

RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Community Hall, Lewis Road, Radford Semele, on Monday 27th March 2017 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr D E Chater (in the chair), Cllr B Follett, Cllr A T Hitchcox, Cllr A E Malin, Cllr Mrs J P Malin, Cllr H E J Marriott and Cllr S P Sabin

In attendance: WCC Cllr W Redford and a member of the public

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr B Friar (serious family illness), Cllr Mrs J Loveridge (?) and WDC Cllr M Doody (holiday).

2. **Declaration of interests**

The Chairman put this to the meeting and there were none.

3. **Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting on 27th February 2017**

The Minutes were approved, proposed by Cllr Marriott, seconded by Cllr Hitchcox.

4. **Matters arising from the Minutes of the Council meeting on 27th February 2017**

- 4.1 The Clerk reported that he had provided Mr John Ingalls with a link to Bovis and had seen email correspondence between Bovis and Mr Ingalls. The upshot was Mr Ingalls then joined WDC Cllr Doody in the email loop but the Clerk had lost track of it at that stage. The matter appeared to be progressing.
- 4.2 The Clerk had received an email from Cllr Loveridge identifying five/six road names but that was an insufficient number for the new developments. It was agreed that Cllr Marriott would co-ordinate a list of names and let the Clerk have it for onward transmission to WDC.
- 4.3 The Clerk stated that he had received a letter from Severn Trent Water which was before the Council meeting on the last occasion; this stated that a CCTV survey of the drainage in the main road would be carried out; recently he had received a telephone call from them stating that they had carried out the survey and found tree root material in the drains stretching over about 72 metres. They stated that they cleared this and the drains were now in good order.
- 4.4 The Clerk reported on email correspondence he had had with an executive at WDC; the line taken by the executive was that the bin currently in place was the standard issue of the same dimensions as all rubbish bins in the District; she saw no reason to provide anything different. The Clerk pointed out that the core of the problem was that the bin was too small for the amount of use. His last email note to her was to suggest that something was done about it before the warmer weather in the summer and possible ingress of rodents. He awaited a reply. ***It was agreed that photographs would be taken and forwarded to WDC when rubbish next appeared Acton Chairman***
- 4.5 In the absence of the Chairman on holiday, he and the Clerk had not yet had an opportunity to meet with the football clubs. The Clerk had received a further note from Mr Davidson of the local club which needed to be addressed. (See Minute 13.2 below)
- 4.6 The Clerk said that in the absence of WCC Redford on the last occasion it had been mooted that he be asked to look at the road surfaces in the main road; this was following some repair work carried out by Highways Dept but only for a minimal part of the roadway.

- 4.7 The Clerk said that he had no news as to action on the Manor House hedge – it could be seen to be still untreated. It was AGREED that WDC Cllr Doody would take up the matter with Cllr Redford and see what could be done. ***(Please check that we are referring to the correct section of hedge I thought it was at the rear of properties situated in Chance Fields)***
Action: WDC Cllr Doody

- 4.8 The Clerk referred to the discussion which had taken place in Council on the last meeting when Cllr Chater was not present; he emphasised that the meeting in May will be the first meeting of the new year when it will be essential to elect a new Chairman and Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year. Without the election of a Chairman, the meeting would become invalid (referred to in the Minutes of the meeting of 27th February). It was AGREED that the Chairman and the Clerk would take soundings.
Action: Chairman & Clerk

5. **Warwickshire County Council – update report from WCC Cllr Redford**

WCC Cllr Redford said there was little to report save that the County Council elections take place in May. Currently political activity on the Council has been suspended pending the elections.

He reported that at the Eastern Neighbourhood Forum ***will have a budget in 2017. The Chairman recorded the fact that the Community Hall would be seeking a £1,000 grant for a sound system for the Community Hall.***

6. **Warwick District Council – update report from WDC Cllr Doody**

In the absence of Cllr Doody, the Council were advised that election to WDC will take place in two years.

7. **Financial Matters**

- 7.1 The Clerk reported that the current balance on the operating account is approximately £8,400 and the current balance on the investment account is approximately £14,200. He pointed out that these figures appear on the low side but in the current period the Council is anticipating recovery of a large amount of VAT in a month or so and also receipt of the first instalment of the new Precept in April 2017.
- 7.2 A number of payments were approved as per the list attached to the Minutes (proposed by Cllr Janet Malin and seconded by Cllr Sabin). In particular, they approved payments to the Clerk of £1,265.21 in respect of the fourth quarter's pay and to HMRC in the sum of £155.20 in respect of tax on that pay.
- 7.3 A number of cheques in respect of the foregoing were signed.
- 7.4 The **Clerk** reported that recently received were details of the National Salary awards negotiated between the Councils and their employees which would affect any increase on the Clerk's pay. This is to be reviewed by the Chairman and the Clerk and to be put on a future Agenda.
Action: Chairman & Clerk

8. **Vacancy for Parish Councillor**

To preserve confidentiality, the Chairman asked the member of the public to withdraw from the meeting and the Council discussed this matter in the absence of the member of the public. It was noted that there is currently one vacancy and there may be more than one candidate. It was AGREED that the Chairman and the Clerk would investigate the position and report back.
Action: Chairman & Clerk

9. **Correspondence**

The Clerk stated that there was no correspondence save an issue as to the Leamington Table Tennis Association: the Clerk had received a written response from the Chairman of the Association following the Clerk's earlier letter expressing the Council's disinterest in the proposals. The Clerk distributed copies of the response letter to which was attached drawings/specifications for what is proposed by the Association. It envisages achieving use of the land belonging to the Council either by way of lease, license or purchase. The Clerk advised that it was not open to the Council to sell public land without a complex procedure via reference to the appropriate Ministry; the Council viewed the idea of parting with land to the Association with disfavour in any event. It was AGREED that the Cllrs would review the paperwork and this matter put on the Agenda for the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

10. Update report on installation of defibrillator at The White Lion

It was noted that the new defibrillator kit attached to the outside wall of The White Lion was now up and running. There had been a training group a short while after its installation organised by the West Midlands Ambulance Service (Mr Bobby Qayum). Cllrs Marriott and Follett had attended and found it very useful and most interesting. It was AGREED that the Clerk would write to the residents group to confirm the position.

