

RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Community Hall, Lewis Road, Radford Semele, on Monday 27th April 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 Pickford and Cllr H E Marriott

In attendance: WCC Cllr Redford and WDC Cllr Doody

1. Apologies for Absence: None

2. Minutes of the Council meeting on 30th March 2015

The Minutes of the last Council meeting on 30th March were approved.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 30th March 2015

3.1 Cllr Marriott reported that the tree planting by Ricardo had been completed. A plaque is to be installed in due course.

3.2 The Clerk had looked in to the application in respect of the house in Hallfields; it appears that no notice of the application was given by WDC via email but was missed.

3.3 There was a discussion on the outcome of Cllr Loveridge's report on the costing of bins. The Chairman expressed the view that the logistics of pursuing a sharing of the cost with the Social Club was likely to create more difficulties than advantage. It was decided to review the matter further in the light of whether the District Council's contractor would involve themselves in the emptying of the Parish Council's bins.

Action: Chairman

3.4 The Clerk reported that work to the skateboard area had been completed and he had received an invoice from the contractor.

3.5 Cllr Marriott reported that he had received word that the surfacing work in Church lane would be carried out in the next one/two weeks.

4. WCC Matters

Cllr Redford said he had nothing to report.

5. WDC Matters

Cllr Doody said he had nothing to report as the activity of WDC is still in suspense pending the Elections.

6. Finance and Accounts

- 6.1 The Clerk reported that the balance in the operating account is approximately £6,900 (**CHECK**) and the balance in the investment account is approximately £ (**CHECK**)
- 6.2 The preparation of the Accounts to the year end 31st March 2015 had now been done and the Clerk was about to place the papers before the Internal Auditor.
- 6.3 The Clerk said that due to the timing of Council meetings the change in regulations affecting the External Auditor there was a tight schedule to try and have the Annual Return approved by the Council at the 18th May meeting or at the very latest the meeting on the 29th June.
- 6.4 A number of payments were approved. In particular, an invoice for £ (**CHECK**) for Caloo in respect of the skateboard refurbishment (amount of invoice is the same as the original quotation).

7. Correspondence

- 7.1 The Clerk had received a written presentation from the local working group concerning the defibrillator scheme which they proposed for the Village. The Chairman had not had an opportunity to consider the presentation in depth but the Clerk was able to outline its contents.
- 7.2 In broad terms, the presentation envisaged that the Council should finance the capital cost of the equipment and identify a public location in the Village for the installation of the defibrillator box, and maintain it. The presentation did not put forward a specific alternate source of funding apart from a general reference to the residents undertaking fundraising events.
- 7.3 The Council expressed concern that they had funded another defibrillator about a year ago at a cost of about £1,000 without visible benefit to the Village. (The unit had been paid for on the basis that it would be kept in the Village but due to relocation of the person looking after it, it had been utilised by the defibrillator organisation as part of their general service in the Leamington area.
- 7.4 Cllr Redford then gave a detailed description of the defibrillator service currently undertaken by his own Parish Council at Eathorpe & Wappenbury. The Council purchased a defibrillator unit which was installed externally in the locality and the rota was maintained by the Parish Council with volunteers taking it in turns to be responsible for access to the kit. He said it had worked well and they had not been troubled by vandalism. All the people on the rota have the pin number for the box which is closed but not locked.
- 7.5 Even if the number is now known, it is possible to ring the Ambulance service from a number on the bottom of the box and get the number.
- 7.6 He said that the batteries last about 5 years but the pads to be applied to the chests of patients have to be renewed each time. They are not difficult to apply.
- 7.7 He said that having a defibrillator is not a substitute for the Ambulance service, it is an additional bonus to try and carry out efficient treatment to save somebody's life before the Ambulance arrives.
- 7.8 He will supply to the Clerk details of the contact point for the supply and training.

Action: Clerk

7.9 Cllr Redford said that the kit cost £1,300 and a charge of £150 for the electrical connection. The contractors are those who the Parish Council dealt with included training for 12 people in a single session.

7.10 In the light of the above, it was agreed that the matter be deferred for further review.

8. Report from the Planning Committee

The Clerk had received notice of an application for planning permission for 6 Slade Meadow (this appears to be a domestic extension). It was agreed that Cllr Fleuty would look into it and report back to the Clerk in the event of any adverse findings.

