

RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

2024/7

APPROVED MINUTES

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday 28th October 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Community Hall, Lewis Road, Radford Semele.

Participants: Cllr S Sabin (in the chair), Cllr D Carter, Cllr A J Dempsey, Cllr B Friar, Cllr Mrs J P Malin, Cllr R Munn and Cllr Mrs J Sanderson, Mr David Leigh-Hunt (Clerk)

In attendance: WCC Cllr W Redford, a member of the public and a number of members of the public with interests in the planning application for Fosse Way Solar Farm (led by Ms Kate Pittel)

1. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies were received from WDC Cllr M/s Davidson (another meeting) and there were no Declarations of Interest.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting on 30th September 2024

Subject to a small alteration requested by Cllr Munn on which it was agreed the reference should be deleted, the Minutes of the meeting on 30th September 2024 were approved by Cllr Friar and seconded by Cllr Mrs Sanderson.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Council meeting on 30th September 2024

The Chairman and the Clerk concurred that there were no matters arising from the Minutes which were not dealt with under other headings. As there were a number of interested parties present, the Chairman elected to deal with the planning applications first.

Item 11 6) Fosse Way Solar Farm Application (Planning reference W/24/04)

It was noted that this planning application was lodged with WDC on 15th October 2024 but the notice issued by the Case Officer (Adam Walker) was dated 25th October 2024 – addressed to the Clerk. This indicated a gap in time of 9/10 days on the part of Mr Walker in processing the matter. It was also noted that the overall effect of this timing was to give any interested parties a limited period of a few weeks in the face of Mr Walker's allocation of the 15th November 2024 as the final date for lodging observations/objections to the application. The view taken by the members of the public present and by all members of the Council was that this timing is inordinate given the complex matters to be considered.

1. It had been observed by Ms Pittel that the applicants' site plan demonstrated that their proposed installation is one third larger than the total area of Radford Semele Village.
2. The Clerk then addressed the meeting to the effect that he and Cllr Carter had spent a lot of time in the last few days perusing the applicants' documentation on the WDC website and were poised to draft a submission on behalf of this Council, if it was agreed. Cllr Carter and the Clerk were of the view that the services of a specialist in planning should be employed who will draft a submission which will go out under the name of Cllr Carter. The Clerk had made contact with such a specialist known to him over many years, Mr Andrew Towleron of Rotherham. Mr Towleron is a Parish Clerk and, at the same time, runs his own consultancy on planning matters. He is permanent advisor on planning matters with the Board of The Society of Local Clerks to which this Council subscribes and whose events over the years the Clerk has attended. The Clerk confirmed that he had seen Mr Towleron speak in public on a number of occasions at SLCC meetings. He had in fact met him personally on a face to face basis. It was AGREED that the services of Mr Towleron should be engaged, proposed by Cllr Carter and seconded by Cllr Dempsey.
3. The Clerk requested that Council approve the payment of appropriate fees to Mr Towleron; he had stated in an email that his standard fee is £500 but Cllr Carter and the Clerk anticipated that the time engaged by Mr Towleron might well exceed in value £500 and it is right that that extra time should be covered. The Clerk therefore sought authority from the Council for Cllr Carter and himself to negotiate fees at both levels with Mr Towleron as appropriate. It was AGREED that this authority be given; proposed by Cllr Carter and seconded by Cllr Dempsey, Cllr Friar, Cllr Mrs Sanderson, Cllr Munn and Cllr Mrs Malin.

4. The Clerk added that he and Cllr Carter envisaged that there could be a significant amount of typing and office support work needed by them to process the submission and therefore the Clerk sought authority from the Council to employ the services of Mrs Christine Wilson, at her usual rates, as and when necessary for this purpose. This was AGREED, proposed by Cllr Mrs Malin and seconded by Cllr Dempsey.

The members of the public interested in this matter withdrew from the meeting.

Item 11 Current Planning matters

Cllr Carter then dealt with the other planning matters identified as item 11 on the Agenda:

- 1) W/22/0471 & W/22/1574 – The Leasowes, Southam Road. (subject to appeal)
- 2) W/24/1345/TCA - He confirmed that applications in respect of tree felling at Radford Hall Farm has been granted
- 3) W/24/1333 – He confirmed that a lawful development certificate 5 Ashbourne Way had been granted.
- 4) He also stated that the AC Lloyd application: W/23/1766 for a substantial development at Chesterton Gardens which had been the subject of considerable contention has in fact been granted but subject to a satisfactory Section 106 Agreement being entered into between WDC and the developers.
- 5) South Warwickshire Local Plan – there was no update on this Local Plan

4. Update on SpeedWatch

Cllr Munn had tabled his report which was brief and both he and the Clerk reminded Council that the next WRE Councillors meeting with the Police will be on Monday 4th November 2024 – he is registered to attend.

