

RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Community Hall, Lewis Road, Radford Semele, on Monday 26th January 2015 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr D E Chater (in the Chair), Cllr B Follett, Cllr Mrs J Loveridge, Cllr A J Malin, Cllr Mrs J P Malin, Cllr H E Marriott and Cllr Rev K Pickford

In attendance: WDC Cllr Doody, WCC Cllr Redford and Mrs Naomi Northey

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Ms N Fleuty

2. **Minutes of the Council meeting on 24th November 2014**

The Minutes of the last Council meeting on 24th November were approved.

3. **Matters arising from the Minutes of the 24th November 2014**

3.1 After a short discussion concerning a notice received from WCC as to modifications to the footpath at the rear of Dunbar House, it was agreed that the Council were content with the modification and the Clerk to confirm in writing to WCC. **Action: Clerk**

3.2 The Clerk confirmed that he had written to ex-councillor Fiona Walsh to accept her resignation and thank her for her many years of service on the Council.

3.3 The chairman confirmed that, following a notice received at the last meeting of the council, steps had been taken to start installation of the new lighting in the side roads in the Village identified in the notice (although the work has not yet been completed).

3.4

4. **WCC Matters**

4.1 Cllr Redford said he had nothing to report.

4.2 Cllr Follett drew attention to a significant depression in the surface of Church Lane which is creating large puddles. He said that the Reverend Green of St Nicholas' Church had written in to WCC but had not received a response. Cllr Redford said he would chase it up. **Action: Cllr Redford**

5. **WDC Matters**

5.1 WDC Cllr Doody said that registration for voting must be completed by 28th April 2015 with an eye to the Elections in May. On the Clerk's enquiry about nomination papers for councillors, he said he was not aware of a specific date at present but no doubt the Electoral Registration Officer would be sending packs out to the Clerk at the appropriate time.

- 5.2 Cllr Doody said that the Local Plan is finally up for final approval by WDC on Wednesday 28th January 2015. The arrangements for Radford Semele remain the same as in the previous publication of the Local Plan.
- 5.3 He said that planning permission had been granted for housing in Harbury Lane on the land belonging to the Football Club; this is on the basis that the Football Club gets assigned to a new site and the project is concentrated over a five year period. (It appears that the Football Club expect a facility for six pitches)
- 5.4 Under the Local Plan, WDC expect to have a building programme amounting to the construction of about 4,000 houses per year. The current quota is made up of 720 in the WDC area, 660 in the Rugby area, 496 in the area of Nuneaton and Bedworth and the balance in other areas in the Warwick District. For comparison it was noted that Coventry's quota will be 1,186 houses.
- 5.5 He said that the planning appeal hearing concerning the Spring Lane site had now been concluded and there was nothing to be done but simply wait for the Inspectors' decision. The other appeal hearing concerning the site at Church Lane is currently in progress and will conclude this week. (The Clerk pointed out that it happens that the same Inspector is dealing with both appeals which should give the Inspector a very comprehensive overview of the Village.)

6. Finance and Accounts

- 6.1 The Clerk reported that the balance on the bank operating account is about £11,400 and the balance on the investment account is about £24,200.
- 6.2 Approval of a number of payments was made including two retrospective approvals (one of which was for the cost of leaflet drops in relation to the Residents' meeting on 2nd January concerning the appeal hearings.)
- 6.3 Amongst the payments, the Clerk's third quarter salary of approximately £1,165 was approved and also payment to HMRC in respect of the tax due on it.
- 6.4 The Chairman reported that the Clerk had recently completed preparation of the application for the Precept and it was couched in terms which met with the principles discussed by the Council at their last meeting. In particular, the Clerk had put in the claim of 2½% higher than last year's figure (this is in line with public sector rises). The Chairman pointed out that in discussion the Council had agreed that there should be an increase of 2½% whilst modest it does take account that the Precept has been frozen for the last few years and there are heavy items of expenditure which the Council would like to undertake therefore requiring a balance to be struck. The Chairman acknowledged that a lot of work went into the preparation of these documents but it was essential to make the right presentation to the District Council. The Precept will be filed before the end of the month.
- Action: Clerk**

7. Correspondence

- 7.1 The Clerk reported that although the Council no longer featured 'Police Matters' as a separate item, a newsletter had in fact been received from the Police this month.
- 7.2 The Clerk had received a standard form of circular from WALC giving details of a number of training days being held by WALC, in particular two courses – one entitled 'Being a Good Councillor & Clerk' and the other being entitled 'Training for Newly

Elected Chairs, Aspiring Chairmen and Interested Clerks'. These courses are being held on different dates during the year. The Clerk particularly recommended to Councillors the first training course which is run by the Clerk to Stockton Parish Council.

- 7.3 The Clerk had had difficulty getting email planning correspondence previously addressed to Mrs Walsh to be redirected to himself but had now received a formal notification from the Planning Office that this would be put in hand correctly.
- 7.4 The Clerk had received a telephone call and an email from a gentleman dealing with publicity on behalf of Ricardo – the Clerk tabled a copy of the email. Summarised, Ricardo are to celebrate one of the dates of their longevity at the Village and wished to join with the Parish Council in having some sort of celebration in the Village – for example, planting flowers or setting up fancy lights etc. It was agreed that Cllr Marriott would discuss with Ricardo what they had in mind and what the implications were for the Council and report back. **Action: Cllr Marriott**

8. Report from the Planning Committee

- 8.1 In the absence of Cllr Fleuty, there was no report but the Chairman observed that the only current planning application for consideration was permission for an extension to a house in The Greswoldes. It was confirmed that the Council have no objection to this application which had already been detailed to the Clerk.

