
- f. Following the intrusion of travellers in the June, the Chairman, Cllr Friar and himself had inspected the measures taken by Baginton PC to protect their playing field. They had a very substantial galvanised steel gate installed which had meant there had been no travellers in the eight years since. Cllr Dempsey has asked three companies to quote for a similar gate. Cllr Roe brought up the possibility of blocking off the car park, but bin lorries and deliveries to the community hall could be impacted. Cllr Friar said it would be difficult to administer and it would be difficult to police. Cllr Mrs Malin pointed out that it would be a very large area to gate/block off. Cllr Roe also suggested security cameras in the area.
- g. Cllr Friar has catalogued the trees in the Village with former councillor Henry Marriott. Some ash trees have die back and Mr Marriott has offered to take them out in the autumn together with an elm tree and removal of some ivy and overhanging branches. Cllr Friar has catalogued the trees on Parish Online. The Chairman suggested an arboriculturist be contacted for expert advice on the health of our trees in due course.
- h. Cllr Dempsey has had a communication from a resident requesting gates at the children's park in order to keep dogs out. He was concerned about the possibility of children being harmed by gate springs should they be installed. After some discussion, it was thought that as HAGS were involved with the repairs to the play equipment, perhaps they could be asked to look at the possibility of soft closing gates.

13. Report from the Community Hall

Cllr Mrs Malin reported that although in some respects the Community Hall may not be as busy during the month of August, weekend bookings are still fairly busy for various events.

During two weeks of the month the Move-It School of Dance is running a children's club Monday to Friday. The weekly Art Group have relocated for these two weeks.

Looking ahead, it would seem that the Hall has at least one booking every Saturday for the rest of 2024 and well into 2025.

14. Report from the Sports & Social Club

Cllr Roe tabled his report:

- a. A committee meeting took place on 23rd July and there was much discussion regarding recent events at the Club.
- b. A new dishwasher was discussed, possibly under interest free terms.
- c. All committee members have been trained to work behind the bar although it was pointed out that the opening and closing procedures should be given more time.
- d. WiFi has yet to be installed and Cllr Friar said that Virginmedia keeping cancelling appointments. A dongle is to be sourced to help with card transactions.
- e. Discussion has been held over extra cover on insurance and also on the Club's policies.
- f. The Club has confirmed its commitment to the Village newsletter and the next meeting will be now on 15th August not 8th at 7pm.
- g. There are many future functions in the offing: a bingo night, quiz night, a party in the park and a band in September.

15. Environmental Matters

Cllr Mrs Sanderson spoke to her report:

- a. The Warwickshire Conservation Volunteers are scheduled to carry out the pond maintenance with a date to be agreed and two pair of chest waders have been secured to assist in this.
- b. Monitoring of the wildflower meadow is continuing and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust will be consulted for advice in due course.
- c. Maintenance of the hedge in The Valley will take place with farmer Sam Gibbs on a date to be agreed. Once she agrees a date then everyone in The Valley will need to move their cars.
- d. The Canal Access project is ongoing but likely that the modified ramp design will need to be resubmitted to planning.
- e. Cllr Mrs Sanderson and the Chairman attending a meeting of the Town & Parish Council Reference Group on 16th July and the actions arising are that David Lowe will share the Ecological Flow maps and Jeff Morris will share with WALC the 'No Action' pothole reports.
- f. Further to item 12.g., Henry Marriott will carry out any required maintenance on the Cubbington pear tree and the non-native trees facing The Cricketers.
- g. Regarding the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), the online survey has been completed.
- h. The Footpath Group of FoRGE met in July and cleared the path at the back of Lythall and Overtons Close. The group has now re-established the correct path and will continue work in this area in August. They also tidied the bridge near the pond and started work on the permissive path leading to The Valley.
- i. A new edition of FoRGE news will be distributed in September and will aim to share distribution; Cllr Roe has arranged a meeting for 15th August so all parties can discuss next steps.

Cllr Mrs Sanderson also queried the balancing ponds and it was confirmed that the developers are responsible for maintaining them. Lastly, she had been informed that the Baptist Church wished to relocate their community bench but it was pointed out that the new site was still on their land so the Parish Council would be unable to help.

16. Telephone Box

Cllr Mrs Sanderson said in her report that a risk assessment is in the process of being created, with a view to starting work in September. The occupier of the nearby residence and County Highways will be informed once the risk assessment is complete and they have a clear working schedule. Cllr Friar will compose a letter to the resident in due course.

17. Emergency Planning

Cllr Mrs Malin reported as follows:

- a. Since the word 'Emergency' may cover many issues, not simply environmental issues, it is important to include other relevant matters in the preparation of the Emergency Plan.
- b. The Parish Council has experienced within the course of one year, the incursion of travellers on to the Playing Field on two occasions. For future security, the Parish Council is looking at the most workable measures to protect the Playing Field.
- c. Following recent events in Southport, the Council and the Community Hall are taking advice from ACRE (Action for Communities in Rural England) to assist with security and safety in use of the Hall involving both adults and children. Though safety measures are already in place, any further advice or change in the law will be incorporated in the plan.
- d. Parish Council, in updating the current Emergency Plan, will also be looking to put in place an action plan for possible environmental emergencies.

Cllr Friar said there will be a cost implication for supplies and storage and once the costs are known then they could be budgeted for.

18. Footpath W123

There was nothing to report.

19. Any other business

- 1) The Minutes of the Special Council meeting on 5th June 2024 were approved; proposed by Cllr Roe and seconded by Cllr Mrs Malin.

20. Date of next Council meeting

The next meeting will be on the 30th September 2024. This meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Signed.....
Chairman of the Parish Council

Date August 2024

Counter signed.....
Clerk

Date August 2024