

RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Community Hall, Lewis Road, Radford Semele, on Monday 24th April 2017 at 7.30 pm.

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

In attendance: WDC Cllr M Doody, WCC Cllr W Redford and 6 members of the public

Preliminary item: Mrs Naomi Northey was co-opted as Councillor unanimously and she signed the Declaration of Office.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Mrs J Loveridge (trustee commitments elsewhere)

2. **Declaration of interests**

There were none.

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

The Minutes of the meeting on the 27th March 2017 were approved (subject to some small clerical errors), proposed by Cllr Follett, seconded by Cllr Hitchcox.

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

4.1 Cllr Doody advised that there was no money available from WDC for the footpath sought by Mr John Ingalls (see previous Minutes). There was speculation as to whether WCC would cover the cost under a Section 106 agreement but this would have to be negotiated by them with the developers. Mr Ingalls had had an argument over whether his organisation could be classified as a charity or a profit making organisation; the viewpoint taken by WDC appeared to be indecisive. There was nothing that this Council could do about the matter. Cllr Sabin pointed out that this is a larger issue as concerns the potential development of 150 houses on the additional site adjacent to Offchurch Lane. It was AGREED that WCC Cllr Redford would refer this to WCC to see what could be done under Section 106. **Action: WCC Cllr**

Redford

4.2 The list of road names collated to date was inconclusive. It was AGREED that all Cllrs would supply to the Clerk a list of suggested names to be used in conjunction with a list prepared by the Chairman (tabled). The Clerk to forward this to the Planning Dept for consideration for use on the current housing developments (a note was made of the particular suggestions for road names as to 'Whitehead' and 'Ashbourne'). **Action: All Cllrs and Clerk**

4.3 The Clerk reminded the Council that he had received a telephone call prior to the last Council meeting from Severn Trent alleging that the drainage system in the main road was now satisfactory; it was AGREED to await any further developments.

4.4 The Chairman had taken a photograph of the offending rubbish bin on the main road; there was some discussion as to whether it was an issue for WCC or WDC and both the relevant Cllrs agreed that it could be a crossover between the two authorities. It was AGREED that Cllr Doody would take up the issue with WDC using the photograph. **Action: Cllr Doody**

4.5 The Chairman and the Clerk reported that they had separately received approaches from Mr Ward on behalf of Radford Albion Football Club. The Clerk said he had advisedly in his letter to the Club made the statement that the notice to terminate would take immediate effect; this was to avoid the Club thinking that they had a specific period of time or unlimited time) in which to draw. The Chairman said it had been indicated to the Club that they would be allowed to complete their current season. It was AGREED that the Clerk would write to the Club to confirm the position concerning the closure date. **Action: Clerk**

4.6 It was considered that this was a closed issue for the present time.

4.7 There has been no progress on cutting back the hedge on the main road near to the Manor House. Cllr Doody undertook to investigate the position. **Action: WDC Cllr Doody**

4.8 The Chairman and the Clerk both emphasised the need to have a new Chairman come forward at the next meeting – 22nd May; this is the first meeting of the new Council year; the Clerk advised that if a chairman was not elected then the meeting would be invalid. The work of the Council would come to a halt. **Action: All Cllrs**

4.9 Councillors considered the paperwork presented by the LTTA and the Chairman had calculated the land area which they were seeking to purchase from the Council. The unanimous view of the Council was that it was not appropriate to sell a part of public land to a private organisation which catered for a limited interest. It was AGREED that the Clerk would advise LLTA accordingly. **Action: Clerk**

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

WCC Cllr Redford said there was nothing to report other than the matters already referred to. Currently the County Council's political activities are suspended pending the forthcoming elections on 4th May.

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

WDC Cllr Doody reported:

- a) there were no elections pending for WDC;
- b) the new Local Plan was likely to be published in June;
- c) on the 23rd May 2017 the application in respect of the land adjacent to Ricardo's would come before the Committee again. The application in respect of 20 houses in The Valley will come before the Planning Committee on 20th June 2017.
- d) An application in respect of The White Lion public house for refurbishment work would come before the Planning Committee on 25th May 2017.

There was discussion about building activity at Ashley House and the question of whether Planning Permission had been sought/granted. WDC Cllr Doody undertook to investigate the position.

Despite previous requests, the Planning Committee of this Council are not receiving emails direct from the Planning Dept – this is to be taken up with them again. **Action: Clerk**

7. **Financial Matters**

7.1 The Clerk reported that the balance on the operating account is approximately £5,800 and the balance on the investment account is approximately £14,200. He had today received a notification that the first instalment of the Precept is due to be paid in the next few days (approximately £13,400).

