

RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Community Hall, Lewis Road, Radford Semele, on Monday 26th November 2012 at 7.30 pm.

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

In attendance: (for part of the meeting) Mr Paul Rowlands & Miss Hannah H Laking

1. Mr Paul Rowlands gave a presentation on the services that his organisation provides for emergency medical cases. The organisation is run by volunteers on a rota system so that 24/7 cover is provided.

They are activated by a member of the public calling 999 for an ambulance when his colleagues are alerted and the nearest one to the case will attend. There are approximately 30,000 cardiac arrests per annum of which between 7% and 10% survive. If his organisation can get someone within two minutes the victim has an 80% chance of survival, if it is four minutes then there is a 40% chance of survival and if it is eight minutes there is a 10% chance.

They currently have 18 volunteers for the Leamington/Warwick area of which Hannah Laking is a new recruit and resident in the Parish.

He demonstrated his kit which is comprised in an average sized rucksack. This contains medicines, bandages etc and in particular a defibrillator. This is about the size of a portable radio and costs about £800 per unit. The full kit for an individual volunteer costs about £1,500.

Up till now they have used their own cars entirely and their own mobile phones but they now hope to have financial stability to the point of issuing mobile phones to the volunteers and are about to acquire a group car which will be liveried with a blue flashing light. It will also contain an airwave radio system. With the spread of kit for volunteers they will have about 50-60% of the local area covered.

A number of questions were asked from the floor (members of the public were present for the presentation). When asked he said there were two areas where the Parish Council could assist. One is a financial contribution and the other is helping to raise the profile of the organisation. He said the figure of £1,500 per operative is a one-off cost as it was to supply an operative with kit for permanent use.

2. **Minutes of the Council meeting on 29th October 2012**

The Minutes were approved with one minor alteration. The Council expressed the view that general minutes should not refer to members of the public by name.

3. Police Matters

The Clerk reported that he had received no communication from the Police apart from notice of mobile police station attending the Community Hall car park on Sunday 23rd December 2012. This is for ½ hour only.

4. WCC & WDC Matters

4.1 There was no report on WDC/WCC issues.

4.2 The Clerk tabled paperwork detailing winter gritting routes received from the Highways Dept.

4.3 For record only, the Clerk reported that the submission on the Warwickshire WCC Waste Core Strategy Development Plan had been lodged with the Secretary of State.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 29th October 2012

5.1 With reference to item 5.1 of the Minutes, the Chairman reported that both occupiers referred to in the Minute after being served with notices from the Clerk had duly attended to their hedgerows.

5.2 With reference to 13.1 of the previous Minutes, The Chairman reported that new bin bags had been acquired and it was agreed that he should be reimbursed for the cost that he had incurred in their acquisition.

5.3 With reference to item 19 (a), the Chairman reported that a number of Councillors and the Clerk had attended the Remembrance Service on the 11th November.

5.4 With reference to item 19 (d) in the Minutes, the Clerk detailed that he had had correspondence with the person responsible for the car parked on the grass area near the Memorial Tree and read out the response email. The respondent sought some indulgence from the Parish Council but it was agreed that this could not be given as it was inappropriate. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to him in appropriate terms.

Action: Clerk

6. Finance and Accounts

6.1 The Clerk reported that the balance on the operating account at the bank was approximately £9,000 and the balance on the investment account at the bank was approximately £26,200.

6.2 The Council approved a number of payments including a refund to the Chairman for the cost of the bin bags and the half year salary payment to the Clerk of £2,499.56

6.3 It was agreed that a donation of £1,000 should be paid to the volunteer organisation which Paul Rowlands serves; the mechanics of payment to be arranged by the Chairman and the Clerk.

Action: Chairman & Clerk

7. Correspondence

7.1 The Clerk had received notice of the AGM of Older People in Action that will be held on Thursday 29th November 2012 at Victoria House, Leamington Spa.

7.2 A financial clinic was to be held by WALC's Training Partnership on Thursday 17th January 2013 to provide training and setting budgets and other financial affairs of parish councils.

7.3 The Clerk had received, unsolicited, an email approach from Stephen Hay of WDC. The note states that Mr Hay's speciality is in planning issues connected with the development of Neighbourhood Areas and associated matters. Mr Hay is looking to create a system of liaison with parish councils. It was agreed that Cllr Walsh would investigate this and report back. **Action: Cllr Walsh**

8. Further Bus Shelter

Cllr Whitehead said there was nothing to report. The plaque that is to be erected on the bus shelter has not yet been installed. Payment will be made in respect of the installation of the plaque. It was agreed that this would be looked into further by the Chairman and Cllr Whitehead. **Action: Chairman & Cllr Whitehead**

9. Telephone Box

Cllr Marriott reported that he had recently acquired the new glass panels and had paid the supplier. He is waiting for a suitable period of good weather to install the panels. **Action: Cllr Marriott**

10. Website

10.1 Cllr Walsh regretted that she had not been able personally to advance the matter since the last Council meeting.

10.2 The Chairman reported that he and the Clerk had recently been to a Chairman/Clerks dinner at WDC and met up with the Clerk to Cubbington Parish Council who had supplied him with information about the website there and also a comparative website for East Adderbury. It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate the details to all Councillors that he had recently received from the Clerk at Cubbington. **Action: Clerk**

11. Youth Club building

11.1 Cllr Whitehead reported that he had received no notice or communications from anyone about the future of the building since the last Council meeting. He would shortly circulate a standard form letter to all parties who might be interested containing an ultimatum that the Parish Council had plans to demolish the building after May 2013 if a third party had not taken up an interest in it by then.

