

RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Community Hall, Lewis Road, Radford Semele, on Monday 30th March 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, Cllr Rev K Pickford and Cllr H E Marriott

In attendance: WCC Cllr W Redford and WDC Cllr M Doody
A number of residents from Southam Road in the Village

Presentation 1

- 1.1 Richard Wood of BeeGreenSolar Ltd of Vantage Point Business Village, Metaldene, Gloucester gave a presentation on their proposal to install solar panels in the Parish.
- 1.2 They are looking for a 25 acre site with a maintenance term of 20 years approximately.
- 1.3 They have chosen as their prospective site land at the rear of Pounce Hill Farm as it is an open space and near to an input into the National Grid.
- 1.4 The panels measure 3 feet by 4 feet and stand about 1½ feet off the ground. They would be transported to the site by agricultural trailer.
- 1.5 They said there would be about 6 weeks installation period with resulting traffic thereafter about 3 visits a year for maintenance.
- 1.6 They were seeking support from the Parish Council before putting in a planning application to WDC.
- 1.7 The Chairman thanked him for his presentation and said the matter would be considered by the Council.

Presentation 2

- 2.1 A presentation was given by Bovis Homes Central in respect of their proposed development site on Southam Road.
- 2.2 The layout was demonstrated by reference to a plan (copy supplied to the Clerk).
- 2.3 Residents present pointed out that there is provision for 24 affordable houses out of a total number of 60 houses on the site. The affordable houses have all been located in the westerly corner of the site immediately adjacent to the existing residential area, hence the concern of the residents who attended the meeting.
- 2.4 The presenter, Philippa Martin-Moran of Optimus Consulting, explained that a detailed application for planning consent was in process and the layout of the houses could be

altered through discussion. There are 113 parking spaces allocated in the area and there are many houses which are two or three bedroom houses.

- 2.5 She said out that the level of the houses had been pitched so that they did not overlook each other or overlook the existing dwellings in the Village.
- 2.6 There is an amenity area to the east (which had been on the outline planning permission). They cannot build on that because of an underlying gas pipe. They have provided for it as 'open space and play area'. She said that they would invite the residents to form a management company to manage the common areas including the play area.
- 2.7 She said that the houses' appearance had been designed to blend with existing local houses.
- 2.8 She implied that the positioning of the affordable houses could be realigned and that any further enquiries from the Council or from residents were welcome. She distributed details of her address including her email address.

1. Apologies for Absence: None

2. Minutes of the Council meeting on 23rd February 2015

The Minutes of the last Council meeting on 23rd February were approved.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 23rd February 2015

Cllr Marriott reported that Ricardo had planted trees as previously discussed. One further tree will be planted on the grass verge in front of St Andrews Hall.

4. WCC Matters

Cllr Redford said he had nothing to report.

5. WDC Matters

WDC Cllr Doody reported that the activity of WDC is now in suspense as the elections have been called. He was able to refer to the two planning appeals recently dealt with. He considered that the evidence tendered by the Parish Council and by residents to the Inspector was first class.

6. Finance and Accounts

- 6.1 The Clerk reported that the balance in the operating account is approximately £9,600 and the balance in the investment account is approximately £24,200.
- 6.2 The amount of the Precept had now gone through and appeared on the new Council Tax demand – the claim for Precept had been accepted by WDC without comment.
- 6.3 A number of payments were approved; in particular, the Clerk's pay for the last quarter which comprised a balancing item to adjust his pay for the whole year to the figure agreed by him and the Chairman at £5,453. The relevant tax payable on the fourth quarter of the pay was also approved.

- 6.4 The Clerk reported that in similar fashion to last year there were likely to be difficult time constraints in respect of the Annual Audit. This is due to a combination of legislation introduced a year or so ago and the attitude of the External Auditors in fixing their own programme. It will have the effect that the Annual Return must be approved no later than the Parish Council's meeting on 29th June. The Clerk had already put in hand preparation of the papers for the Internal Auditor (Mrs Best) with the objective of turning the paperwork round to meet this deadline.

7. Correspondence

- 7.1 The Clerk had received written confirmation from WCC that the uneven section of the surfacing in Church Lane was now earmarked for repair.
- 7.2 The Clerk had received a written note from the working group on a defibrillator scheme for the Village thanking the Council for hearing them out at the last meeting and indicating that they would let the Clerk have a written presentation (yet to be received).

8. Report from the Planning Committee

There was nothing to report save the Clerk had observed that planning consent had been given on an application in respect of a house in Hallfields; neither the Clerk nor any Cllrs had any prior notice of the application – it was agreed that the Clerk would investigate the circumstance of it.

Action: Clerk

9. Report from the Playing Field Committee

- 9.1 Cllr Loveridge said she had done an investigation into the costings of bins.. A contractor would empty the bins monthly at an annual cost of £228. Council discussion considered the options of making an annual Contribution to the Club of this amount or alternatively having a separate bin belonging to the Parish Council but stored in the yard adjacent to the Club. Both options had disadvantages, and the investigation also needed to cover whether the District Council, or their contractor, would empty the bins in the Playing Field. The matter is to be further reviewed. **Action: Chairman & Cllr Loveridge**
- 9.2 The Clerk reported that the refurbishment of the skateboard area should commence on 13th April as he had written communication with the chosen contractors, Caloo.

10. Report from the Sports and Social Club

- 10.1 Cllr A. Malin reported that the Committee were becoming uneasy at the delay in preparation of the new Lease.
- 10.2 The Chairman explained that in accordance with charity law a valuation had been obtained from local accredited valuers as to what the new rent should be; the valuation put the figure at £7,000 p.a. He expressed the view that this was probably too high in practical terms and a lower figure of £6,240 was approved by the Management Committee. This would be the new rent as compared with the old rent of £5,827. The Chairman as a member of that Management Committee sought confirmation from the Parish Council that it was appropriate to charge the lower rent as both organisations were providing a service to the community. The Parish Council concurred.

11. Report from the Community Hall Committee

There was nothing to report in addition to the issues concerning the Lease of the Sports & Social Club referred to above.

12. Report from the School Governors

Cllr Pickford said there was nothing to report except that she referred to the reorganisation of the School Governing Body following alterations in education regulations. In practical terms this meant that the Parish Council would no longer have an allocated representative on the School Governing Body. At a previous meeting of the Parish Council, the view had been expressed it would be desirable to keep a link with the School Governors so the hope is that there will continue to be a Parish council representative on the School Governing Body (not necessarily a serving councillor).

13. Any Other Business

- a) Cllr Doody had already referred in outline to the Planning Appeals. There was nothing further to discuss at this stage.
- b) The Chairman recommended that further attention to the Parish Plan be given in the future. The objective will be to use the Parish Plan as a template for preparing a Neighbourhood Plan as there was a recognised value in having a Neighbourhood Plan.
- c) The issue of the defibrillator will be considered when the Clerk receives the report referred to above.
- d) The Clerk reminded the Council that at the date of the next Parish Council meeting (27th April) there was also a requirement by law to hold the Annual Parish Meeting. This will be held alongside the ordinary Council Meeting but relevant reports should be filed with the Clerk in advance or tabled at the meeting. It was confirmed that the Clerk’s draft of the Minutes for the meeting on 25th April 2014 were approved.

14. Date of next meeting: 27th April 2015

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

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

Chairman of the Parish Council

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

Clerk to the Parish Council