

RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Community Hall, Lewis Road, Radford Semele, on Monday 24th February 2014 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr D E Chater (in the Chair), Cllr Mrs J A Edwards, Cllr Mrs N Fleuty, Cllr Mrs J Loveridge, Cllr A J Malin, Cllr Mrs J P Malin, Cllr H E Marriott, Cllr Rev K Pickford, Cllr F Walsh and Cllr J M Whitehead

In attendance: WDC Cllr Michael Doody and Mr Richard Iredale (representing Offchurch Lane Residents' Association – for item 1. on the agenda)

1. WDC Matters – The Local Plan

- 1.1 WDC Cllr Doody spoke to this item. (Cllr Marriott was present but took no part in the debate)
- 1.2 Cllr Doody said that from an ideal point of view the Planning Committee would look for a traffic report from WCC before deciding a planning matter involving traffic and highways.
- 1.3 He said that the WDC Local Consultation still looked at the preferred option for Site No 1 in the Village.
- 1.4 He said that at a hearing of a planning application there could be other parties present such as representatives from the Highways Dept and residents together with other people who were not members of the Parish Council.
- 1.5 The Clerk said that a recent invitation had been received from Stephen Hay, the WDC Strategic Project Planner, who was to hold sessions with parish councils affected by building in villages on the 12th and 13th March – precise appointments to be arranged.
- 1.6 The Clerk informed Mr Iredale that when the date of the Parish Council's meeting with Mr Hay was fixed, the Clerk would advise the Offchurch Residents Association.
- 1.7 Mr Iredale was invited to submit any written material to the Clerk which he wished the Parish Council representatives to take forward to the meeting with Mr Hay.
- 1.8 Mr Iredale asked several questions which were answered by WDC Cllr Doody (as outlined above).
- 1.9 Mr Iredale left the meeting at the conclusion of this item.

2. Apologies for Absence: The Clerk reported that he had received none.

3. Minutes of the Council meeting on 27th January 2014

The Minutes were approved, proposed by Cllr Marriott and seconded by Cllr J Malin, subject to one alteration in the paragraph referring to the Sports & Social Club. The Minutes to be signed and the amendment made subsequently by the Clerk.

4. Police Matters

There was nothing to report except that the Clerk stated that he had received positive correspondence from the WCC traffic monitoring unit which had been received subsequent to their personnel being seen operating in Offchurch Lane. Hopefully there will be regular speed enforcement in that location.

5. WCC and WDC Matters

- 5.1 In the absence of WCC Cllr Redford there was no report on WCC issues.
- 5.2 WDC Cllr Doody reported that WDC would not seek an increase this forthcoming year in Council Tax, the implication being that the actual increase arose from additional WCC charges.
- 5.3 He outlined the position on the current search for suitable gypsy sites by WDC. By virtue of legislation 31 pitches were required and these could be covered (it was thought) by 5 sites. A number of specific sites had been the subject of focus. He was still confident that the site on the Fosse Way would not be included.
- 5.4 On an enquiry from the Clerk he said that there was currently a debate on unitary authority; this had been activated by WCC because it is £92M in debt. On the other hand, WDC has a credit of £13M in the bank. It follows that WDC are not particularly set on having a unitary authority, least of all one run by WCC.

6. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 27th January 2014

- 6.1 It was noted that the Leylandii trees have been cleared completely from the front of Dunbar House. Also the fencing obstruction erected at each end of the footpath at the rear of Dunbar House had gone. The Clerk had not received any report of the Court proceedings but clearly they had had some effect.
- 6.2 The Clerk had heard no further from Bubbenhall Parish Council on the question of their Chairman coming to talk to us about the Gateway Project; the inference to be drawn was that that had gone into abeyance whilst the Gateway Project was being examined (currently) by the Secretary of State.
- 6.3 The Clerk confirmed that he had sent off the application on behalf of the Chairman to be included in the draw for the Royal Garden Party.
- 6.4 The Clerk confirmed that he had replied to Bishops Tachbook Parish Council as to the costings for the bus shelter.
- 6.5 The Chairman reported that the footpath outside the shop had now had its flagstones repaired.
- 6.6 The Clerk reported that he had issued written invitations to two firms of tree surgeons to quote for work on the large willow tree on the Playing Field. One had not replied, whilst

the other had contacted Cllr Marriott who was not impressed. It was agreed that the Clerk would issue further invitations to obtain three quotations in the usual way. Cllr Marriott said it was not necessarily a question of cutting the tree completely down but professional advice needed to be obtained as to the integrity of the tree.