9. Report from the Playing Field Committee

- 9.1 There was considerable discussion about the outcomes for the Playing Field in to which Mrs Northey made an important contribution.
- i. She said that she has two applications for grant funding: one from The Big Lottery and one from BIFFA. Both are on the point of being despatched. As to repairs needed to the skateboard area, it was agreed that the Chairman, the Clerk and Cllr Fleuty should have authority to resolve this by obtaining necessary tenders and make a decision as to the contract to be issued for repair/reinstatement.
 - ii. Mrs Northey said she had been informed that the maximum grant payable by either fund will be £10,000.
 - iii. In round terms the various quotations for redoing the play equipment come to about £30,000.
 - iv. She suggested that some of the minor repairs could be effected by local tradesmen, in particular refurbishing and painting some of the existing equipment. She suggested that instructing a local tradesman would have the effect of reducing part of the estimated costs of the specialised suppliers/installers.
 - v. it was noted that the floor surface of the existing play area was cracking up. It would be possible to replace that matting with some more modern rubber matting which would be more resistant to cracking.
 - vi. Mrs Northey suggested that it might be possible to have some of the new equipment installed by stages so that those funding it would not have to pay out so much money all at once. She will look into that. **Action: Mrs Northey**

- 9.2 The Clerk advised on the importance of having the skateboard area repaired before a mishap occurs as this could put the Council's professional indemnity at risk. It was agreed that this should be auctioned immediately – there are sufficient funds in the Council's resources to pay for it. **Action: Chairman & Cllr Fleuty**
- 9.3 It was agreed that Mrs Northey should liaise with Cllr Fleuty to see a way forward to identify specification for the equipment which it is considered should be installed. She made the point that there is a distinction to be made between the different age groups of children and this should be taken into account. The Clerk suggested that there could be some liaison with WDC Cllr Doody over funding as he should know availability of special grants from WDC. (Cllr Doody had left the meeting at that stage.)
- 9.4 The Clerk raised the matter of a new grass cutting contract. Following the previous Council meeting he had written to Mr Bunn, the grass cutter from the past, but he had not had a response and in the circumstances, it seemed unlikely that he would give an early response (due to ill health). Cllr Marriott had discussed the terms of a new contract with the prospective grass cutter (Mr Wagstaffe). He had provisionally agreed a sum of £210 per visit which would include spraying the edges of the grass in order to keep the pathway clear. The question still arose as to how many visits there should be as the previous arrangement for ten cuts per year appeared inadequate. The Council agreed twelve cuts. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Mr Wagstaffe on a formal basis and arrange the terms of a contract. **Action: Clerk**
- 9.5 Cllr Marriott observed that the BMX track is no longer used and it would be appropriate to fill it in. This was agreed. **Action: Cllr Marriott**
- 9.6 It appears that currently The Lodge is empty. The Chairman had spoken on an informal basis with a representative of the owners who are the applicants in the planning appeal relating to Spring Lane. He was advised that it is proposed to refurbish the building and re-let it to a more responsible tenant.

10. Report from the Sports and Social Club

Cllr A. Malin reported that he had nothing to report. (He had not been able to attend the last meeting of their management committee.)

11. Report from the Community Hall Committee

- 11.1 Cllr Loveridge examined the matter previously raised before Council as to the cost of rubbish clearance. Currently the Council's rubbish clearer is putting the rubbish in the bins belonging to the Sports & Social Club. A payment is made by them to an outside contractor for the emptying of the bins. It was proposed in outline that an agreement should be reached with the Club to pay a proportion of their costs in having the bins emptied. Cllr Loveridge will carry out a calculation of the cost to the Club involved so that the Council can then make an assessment of its own contribution to that. **Action: Cllr Loveridge**
- 11.2 The Chairman reported that the refurbishment of the changing rooms had now been completed which included the heating.
- 11.3 The Chairman reminded the Council that the current Lease between the Community Hall and the Sports & Social Club terminated in 2014 while a rent review is due in April 2015. A draft lease is required to put in front of the Club before that date came round

but before that there were a number of issues for the Community Hall Committee to consider as to the terms of the Lease. The Clerk reported that, due to heavy pressure of work, Mrs Leigh-Hunt had not been able yet to prepare a draft but she needed to raise various questions with the Community Hall Committee. It was agreed that she would attend a meeting of the Committee the next day (27th January 2015) to discuss the details.

12. Report from the School Governors

Cllr Pickford reported that there was nothing to report.

13. Any Other Business

The Clerk stated that the two items on the Agenda under this heading had been placed there by him to remind everyone about them but in fact all there was to add to what had already been discussed in this meeting.

14. Date of next meeting: 23rd February 2015

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

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

Chairman of the Parish Council

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

Clerk to the Parish Council