Action: Cllr Fleuty

9. Report from the Playing Field Committee

9.1 The Chairman outlined his vision which he had formulated in light of the difficulties which had been encountered in obtaining any realistic funding for refurbishment of the play equipment.

9.2 He suggested that forward planning be undertaken by the Council to refurbish the equipment in stages with a target of dealing with so many units of work in each financial year.

9.3 It was felt that it was reasonable to request that some funding be received by WDC from the developers of the site on the north of Southam Road under Section 106 and this should be passed on to the Parish Council to refurbish the play equipment. The Clerk reported that he had now written twice to WDC on that point and had not had received a reply.

9.4 The view was expressed that as Bovis Homes in their presentation at the last Parish Council meeting had suggested that the open spaces on the new site be taken over by a management company, it was a reasonable proposition that the Parish Council should take over those open spaces and be responsible for them in the future. Cllr Doody pointed out that the Council must have regard for the consequence which would be continuing obligation. The Chairman pointed out that there would be additional funding coming in from the new site as a result of the increase in receipts of Council Tax.

9.5 It was agreed that the Clerk should make enquiries of WDC as to future plans for the open spaces.

Action: Clerk

9.6 The provisions for the clearance of rubbish from the Playing Field to be kept under regular review to keep standards up. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to the rubbish clearance company advising that regular monitoring would now be undertaken.

Action: Clerk

9.7 Cllr Marriott observed that the quality of grass cutting on the Playing Field by the new contractor was a big improvement. He had not simply cut the centre of the area but had made sure that effect cutting had been taken out to the boundaries of the Field all around.

10. Report from the Sports and Social Club

10.1 The Chairman said that it appears that the of the Sports & Social Club needs refurbishment, in particular the toilet are in need of significant repair. It had been going

through his mind how funding could be found to cover that so as to enhance the services offered by the Club.

- 10.2 Cllr Doody said that WDC would not support the Social Club as it was seen as a social organisation and not a mainline benefit for the Community.
- 10.3 The Chairman thought one proposition would be for the Council to provide funding for the refurbishment in the Club on the basis that the Club matched the funding from their own resources. It was agreed that Cllr A. Malin would ascertain the Club's views on that and report back.
Action: Cllr A Malin
- 10.4 The Chairman reported that the new Lease between the Club and the Community Hall is now out for signature by the Club Officers (this is a 7 year agreement).
- 10.5 The Chairman made the point that after reflection, the Community Hall Committee had reduced the prospective new rent below the figure reported on by professional valuers so it was reasonable to expect the Club to review their own resources and consider ways of financing improvements in the building.

11. Report from the Community Hall Committee

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

12. Report from the School Governors

Cllr Pickford said that an Ofsted inspection was imminent and the School was ready for it. Though she is to stand down from the Council, she will continue to be involved with the School and will be pleased to provide feedback to the Council via reports from time to time.

13. Any Other Business

- a) Cllr Doody reported that on 26th May 2015 will be detailed planning approval given for the work on the Spring Lane / Slade Meadow site. 10" and 12" water mains are to be replaced as an outcome of the development.

Arrangements were in hand to ensure that the contractors did not carry out deliveries before 9am in the morning so as to avoid the concentration of traffic at School opening time and also to ensure that the main road to the Village is kept clear at that time of day.

The Chairman expressed the desire that the fencing around the existing Slade Meadow site should be revamped and proper fencing integrated with the new site. Cllr Doody said he would take that forward to the Planning Committee.

Fences? Action:?

- b) Cllr Doody said that it would be wise to address the issue of preparing a neighbourhood plan in the near future; this had value as a planning tool and could be built on the back of the Parish Plan which had already been put to good use in the Planning Appeal.
- c) The defibrillator proposal was referred to above.

- d) The Clerk reported that it appeared that there had been 8 uncontested nominations for election to the Parish Council on 7th May 2015. That meant there were still two vacancies and thought should be given to filling those.
- e) The Chairman expressed regret at the departure from the Council of Cllrs Fleuty, Loveridge and Pickford and he thanked them for their time and input into Council matters in the last few years.

14. Date of next meeting: 18th May 2015

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

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

Chairman of the Parish Council

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

Clerk to the Parish Council