5. Update on traffic management issues

The Chairman said he is still waiting for an update on the financial aspects of traffic management by way of detail from Janet Neale at WCC; she has informed him that she has had logistical problems in collating the material but will revert to him asap. A number of issues still remain to be resolved before the scheme can be considered complete.

6. Update on Section 106 and CIL issues

Outstanding information on available funds from Section 106 Agreements is awaited from Janet Neale as above. The other issue to bear in mind, per the Clerk, is the expiry date for utilisation of the Canalside money – approximately July 2025.

7. Warwickshire County Council – update

WCC Cllr Redford reported on two issues:

- a. There had been ongoing frisson within the Police as to potential prosecution of errant motorists by reference to the use kerbside white lines. This is likely to peter out.
- b. Debate has ensued over the issue/extension of CCTV systems; the outcome of the debate is unknown, primarily the problem is one of cost.

8. Warwick District Council – update

In her absence, WDC Cllr M/s Davidson had tabled a report:

- a. In conjunction with Cllr Redford, she was reviewing the speed limit on Southam Road following a complaint by residents.
- b. She will be lodging an objection to the Fosse Way Solar Farm application in her capacity as Ward Representative.
- c. She noted the benefit of WDC's new soft plastic recycling scheme which appears to be running successfully.

9. Financial Matters

- 1) The Clerk reported that the balance on the investment account is currently £ 167,115 approximately and the balance on the operating account is £ 7272 approximately.

- 2) A number of payments were authorised to be paid as per the list which had been circulated (with the specific exception of an invoice tendered by HAGS as their work is partially outstanding).
- 3) The Clerk reported that the new NALC pay scales for Clerks had just been published; Cllr Friar said he will be studying it.

10. Correspondence

There were no significant items of correspondence under this section independent of matters raised elsewhere. The Clerk thought it fit to mention that, regarding the complaint by a local lady concerning behaviour of members of the Club Committee, she had now written to the Clerk to thank him for his involvement and confirmed that she is now in contact with members of the Club on a satisfactory footing.

The Chairman confirmed that Cllr Friar, Cllr Munn and himself will be attending the WALC AGM Conference Day to be held on 6th November 2024 at the Warwick University Wellesbourne campus.

11. Current Planning Matters – see above.

12. Playing Field update

Cllr Dempsey had tabled a comprehensive report and the upshot of this and discussions within the Playing Field Committee is that Paul Rawlings quotation dated 17th October for £600 to cover the cost of general green work in the Playing Field is to be accepted. Cllr Dempsey discussed the issues around the proposals to trim and/or move a number of trees in the Playing Field and had centred on an estimate from AP Trees. This is quoted at £2,250 (given the number of trees to be dealt with). These quotations were accepted, proposed by Cllr Dempsey and seconded by Cllr Friar. Cllr Mrs Sanderson reported that she had procured an attractive bargain for the purchase of seed packets for the Playing Field at a total cost of £29.90. Approval to her incurred expenditure was proposed by Cllr Mrs Malin and seconded by Cllr Friar.

13. Report from the Community Hall

Cllr Mrs Malin had circulated her report on behalf of the Community Hall.

14. Report from the Sports & Social Club

There was no report and the question raised was the appointment of a representative of this Council to the Club Committee – to be reviewed by Cllr Mrs Malin.

15. Environmental Matters

Cllr Mrs Sanderson had circulated a report and this also covered the telephone box restoration project (referred to under item 16). She highlighted the effort made by Judy Steele to improve the bus service for the Village. The report further highlights the recommendation of FoRGE that there will be formal objection to the developers' planning application for Fosse Way Solar Farm.

16. Telephone Box – see above

17. Emergency Planning

Cllr Mrs Malin had circulated her report on Emergency Planning. The live issue currently is the extent to which this Council should help residents in risk areas in the Village to store sandbags at their own premises as opposed to waiting for the emergency to arise and then calling upon the Council to deliver them. Cllr Redford showed Cllrs a specimen 'Hydrosack', which he said had been adopted in his own Village of Eathorpe. It is made of a material which, when deployed, absorbs water and expands to form a dam. After use it can be dried out and reused.

18. Footpath W123

There was no update on this item; the Chairman observed that in the neighbourhood things had been quiet.

19. Any other business

Briefly Council reviewed the submission on recruiting for vacancies for Councillors; the Clerk pointed out that the public notice advertising a vacancy had expired on the 22nd October 2024. The Chairman had made the Clerk aware of one expression of interest from Mr O Lloyd-Davies and asked the Clerk to invite him to the November meeting.

20. Date of next Council meeting

The next meeting will be on the 25th November 2024. This meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Signed.....
Chairman of the Parish Council

Date November 2024

Counter signed.....
Clerk

Date November 2024