

RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Community Hall, Lewis Road, Radford Semele, on Monday 30th January 2012 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr J M Whitehead (in the Chair), Cllr Mrs J A Edwards, Cllr Mrs J Loveridge, Cllr A J Malin, Cllr Mrs J P Malin, Cllr H E Marriott and Cllr K Pickford

In attendance: WDC Cllr Michael Doody

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr D E Chater and Cllr F Walsh

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

3. Police Matters

A number of email reports from the Police had been received, spanning the period from the last Council Meeting on 28th November 2011 to date.

4. WCC & WDC Matters

4.1 WDC Cllr Doody said that the boundaries of the Parliamentary Seats are under review at present – the objective is to have about 2,300 electors per ward. Radford Semele was deemed to be too small for this. The proposal at present is to link it with Offchurch and Hunningham and Weston-under-Wetherley. The changes will not involve changes in parish council boundaries.

4.2 With the Local Plan the current target of WDC is targeting new housing of approximately 8,250 dwellings.

4.3 WDC are currently looking to make a decision on where to create a gypsy site as required by legislation. The preferred locations are Harbury Lane or Greys Mallory.

4.4 It may be possible for the Parish Council to obtain a grant from WDC to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee.

4.5 A few days ago, Cllr Doody had attended a meeting in London with a Q.C. to review (along with leaders of other local district councils) the possibility of applying to the High Court for a judicial review of the Government's decision to pursue the high-speed train programme. The current estimated cost just for the line is £32m. The width of the necessary tunnels will be about 1,000 metres.

4.6 WDC have taken on some apprentices. WDC decided to do this to try and get young people into work because it is difficult for them to get apprenticeships in the commercial sector.

4.7 He was pleased to say that WDC was applying a 0% increase on Council Tax this year, having achieved that last year.

- 4.8 He was amused to see reported in The Courier that he had been instrumental in blocking affordable housing in The Valley. In reality, the application for the development had been turned down because of problems over drainage and flooding.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters which were not otherwise deal with under headings in the Agenda.

6. Finance and Accounts

- 6.1 The Clerk reported that the investment account held currently approximately £43,500 and the operating account held currently approximately £3,600.
- 6.2 The Council approved a number of payments including retrospective authority for action by the Chairman and the Clerk to pay two regular contractors over the Christmas / New Year holiday period.
- 6.3 It was confirmed that a previous decision of the Council to make a grant to the Radford Semele Baptist Church of £6,000 towards crucial repairs is to be implemented.
Action: Cllr Whitehead and Clerk
- 6.4 The Clerk reported that the budget figures for this year's application for the Precept had been prepared by Cllr Chater and the Finance Committee and had been duly filed with WDC. It had been decided that the Council would not seek any increase on last year's figures.

7. Correspondence

- 7.1 A circular had been received from a commercial organisation seeking to provide memorabilia for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee giving various prices. This was filed.
- 7.2 A consultation document had been received from WALC (prepared by NALC) seeking the Council's views on social housing. A response is due by the 21st March 2012. It was agreed to leave this to a future meeting.
Action: Clerk

8. Notice Board

Cllr Whitehead had firmed up on the estimates and specification for a new notice board following the previous discussion. It was agreed that specified notice board to be obtained would be designed with two doors – ie two compartments but of a much larger size than the existing notice board. It was agreed that Cllr Whitehead would proceed to obtain the board from the manufacturers and arrange installation.

Action: Cllrs Whitehead & Marriott

9. Bus Shelter

- 9.1 The Clerk reported that he had had feedback from the insurance brokers; it appears that as the current bus shelter is insured for more than the cost of the new one, the insurance premium can be left unchanged.
- 9.2 The Clerk had sought a response from BT as to the layout of any cables in the vicinity of the bus shelter but had not yet had a reply. The matter is to be chased up.

Action: Cllr Whitehead & Clerk

9.3 Cllr Marriott reported that instructions had been given to the suppliers who manufacture the unit and it was expected to be supplied in March.

9.4 The Clerk is to write to Stagecoach to advise them that the existing bus shelter will be demolished in the near future but they should advise passengers there is nothing untoward as a new shelter is to be erected shortly. **Action: Clerk**

10. Telephone box

10.1 Cllr Loveridge presented a design of a notice to be produced calling for volunteers to repair and repaint the telephone box. Copies of the notice will be circulated among the householders and authority was given to her to incur photocopying costs. **Action: Cllr Loveridge**

11. St Nicholas' Church

11.1 Discussion took place about the next instalment of £6,000 due to St Nicholas' Church; a series of instalments had previously been agreed by the Council. The Clerk to ascertain and report back as to when the next instalment is due. **Action: Clerk**

11.2 The Clerk reminded Cllrs that the February meeting is the usual one to consider a donation being given to St Nicholas' Church for the upkeep of the graveyard. This item is to be put on the next agenda. **Action: Clerk**

12. Report from the Planning Committee

In the absence of Cllr Walsh, there was little to report. There was one planning application which was, in effect, for retrospective approval.

13. Report from the Playing Field Committee

Cllr Whitehead reported on arrangements to obtain substitute timber to repair the timber poles on the playing equipment. He had obtained a competitive quotation for timber with the approval of the Council would proceed to order the timber. The timber and suppliers will send an invoice to the Clerk who can then procure a cheque for payment upfront. **Action: Cllr Whitehead & Clerk**

14. Report from the Finance Committee

There was nothing to report in addition to matters already mentioned.

15. Report from the Sports and Social Club Committee

Cllr A. Malin reported that he had recently attended a meeting of the Committee and reported that there had been changes in the Committee.

16. Report from the Village Emergency Committee

Cllr Edwards reported that there was nothing to report except she will reinstate circulation of weather warnings received from WDC weather department. She will send these out to all members of the Council who wish to receive them by email and the Clerk. **Action: Cllr Edwards**

17. Report from the Community Hall Committee

Cllr Loveridge said the position was looking good and bookings were up.

18. Report from the School Governors

Cllr Pickford reported that she had recently attended her first meeting of the School Governors. She was impressed by the motivation of the staff and pupils and the targets set for all concerned.

19. Any Other Business

- (a) The Clerk outlined the training programme in connection with the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CILCA). He had spotted an induction course to be run at the premises of another parish council locally, divided on two split days. It was agreed that he should attend this course and take steps to prepare for and register as a long term candidate for the certificate. (This is being provided for in his contract of employment). **Action: Clerk**
- (b) Cllr Whitehead indicated that he was determined to relinquish the Chairmanship at the end of the current year, having already exceeded his due time. He invited proposals for his successor.
- (c) Cllr Marriott referred to a previous debate some months ago concerning tyres being abandoned on land in the Village. He said some adjoining landowners had resolved the problem by putting bolted gates across the access to the land. From a farmer's point of view, it was a chronic problem but the relevant public authorities were not concerned with uplifting scrap tyres off private land. This was something that the Council should bear in mind for future attention.

20. Date of next meeting: Monday 27th February 2012

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

Chairman of the Parish Council