

RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Community Hall, Lewis Road, Radford Semele, on Monday 23rd February 2015 at 7.30 pm.

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

In attendance: Mr Stan Sabin (former Chairman of the Parish Council), WCC Cllr Redford
For part of the meeting, four members of the local defibrillator working party.

Apologies for Absence: Cllr Rev K Pickford

- 1.1 At the start of the meeting, the four representatives of a working group in the Village who are hoping to set up a defibrillator service advised the Council.
- 1.2 It was agreed that the Clerk would supply his email address to the team so that they could then keep in touch with the Council. **Action: Clerk**
- 1.3 They were unaware that the Council had provided funding for a defibrillator approximately two years ago. The Chairman explained that a representative of the other organisation had addressed the Council after which a donation had been given on the basis that the defibrillator so financed would remain in the Village. His recent enquiries revealed that it was no longer physically in the Village. The removal of the equipment was because the young lady who was to hold the equipment had gone away to university.
- 1.4 The working group said that they had not talked through how procedures would work; it was very much an exploratory exercise they were undertaking at present. They were really seeking the views of the Council and ideas.
- 1.5 They were contemplating two units of equipment; they already have one defibrillator so they were looking for finance to support another one and two cabinets to place them in. From an enquiry they estimate that the cost of this would be about £2,000/£3,000.
- 1.6 One member of the group said she had had experience with the Shakespeare Hospice so she knew how the machine was intended to work. She said they could remain in situ for quite a while as the batteries lasted for about five years.
- 1.7 The Chairman concluded on the basis that the working group should put together something in writing to explain their project, their aspirations and the finance they were looking for.

2. Minutes of the Council meeting on 26th January 2015

The Minutes of the last Council meeting on 26th January were approved.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 26th January 2015

- 3.1 The Clerk confirmed that he had written to WCC to indicate the Council's approval of the change of route for the footpath around the edge of Dunbar House.
- 3.2 Cllr Follett said, despite his complaint to WCC, the depression in the road surface in Church Lane was still subsisting. WCC Cllr Redford said that he had made enquiries to get something done. It was agreed that the Clerk would write on a formal basis to WCC about it. **Action: Clerk**
- 3.3 The Clerk reported being unable, for the purposes of the meeting, to ascertain the date that nominations had to be filed – he would check up on this. **Action: Clerk**
- 3.4 Cllr Marriott reported on his discussion with Ricardo concerning the celebrations in the current year. They were considering doing something with that or with the School; they had also planned a family day on 11th July 2015. They were going to organise a tour of the workplace at Ricardo. They were also keen on doing some tree planting – the current prospect is one tree outside the Ricardo premises and another tree in the front of St Andrew's Hall. As this location is technically on a highway land, the approval of WCC was sought. Cllr Redford will look into that. **Action: Cllr Redford**
- 3.5 Cllr Marriott reported that he had filled in the BMX track and laid over soil which will eventually be grassed.

4. WCC Matters

- 4.1 Cllr Redford reported that WCC was on the way to receiving a grant from central Government to promote LED lighting for street lights. This is in line with Government policy on energy conservation. Each WCC Councillor anticipates getting an allocation of £20,000 from this grant which would then be within the individual Council's discretion as to how it was spent. He will report back as the grant is likely to come through on 1st April this year.
- 4.2 The Clerk reported that he now had feedback from Legal Officer at WCC on the status of the footpath between The Greswoldes and Chance Fields and his advice on the logistics requiring house holders adjoining the footpath on each side to maintain their boundary hedges and fences in good condition so they did not intrude on the footpath. The Clerk had been supplied with an extract from the Definitive Map which gave a measurement of the width of the path of 0.91m. He had also been advised by the WCC Officer that there was authority in the Highways Act to take enforcement action for upkeep of the boundaries independently of any covenants that might be in the title deeds for any individual householders.
- 4.3 There followed a short discussion about the WCC Definitive Map. The Clerk advised that this was the creation of legislation; if a footpath or bridleway was shown on the Definitive Map it had a legal status and protection of it could be enforced. If a track was not on the Definitive Map then it did not have that status, whatever the local residents might consider. It is possible to change the Definitive Map but this has to be done by due process which is a long-winded application to WCC etc.
- 4.4 The Clerk reminded the Council that a period of years he had been chasing WCC Highways Dept for the imposition of yellow lines at the junction of Southam Road and Lewis Road and at the junction of Southam Road and School Lane but he had had no response. He had recently tried again but anticipated that no decision on yellow lines

would be made for the junction with School Lane until the results of the recent Planning Appeal was known.

5. WDC Matters

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

6. Finance and Accounts

- 6.1 The Clerk reported that the balance in the operating account is approximately £9,700 and the balance in the investment account is approximately £24,200.
- 6.2 A number of payments were approved. Retrospective approval was given to action by the Chairman and the Clerk since the last meeting of the Council to pay a regular invoice for Jukes Pest Services. Approval was given to paying expenses in the sum of £19.19 to the Chairman for stationary costs incurred in connection with the recent Planning Appeals.
- 6.3 The Clerk confirmed that the Precept had been filed with WDC and had not been rejected.