It was recorded that the defibrillator located at the Village Stores required replacement batteries. This needed to be actioned

Action: Clerk

11. Progress report on Neighbourhood Plan

In the absence of Cllr Friar, Cllr Follett gave a short report. The next stage is to draft Terms of Reference for the working party. The Clerk read out a note from Cllr Friar containing his apologies for absence and explaining that he was engaged in this task. There is to be a meeting on 11th April 2017 to foster community engagement with the working party; it is important that the numbers of the working party are increased so that the burden of carrying out the work is spread amongst a significant number of people as opposed to a small group.

Action: Cllrs Friar & Follett

12. Update on proposed Bus Shelter

The Clerk explained that he had received papers from the Planning Dept for the purposes of making the planning application but had not had time to prepare this due to his other professional work. He had not had a reply from the contractor who had been previously named in discussion with a quotation. (Cllr Marriott said he would contact this contractor to put in a quotation.)

Action: Cllr Marriott

The Clerk explained his concerns about the requirements of the planning application; it appears that three types of drawings/plans are required – a local plan, a block plan and specifications for the building itself. It appeared to the Chairman and himself that this was unnecessary expense in proportion to what is involved in constructing the bus shelter; it was agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk would investigate this aspect further with the Planning Officer who is already been consulted – with the object of having a meeting with him to go through the specifications required by the Planning Dept.

Action: Chairman & Clerk

13. Report on the Playing Field and Play Equipment

Cllr Marriott reported that he had installed some trees at the corner of the Playing Field in conjunction with Ms Naomi Northey. It should develop into a neat coppice.

The Clerk reported that following the discussion at the last Council meeting, he had placed a notice to recruit a groundsman for the Playing Field but so far without any response. It was mooted that it may be appropriate for the Council to hire a contractor to cover the functions of a groundsman which could include cleansing the telephone box and the bus shelter(s). This is to be further reviewed. Cllr Sabin requested that he be supplied with a copy of the advertisement so he could insert it in the newsletter for the Sports & Social Club.

Action: Clerk

Further to a report from Mrs Pat Follett before the Council at the previous meeting, there was further discussion about use of the Playing Field by football clubs. The Clerk pointed out again that no rent is charged to the clubs that play there regularly. The Council expressed the view that this is one thing for the club based on local residents but the team called Radford Albion Football Club is based in Leamington and comprised of people not resident in the Village. It was concluded that their permission to use the Playing Field should be terminated as the object of the municipal Playing Field was to have it for the use of residents and not for outsiders. It was agreed that the Clerk write to Radford Albion Football Club to inform them that their use of the Playing Field on a regular weekly basis should be terminated. **Action: Clerk**

14. Update on Scout Hut project

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

15. Update report on Sports and Social Club Matters

Cllr Tony Malin stated there was nothing to report.

16. Update report from Community Hall Committee

In the absence of Cllr Loveridge, the Chairman commented that a significant amount of work needed to be done to the car park and in particular the pavement leading from the premises; he had received an estimate that the cost would be about £5,000 but this figure was challenged by some members of the Council. It was AGREED that this be further reviewed.

Action: Chairman & Cllr Loveridge

17. Update on School Matters

There was no report.

18. Current Planning Matters

- 18.1 It was reported that Cllr Sabin had filed comments on behalf of the Council concerning the site adjacent to Ricardos (where there appears to be an issue as to the size and type and location of houses to be installed on the site).

It was noted that a fresh application for planning permission has been submitted in respect of The Valley – this time for twenty houses. It was AGREED to oppose this application – the Planning Sub-committee and the Clerk to focus on this. **Action: Cllr A Malin & Clerk**

- 18.2 There was outline discussion about the development of the site in Offchurch Lane, adjacent to the existing Bovis Home site. It appears that WCC have attacked the planning application for the new site on various aspects but it remains to be seen what transpires.

Council to note in future

- 18.3 Cllr Follett drew attention to the fact that the provisional report of the Government Inspector gave WDC's New Local Plan had firmly delineated the Village envelope. The Council considered that his findings were very satisfactory; in particular, ***it indicates that the proposed extension to the Village Envelope beyond the AC Lloyd development had been rejected.***

19. Any Other Business

- 19.1 In the light of the above, it was AGREED that the Chairman and the Clerk would pursue the previous idea of having a face to face meeting with representatives of A C Lloyd to discuss the visual appearance of their existing site in Spring Lane for which they have planning permission. ***A letter would also be sent to WDC Planning expressing our appreciation that the Parish Councils representation had been fully recognised in the decision to limit the village envelope beyond that already granted A C Lloyd site.***

Action: Chairman & Clerk

19.2 The Clerk reported that he had obtained paperwork and guidelines etc for the purposes of making an application for a tree preservation order in respect of the tree at the junction of St Nicholas Terrace and Lewis Road; it was agreed that he should proceed. **Action: Clerk**

20. **Date of next meeting:** 24th April 2017 at 7.30pm

The Chairman closed the meeting ended at 9.40pm ?

Signed..... Date.....

Chairman of the Parish Council

Counter signed..... Date.....

Clerk to the Parish Council