

# RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES

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

**Present:** Cllr D E Chater (Vice Chairman) in the chair, Cllr B Follett, Cllr Mr A T Hitchcox, Cllr Mrs J Loveridge, Cllr A J Malin, Cllr Mrs J P Malin, Cllr H E J Marriott and Cllr S P Sabin

**In attendance:** Mr Bill Sandhu of 'The Heart of Radford Semele defibrillator group'

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr B W Friar and WCC Cllr Redford

**Apologies for late arrival:** Cllr M Doody

### 2. Defibrillators

2.1 The Vice Chairman confirmed that at a recent meeting of the Warwick Rural East Community Forum, a grant of £950 had been approved for the Parish.

2.2 Mr Sandhu confirmed that there was in hand a fund of donations totalling about £1,200.

2.3 Thought was to be given to the circulating of a newsletter.

2.4 The Clerk had discussed the position with the Council's insurers and confirmation had been received that cover had been put in place for four defibrillators (being the number contemplated in debate at the last Council Meeting).

### 3. Minutes of the Council meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2015

The Minutes of the last Council meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2015 were approved with some amendments, (the Clerk authorised to correct in a final version). **Action: Clerk**

### 4. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2015

4.1 With reference to paragraph 3(b) of the previous Minutes, the Vice Chairman pointed out that the potential cost of the first tranche of work on play equipment would be about £30,000 and the potential cost for the second tranche would be a further £30,000. With reference to the first tranche, it was hoped to raise £10,000 from Lottery Funding (on which Mrs Northey was still working) and the Council had agreed to put in £10,000. It remained to be seen how much extra money needed to be raised – there were considerable funds being raised by local effort (The Sunny Dillon Fund).

4.2 With reference to paragraph 13.1, Cllr Sabin emphasised the point that he raised earlier about a pedestrian crossing on the Southam Road and the issue of where it should be sited to provide a suitable position for pedestrians to cross.

4.3 Following the Clerk's report that an additional premium of about £27 would be required by insurers to include the defibrillators on the Council's policy, it was agreed this amount should be paid. **Action: Clerk**

- 4.4 With reference to paragraph 22 (b) of the previous Minutes, Cllr Marriott reported that he had attended to the overgrown footpath with remedial action.
- 4.5 With reference to paragraph 22 (c), the Vice Chairman reported that the action of the Chairman was still pending regarding the installation of flowering bulbs (the Clerk confirmed that he had supplied the Chairman with an appropriate catalogue). It was suggested that volunteers might be identified to plant the bulbs; perhaps some members of the uniform groups. **Action: Chairman**
- 4.6 With reference to paragraph 22 (e), the Vice Chairman reminded the Council that previously they had given favourable attention to purchasing a further grit box to be placed in Chance Fields. It was agreed that it should be proceeded with and the Clerk authorised to purchase a box. **Action: Clerk**
- 4.7 With reference to paragraph 22 (d), the Clerk reported that he had had further bureaucratic difficulties with the insurers; they seem to be nervous as to whether the planters would form an obstruction to the public and/or create a potential risk. Before giving formal approval to the inclusion of the planters on the policy, the insurance brokers had asked the Clerk to give a clearer specification of the project. It was agreed that the Vice Chairman and the Clerk would contact the lady concerned to establish exactly what was going to be installed. **Action: Cllr Chater & Clerk**

Although not minuted, the Vice Chairman reminded the Council that there had been previous discussion about the information that St Nicholas' churchyard was now full of graves etc. It appears an approach had been made to the Vicar via the Parochial Church Council for a decision on allocation of space for new graves. It was agreed that the matter would be further investigated before a crisis arose. **Action: Cllrs Chater & Loveridge**

## 5. WCC Matters

In the absence of WCC Cllr Redford, there was no report.

## 6. WDC Matters

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

## 7. Financial Matters

- 7.1 The Clerk reported that the balance on the operating account was approximately £23,900 and the balance on the investment account was approximately £19,200. The operating account had recently been augmented by receipt of the second half year Precept.
- 7.2 The Council approved a number of payments set out in the schedule annexed to these Minutes.
- 7.3 The Council approved the Clerk's action in drawing up cheques for the donations (which it approves annually) which had been authorised by the Council at the last Council meeting. **Action: Clerk**

## 8. Correspondence

- 8.1 The Clerk reported that he had had an approach from Warwickshire Rural Community Council seeking the Council's views on a survey. The view taken was that it was inappropriate to deal with survey until sufficient representations had been made to the Parish Council by WDC in respect of meeting needs in the Parish, in particular the two

current development sites comprising a substantial increase in housing within the area of the Village.

- 8.2 The Clerk reported that the local Ramblers' Association had held a meeting at the Community Hall since the last Council Meeting and had asked him, at short notice, for permission to use the car park. After consultation with the Chairman, he had concurred. Some concern was expressed by Councillors that the advent of cars parked in the area by the R.A. caused inconvenience to those attending functions in the Community Hall. It was felt that the exercise should not be repeated.
- 8.3 The Clerk drew attention to the temporary closure of the Fosse Way adjacent to the railway bridge in Harbury for bridge repairs. Councillors were aware of the position having received circular notices direct.
- 8.4 There was some debate concerning a notice received by the Clerk from WDC as to suggestions for street names on the new housing development adjoining Southam Road. WDC had suggested, as a starting point, the names of fallen military heroes whose names appear on the War Memorial. It was pointed out that some of those names are already on streets in the area. It was agreed that thought should be given to this and a list of names put forward through the Clerk.