7. Correspondence

- 7.1 The Clerk reported that the only item of correspondence was a set of standing invitations from WALC to attend courses for training Councillors and Clerks to which he had referred at the previous meeting of the Council. He recommended in particular the course for New Councillors and Clerks which is run by the Clerk to Stockton Parish Council.

8. Report from the Planning Committee

- 8.1 A query had been raised by a resident in Slade Meadow with Cllr Fleuty where an application for consent had been refused by the Planning Officer for one property and then, apparently, a similar application granted for an adjoining property. Neither of these matters had come before the Parish Council. It was agreed that Cllr Fleuty would investigate.
Action: Cllr Fleuty
- 8.2 The Clerk said that he was having continuing problems with being properly notified of planning applications. Material was still going to ex-Councillor Walsh despite his numerous requests of WDC Development Services that he should be emailed all material in the first instance. He will endeavour to pursue this with a view of delegating down those individual cases to Cllr Fleuty.
Action: Clerk

9. Report from the Playing Field Committee

- 9.1 The Clerk reported that he had correspondence from Mr D S Wagstaff with his revised quotation for cutting the grass. He has now established that his charge will be £210 per visit – the expectation is that there will be 12 visits per season. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Mr Wagstaff on a formal basis to engage his services.
Action: Clerk

- 9.2 The Clerk said he had heard nothing further from Mr Bunn in respect of last year's work and whether it would be invoiced.
- 9.3 It was noted that there is a considerable amount of litter left on the Playing Field after football matches e.g. plastic bottles used by teams. The Council expressed its disappointment as currently no rent is paid for use of the pitches. It was agreed that the Clerk would write on a formal basis to the football clubs drawing attention to the circumstances.
- 9.4 Cllr Loveridge reported on her enquiry into the costings of rubbish clearance. (This had resulted from the fact that the Council's rubbish clearer is currently putting rubbish into the bins financed by the Sport & Social Club. She said it is difficult to calculate the exact proportion of rubbish but she noted that the Club paid £264 per month to have the rubbish taken away by contractors. It was agreed that she and the Chairman would look into this further from the point of view of calculating what would be a reasonable percentage of that cost to be borne by the Council (which the Council accepted in principle it should). Cllr Marriott questioned the justification for significant cost for disposal of this small amount of weekly rubbish; this led to Cllr Loveridge being requested to follow up possible clearance via Warwick District Council.

Action: Chairman & Cllr Loveridge

- 9.5 The Chairman raised the continuing need to deal with refurbishment of the skateboard area. This was long overdue. Two quotations had been obtained, one for £5,000 and one for approximately £3,000, and he and the Clerk had discussed the logistics of obtaining a third quotation and whether it would be helpful. In view of the need to get the job done, they recommended to the Council that the cheaper of the two quotations should be accepted and the Clerk was authorised to write on a formal basis to the contractor who provided that quotation to engage their services. **Action: Clerk**

10. Report from the Sports and Social Club

Cllr A. Malin reported that there was nothing significant to report apart from the Club Committee being concerned to secure their new lease from the Community Hall. The Council were advised that Mrs Leigh-Hunt had the legal work in hand for this and discussion with the Hall Committee had raised certain issues which were now being looked at.

11. Report from the Community Hall Committee

- 11.1 Cllr Loveridge said the only significant issue was the proposed new lease to the Sports & Social Club. The Committee had decided to go for a seven year lease as opposed to a longer one (e.g. twenty one years). The new rent will be set from April 2015.
- 11.2 She also mentioned that new locks had been fitted on the doors of the Football Changing Rooms.

12. Report from the School Governors

- 12.1 Cllr Pickford had tabled a short report contained in an email whilst giving her apologies for absence. This was noted.
- 12.2 There was a short discussion about the status of a representative from the Council attending meetings of School Governors. Cllr Pickford's report highlighted the fact that, due to reorganisation, there would no longer be a specific School Governor with the

status of being representative of the Parish Council. The Council expressed the view that they were happy to continue offering the services of a Councillor as it was felt useful for the community to have the link between the School Governing Body and the Parish Council.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 The Chairman promoted a short discussion about the Parish Plan; he had asked for comments from residents and had so far received 100 enquiries on the website. He felt it was a logical step to develop from the Parish Plan a Neighbourhood Plan in due course but there would be escalation in the amount of work to be done.

a) The Clerk said that during the hearing of the two Planning Appeals the Parish Plan had been put forward, promoted by the Chairman; it had not been discounted by the Inspector or the barristers in the Planning Enquiry and they had paid a lot of attention to it. Those participating in the Appeals (e.g. the Chairman, the Clerk and others) felt it had been a worthwhile exercise.

b) Cllr Marriott said he was concerned that there should be a review of the footpaths in the neighbourhood. There were a number of footpaths which were becoming abused; he quoted one example where the landowner had put up a metal gate; although foot passengers could get through the gate it was clearly intended to put off people using the footpath that it was fixed across. It was agreed that he would undertake a review of all the footpaths in the area and liaise with the Clerk with a view to checking the status of these paths under the Definitive Map and taking future action if necessary to preserve them.

Action: Cllr Marriott

14. Date of next meeting: 30th March 2015

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman of the Parish Council

Signed.....

Date.....

Clerk to the Parish Council