- 6.7 The Chairman said he had not had an opportunity to identify the house and householder where a garden shed was clearly projecting from the back garden of the house into the Playing field.

7. Finance and Accounts

- 7.1 The Clerk reported that the balance on the operating account was approximately £5,000 and the balance on the investment account was approximately £19,200.
- 7.2 The Clerk explained that the apparent imbalance in the figures from those given at the last meeting was due to the fact that he had made a transfer between the accounts to maintain liquidity and there had been a significant number of payments arising out of the last Council Meeting.
- 7.3 The Chairman reported that the Precept had been settled and had been approved by the Council at the last meeting, following which the papers had been duly filed with WDC.
- 7.4 A number of payments were approved.

8. Correspondence

The Clerk reported that he had received no more than has been already mentioned.

9. Report from the Planning Committee

Cllr Walsh made reference to one application affecting a property in Offchurch Lane.

10. Report from the Playing Field Committee

- 10.1 Cllr Whitehead said that he had examined the state of repair of the footpath across the Playing Field; at a previous meeting, he had pointed out that to repair the whole of the path by means of excavation and re-laying it would be an expensive operation; however, his recent inspection indicated that only relatively minor repairs to the edging and surface were required. This will be seen to.
- 10.2 With reference to the garden hut encroaching on the Playing Field, it was agreed that once the house was identified by the Chairman, the Clerk should write an appropriate letter to the householder requesting that the hut be re-aligned.
- 10.3 Cllr Whitehead reminded the meeting that it was accepted that some items of play equipment needed to be repaired (see the last ROSPA report) but the current scenario is a question of whether there is any point in repairing items if they would be replaced following a bid for Lottery money etc by the interested parents group. It was agreed that the Clerk would enquire as to the progress of the application and report back.

Action: Clerk

11. Report from the Finance Committee

There was nothing in addition to the above matters. The Chairman said that he and the Clerk had had discussions with relation to the Clerk's potential pay increase at the end of the year and matters were in hand on that.

12. Report from the Sports and Social Club Committee

Cllr A. Malin said he had not been able to prepare a report on a verbal basis as the position appeared to be that although the Club turnover was reasonably high, there was little margin for covering their expenses. The situation is to be reviewed.

13. Report from the Village Emergency Committee

Cllr Edwards reported there was nothing to report.

14. Report from the Community Hall Committee

14.1 Cllr Loveridge reported that at a recent meeting of the Community Hall Committee, three representatives from the Sports & Social Club were present. This was to be welcomed.

14.2 The water heating system in the changing rooms is to be further reviewed.

15. Report from the School Governors

Cllr Pickford reported that there were now 195 pupils at the School and everything appears to be in order.

16. Any Other Business

(a) The Clerk said he had tabled another copy of the list of Committees for 2013/2014 as shortly it would be necessary to decide upon committees for the forthcoming year. He was conscious of the fact that Cllr Fleuty had not been formally allocated to a committee. It was agreed that she should be allocated to committees where currently Cllr Whitehead is a member.

(b) Following the above, Cllr Whitehead formally announced his intention to resign from the Parish Council at the end of the current year as he felt he had served as a councillor for very many years and it was now time for him to withdraw. He had suggested to the Clerk the name of someone who might be interested in taking his place. It was agreed that the Clerk would approach this person accordingly.

Action: Clerk

(c) The Chairman referred to a letter which had been received from a resident concerning the condition of the footpath adjacent to Southam Road. It was agreed that the condition of this footpath, at the rear of the properties in The Greswoldes would be examined and the resident who had written the letter would be advised.

Action: Clerk

(d) A short debate took place concerning the condition of the rear fences and the hedges of houses in The Greswoldes which back on to the passageway at the rear of those houses. Cllr Whitehead said that the legal issue surrounding this footpath had been raised many times before. It was in a difficult position.

Broadly, there was a right of way over the passageway across private land. It was an obligation that the private landowners (i.e. householders) to maintain the position. It was agreed that the Clerk should send out written requests to the householders in numbers 2 – 30 The Greswoldes requesting that they put their fences/hedges in order.

Action: Clerk

17. Date of next meeting: 24th March 2014

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman of the Parish Council

Signed.....

Date.....

Clerk to the Parish Council