- 7.2 A number of payments were approved including a payment to the Clerk in respect of his support services of £869.72, and a payment to Cllr Hitchcox to reimburse him for expenses incurred with the Planning Application for the proposed new bus shelter.
- 7.3 A number of cheques were signed in respect of the above.
- 7.4 The Chairman of the Finance Committee (Cllr Chater) advised that the updated figure for the Clerk's salary based on national spiral uplift £5,506 for the year to date. Arrears are due to the Clerk in respect of the last year in the sum of £11.34 gross (the payroll managers to be advised). This new pay scale is £5,573.00 gross. **Action: Clerk**

8. Vacancy for Parish Councillor

The vacancy has now been filled.

9. Correspondence

- 9.1 The Clerk referred to an email which had been received (and circulated by him prior to the meeting) in which Ms Judy Steele criticised Cllr Marriott in respect of a tree planting exercise. The complaint was noted.
- 9.2 The Clerk referred to an email which he had received the same day (at a late hour) and circulated concerning the Council's application for a Tree Preservation Order for the tree at 4 St Nicholas Terrace. The viewpoint taken by the Planning Enforcement manager was deprecated. It was AGREED that Cllr Doody would investigate the position. **Action: WDC Cllr Doody**

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

- 10.1 It was noted that the Council should take steps to organise a supply of replacement pads for the defibrillator at the Village Shop as they were due to reach their expiry date. **Action: Clerk**
- 10.2 It was AGREED that an email should be sent to Mr Sandhu and Mr Clarke for all their efforts in getting defibrillators installed in the Village. **Action: Clerk**

11. Progress report on Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Friar reported on the current position regarding the Neighbourhood Plan, covering the following points in outline:-

- A presentation was made to the Neighbourhood Working Party by Kirkwells planning consultants, outlining the service that they could provide helping us to develop the Neighbourhood Plan, it was AGREED in the Working Party that we would look to use such consultants. Agreement would be reached between the Planning consultants and the Working Party to define the extent of the services required and this would form the basis for a costed proposal from the consultants to put to the Parish Council for support.
- It was AGREED that Locality would be approached to obtain a grant to support the Neighbourhood Plan, it is possible that the amount obtained from Locality may fall slightly short of the grant obtained, and the Parish Council was asked if it would support a shortfall if it occurred, subject to getting approval before committing to that expenditure.
- The current grant funding program is due to end in December 2017, at the moment there is no indication that this will be replaced with another scheme, although Kirkwells felt that there would be something to replace it, as yet nothing is clear hence the request above to consider what support the parish council would offer.
- The working party's terms of reference were being drafted and would be submitted to the Parish Council at the next meeting.
- The question set for the Housing Needs Survey had been approved and submitted to for printing and pre-loading into envelopes. The Working Party would work out a plan to distribute them to all households and businesses within the agreed Parish boundary when they are received.

12. Update on proposed Bus Shelter

Cllr Hitchcox reported that he had started on preparation of the application for planning permission, following a suggestion from the Chairman. Like the Clerk, he had encountered difficulties in establishing proper contact with the relevant Planning Officer but had managed to purchase a location plan off the internet. By chance he had obtained a sympathetic ear from another Planning Officer and it is proposed that he and the Clerk will put together the final version of the application and mark it for the attention of this Officer in the hope of having the matter onwardly progressed in a satisfactory manner. **Action: Cllr Hitchcox & Clerk**

13. Report on the Playing Field and Play Equipment

The Chairman reported difficulties in recruiting a person to deal with the rubbish on the Playing Field and surrounding areas. Notices were still displayed in the Village shop and a notice had recently been inserted in the newsletter of the Sports & Social Club. The Chairman and the Clerk suggested a way out of the difficulty was to engage a contractor to check over the areas on a regular basis, say every two weeks. It was AGREED that the Chairman and the Clerk should pursue this possibility and report back. **Action: Chairman & Clerk**

14. Update on Scout Hut project

Cllr Friar reported that there was no progress on the Scout hut project.

15. Update report on Sports and Social Club Matters

Cllr Tony Malin reported there was nothing to report concerning the Sports & Social Club.

16. Update report from Community Hall Committee

The Chairman said there was nothing to report on Community Hall matters.

17. Update on School Matters

As regards School matters there was nothing to report.

18. Current Planning Matters

18.1 The site adjacent to Ricardo's is referred to above

18.2 There was nothing to report on the Bovis Home site apart from the above reference to Mr John Ingalls.

18.3 The New Local Plan is referred to above.

18.4 Concern was expressed about the development at 56 Southam Road near the junction of School Lane. It was AGREED that this would be investigated. **Action: WDC Cllr Doody**

19. Any Other Business

There was none.

20. Date of next meeting: 22nd May 2017 at 7.30pm

The Chairman closed the meeting ended at 9.40pm

Signed.....
Chairman of the Parish Council

Date.....

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

Date.....