**Action: Cllrs Mrs Malin & Loveridge**

## **9. Planning Matters**

- 9.1 The Vice chairman reported that Cllr Marriott and himself had achieved direct contact with A C Lloyd, the builders of the housing development in Spring Lane, to discuss an acceptable form of fencing to the site. The position seemed optimistic.
- 9.2 The issue of traffic speed intensity in Lewis Road had been raised with the Police at the recent meeting of the Warwick Rural Community Forum when the Police said they would review the matter. Subsequently they had not come forward with any positive recommendations. The Clerk reported that he had repeatedly asked the Highways Dept to carry out a review of potential double yellow lines in Lewis Road but had received no positive response over a period of years. It was agreed that matters should be pursued.

**Action: Cllrs Chater & Sabin**

- 9.3 Cllr Janet Malin reported that there was nothing further to report on general planning matters – a number of applications for variations to properties had gone through.
- 9.4 It was noted that the following receipt of a circular by the Roscon Group for potential development for the green field site next to Ricardo – nothing further had been heard; no planning notice had yet been received.

## **10. Bus Shelter**

Cllr Loveridge tabled specification and drawings and a picture of a 'natural shelter' which she had identified. This is made of wood and glass. Councillors felt this was a significant improvement on previous samples which have been looked at in the past. It was likely to blend nicely with the natural surroundings. The estimated cost is approximately £5,000 (it is not known whether that includes assembly but probably not).

The Council expressed a favourable impression of the design etc but it was felt there was still an open question as to whether current budgetary arrangements can be found for the outlay for this project. It was agreed to review the position at the next January meeting of the Council. This item is to be put on the Agenda for that meeting.

**Action: Clerk**

## **11. Playing Field Matters and Play Equipment**

11.1 Cllr Marriott reported that he was in a position to install, in the next few days, the swing which he has been repairing at his own premises. He has been assisted in this by Cllr Follett. He has had an outlay of about £600 for necessary shackles and ancillary equipment. It was agreed that his expenses on this should be met. It was agreed he should proceed with the installation. **Action: Cllrs Marriott & Follett**

11.2 Cllr Follett outlined the current position on the play equipment. It is hoped that Mrs Northey will secure £10,000 approximately from Lottery funding and £50,000 by way of a Wren grant. It appears that WDC will put forward a grant provided there is third party funding. (A Wren grant would qualify) The potential WDC grant could be £30,000.

Application for the Wren grant is still pending; a decision should be made by the end of November. This is to be pursued. **Action: Cllr Follett**

## **12. Scout Hut**

In the absence of Cllr Friar, there was no discussion. The figures/costings had not been tabled.

## **13. Sports and Social Club Matters**

Cllr Tony Malin had nothing to report as he had not been present at the last meeting of the Club Committee.

## **14. Community Hall Matters**

14.1 Cllr Chater reported that the question of the signing of the lease between the Hall and the Sports & Social Club had now been resolved (following advice from Valerie Leigh-Hunt). The lease had now been signed and completed. The gas account had also been agreed.

14.2 The cost of heating is being monitored; there may be an issue concerning the thermostat. The matter is to be reviewed. **Action: Cllr Loveridge**

## **15. Village School Matters**

Cllr Loveridge reported that former Councillor Rev Pickford had not been able to furnish a report but had verbally reported that the pupils were now settled in to the new term, a full complement of Governors were active and there was a new chair of Governors.

## **16. Any Other Business**

(a) Cllr Doody, who had arrived, tabled a report on two matters:-

- i. The WDC Local Plan programme for 4,680 new houses by 2029 had failed because the Inspector had turned it down. His report had required an extra 3,916 houses as a target for 2031. WDC have until June 2016 to come up with a plan. Current attention is being given to the Kings Hill site between Kenilworth and Coventry. This is good agricultural land but pressure is being put upon it because of Coventry's alleged need to overspill into the Warwickshire areas. WDC is not happy with that but is continuing enquiries.

ii. He had just come from a meeting at Offa House, Offchurch called by the Coventry Diocese. This was to debate their proposal to use the premises to house immigrants from Syria and other places. They will come to the UK under the Government's current plan to accommodate approximately 20,000 migrants. The subject of the meeting was for the Diocese to secure support from WCC (represented by WCC Cllr Redford) and WDC (represented by Cllr Doody). Other members of WDC were present. As this is seeking a change of use for the premises for a period of five years, WDC are likely to oppose that and have a counter proposal for two years. It had been pointed out that facilities in Offchurch are very limited and the migrants will have no links with the local community at all. As a result of the discussion the matter will go forward for planning permission and the five year period will be opposed.

(b) There was nothing further to report on the Neighbourhood Plan at present . This is to be pursued. **Action: Cllr Chater**

(c) The Clerk emphasised the need for all Councillors to complete the Declarations of Interest because currently the Council was in legal default by not having filed them with the WDC Monitoring Officer. The Clerk still had a number of Declarations which are outstanding. (He was handed two at the Meeting.) **Action: Those Cllrs concerned**

(d) It was confirmed that the Council will be represented at the Remembrance Service at St Nicholas' Church on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2015. **Action: Cllr Marriott, Cllr Chater & Clerk**

(e) It was reported that the proprietors of the Village Shop were keen to have the trees on the grass in front of the shop cut back. As the land belongs to WCC, it will be raised with them. This matter is to be taken up with WCC Cllr Redford. **Action: Chairman**

**18. Date of next meeting: 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

**The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.**

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

**Chairman of the Parish Council**

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

**Clerk to the Parish Council**