12. Report from the Planning Committee

12.1 Cllr Walsh reported that there was nothing to report.

12.2 The Chairman referred to the Chairman/Clerks Supper. He outlined the talk given by Mr Bill Hunt, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of WDC. He put to the CEO the point that when the Parish Council asked to consult on planning applications they had no idea of what the cost of the infrastructure might be from relation to the planning development in question. The CEO acknowledged that was a problem and he expected that it would be looked into by WDC.

13. Report from the Playing Field Committee

- 13.1 Cllr Whitehead said there were only two major points raised by the recent ROSPA report. The findings were mostly that the equipment was satisfactory and nothing was really bad. The two points taken, he observed, were previously found to be acceptable.
- 13.2 The local group who are seeing to develop the children's play equipment have a target figure of about £23,000. £17,000 is accounted for in the calculation of potential Grant Aid and it may be that the Parish Council would be asked to make a significant contribution. An application for grant funding is to be made in the name of the Parish Council to be prepared by Cllr Whitehead and the Clerk.
Action: Cllr Whitehead & Clerk
- 13.3 Cllr Whitehead said he had taken the point that the pricing did not include the cost of fencing and HSE matters. A quotation had not been obtained yet but he estimated that a sum of about £3,000 would be required for fencing. He had received confirmation that the H & S items, by their administrative nature, would not be added into the contract.
- 13.4 Cllr Marriott said that the recent weather conditions had inhibited him from carrying out any work to the aerial ropeway. It appeared from the ROSPA report that it was accepted as satisfactory.

14. Report from the Finance Committee

The Chairman reported that he had had an outline discussion with the Clerk over preparation of the Precept. It had been noted that the Council was entitled to include in the Precept claim a salary uplift in respect of the Clerk's expected increase in salary.

Action: Clerk

15. Report from the Sports and Social Club Committee

Cllr A. Malin reported that he had been unable to attend a recent committee meeting of the Sports and Social Club and he had therefore nothing to report.

16. Report from the Village Emergency Committee

- 16.1 Cllr Edwards reported that there had been an excess of water in The Valley to the extent that some sandbags had been put in place. However the bulk of the water was satisfactorily disposed of through the culverts which had been installed a year or so ago, a highly satisfactory outcome.
- 16.2 It was noted that there was a significant growth in brambles etc over the drains but it is the duty of WCC to trim them back. It was agreed that WCC be asked to trim the growth in the next few months before the spring season for young birds starts.

Action: Clerk

17. Report from the Community Hall Committee

Cllr Loveridge reported that there was nothing to report.

18. Report from the School Governors

Cllr Pickford reported that there was nothing to report.

19. Any Other Business

- (a) The Clerk distributed new forms of Declaration of Financial Interest to Councillors for completion. In the absence of guidelines, it was agreed to put the matter over to the next meeting and, in the interim, Cllr Walsh/Clerk would obtain further information. **Action: Cllr Walsh & Clerk**

- (b) The Clerk reported that under the Localism Act 2011 in addition to the above there was a requirement now that complaints were not dealt with by the Clerk or the Chairman of the Parish Council but referred to the Deputy Monitoring Officer of WDC. It was therefore necessary for the Clerk to modify the documentation relating to complaints. It was agreed that the Clerk would do this using his discretion. **Action: Clerk**

- (c) The Chairman outlined an unpleasant incident suffered by Cllr Marriott and himself as follows. Following a complaint from a member of the public, they had gone to inspect a frontage on the main Southam Road where about 60 linear feet of ground had been planted with new Leylandii trees. They ascertained that these new trees were about 5 feet in front of an existing hedgerow. They were accosted by the householder and a relative who were extremely abusive to the two Councillors, the thrust of the abuse being that the occupiers of the premises paid their Council Tax and were entitled not to be interfered with by Councillors. The legal and administrative implications of this confrontation were discussed by the Chairman, Cllr Marriott and the Clerk at a private meeting over the weekend. The Clerk recommended that a record of the incident be filed and no immediate overt action be taken in respect of the householder. Cllr Marriott's unilateral approach to the Highways Dept was approved and confirmed and it was agreed to await the outcome of intervention by the Highways Dept. The matter is to be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

- (d) A short debate took place concerning Mr Rowland's presentation and a donation was agreed as above. **Action: Chairman & Clerk**

- (e) The Chairman proposed that a Parish Council supper should be held in the early part of 2013; this would be purely for the Councillors and their partners. It was agreed the matter should be given further consideration and be put on the Agenda for the next meeting. **Action: Chairman & Clerk**

21. Date of next meeting: Monday 28th January 2013

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman of the Parish Council