

# **RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES**

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Community Hall, Lewis Road, Radford Semele, on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at 7.30 pm.

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

**In attendance for part of the meeting:** WDC Cllr Doody and Mr D Purdy of Radford Semele Football Club

### **1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr D E Chater, Cllr Mrs J Loveridge and Cllr A J Malin

Mr Purdy addressed the Council before the official business started. He had come to enquire on the issue of the Football Club playing rent. Cllr Whitehead from the Chair advised him that the Council had made a decision not to charge rent from the Football Club because the Council had taken the view that both the football and the social life at the club was beneficial for the Community. Mr Purdy thanked the Chairman and left the meeting.

### **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

2.1 The Minutes of the last meeting were approved subject to a small amendment requested by Cllr Marriott in clause 2.

2.2 On paragraph 6.3, the point was raised as to yellow lines that the Clerk should commission WDC Cllr Doody to put some pressure upon WDC to get on with the yellow lines (at that point Cllr Doody was not present at the meeting).

**Action: Clerk**

### **3. Police Matters**

There were no police officers present and no report. It appeared from email material that incidences of anti-social behaviour had decreased.

### **4. WCC & WDC Matters**

WDC Cllr Michael Doody had arrived to make a presentation under this head.

4.1 He reported that that a number of bus services had been cut due to reallocation of a subsidy by WCC. None of these cuts affected Radford Semele directly.

4.2 He is now Vice Chairman of WCC and would therefore be Chairman next year. This is at the same time as holding office as Leader of WDC.

4.3 1,000 redundancies are threatened at WCC; they had an overall target of reducing staff by about 5,000 / 6,000 people due to Government pressure to reduce the budget.

4.4 The WDC Local Plan has gone to the Secretary of State for consideration / approval. It appears that the life of Coventry Airport will not be affected. However

a refurbishment scheme costing £150m for the Tollbar Island will not go ahead. This will affect use of the A45 and the M69.

- 4.5 He said that there had been no compulsory redundancies at WDC. There will be no Council tax increases for WDC for the foreseeable future.
- 4.6 He pointed out that the Community Forum has £11,000 in funds which are available for projects and he encouraged the Council to make applications. Possibly funds could be sought for a new bus shelter in the Village.
- 4.7 He said the last day for objections to the High Speed Railway is the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2011. WDC and WCC have put in heavy objections and there is a strong working party between all the district councils which front on to the proposed railway line, many of whom have MPs of the same politics as the Government. He said the projected cost of the scheme is £33billion but no-one believes that will not be exceeded.
- 4.8 He said that Cllr Felicity Bunker had been installed as Chairman of WDC and looked forward to her visit to Radford Semele in October.

## **5. Matters Arising**

- 5.1 The Clerk reported that he had written to A C Lloyd concerning trimming the hedge at The Lodge and had been advised that it will be attended to.
- 5.2 Because of a message he had received about the footpath at School Lane, the Clerk had held back on issuing letters to occupiers of the houses in The Greswoldes. It was agreed that these letters should be sent out to numbers 2 – 28 as previously discussed. **Action: Clerk**

## **6. Finance and Accounts**

- 6.1 The Clerk reported that the operating bank account stands at approximately £9,900 and the savings account stands at approximately £36,000. The two accounts had been adjusted because he had deposited some funds after analysing the cash flow position for July and August.
- 6.2 He reported that he had had a discussion with Michelle Johnson concerning PAYE deductions and the management of his pay; she had sent him an oblique message by email which he had not had an opportunity to discuss with her over the telephone. The thrust appeared to be that she should issue pay certificates for each month but probably they could be accumulated and presented by the Clerk each quarter for approval and payment. He was not concerned at the number or frequency of instalments as long as he got paid sometime during the year! It was agreed the Clerk would take this back for clarification with Ms Johnson. **Action: Clerk**
- 6.3 The Council approved a number of payments including the following:
1. early payment of the charge for the Clerk's conference in October (to take advantage of a discount)
  2. approval in principle to a substantial payment being made to the Football Club (the figure to be assessed by the Chairmen)
  3. payment to Home and Garden Care (Mr Hitchcox) for early attention to hedgerows previously mentioned

## **7. Correspondence**

7.1 The Clerk had received an invitation from the Lord Lieutenant to submit nominations for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. There was also a suggestion of celebrating the Queen's Jubilee.

7.2 The Clerk had received an unsolicited email from landscape gardeners. In case they might be suitable for maintaining the area of the Village, the Clerk is to enquire further of their services. **Action: Clerk**

7.3 The Clerk advised that he had received a circular email warning of the impending expiry of the time to answer the High Speed Rail case.

7.4 The Clerk reported that he had written to the Chairman of WDC to invite her to a Council meeting in October or November but awaited a reply.

## **8. Noticeboard**

Cllr Walsh said she had had insufficient time to deal with this so the matter was adjourned to the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

## **9. Website**

Cllr Walsh said she had had insufficient time to deal with this so the matter was removed from the Agenda until further notice. **Action: Clerk**

## **10. The future of the Youth Club building**

Cllr Whitehead reported that he had discussed the position further with Terry Davidson who was fronting up the steering group. In principle a year's contract was under discussion and the Council was to support the cost of the work which was needed to clean up the building for the use of the Football Club. It was agreed that Cllr Whitehead should assess the figure up to a maximum of £1,000 and he and the Clerk would make arrangements for payment in due course.

**Action: Cllr Whitehead & Clerk**

## **11. Sports & Social Club land application**

Cllr Whitehead reported that a document comprising the Grant of Permission by the Council for the use of the area outside the Club building had been signed by the Club. The Chairman and the Clerk duly signed the document also. One copy is to go back to the Club and the other to go on the Clerk's file. **Action: Clerk**

## **12. Report from the Planning Committee**

12.1 Some applications had been considered. A short debate ensued as to how meetings of the Planning Committee should be processed. (At present, applications reach Cllr Walsh by email from WDC for discussion within the Committee which is organised by her as most expedient from time to time) The Clerk advised that, in his opinion, meetings of the Planning Committee should be open to the public and therefore a facility should be in place to allow members of the public to be present. It was agreed that the Clerk would research further into this and advise. **Action: Clerk**

- 12.2 Some councillors expressed a wish to have hard copies of the planning applications delivered to them as opposed to being advised by Cllr Walsh as to the contents of emails (this aspect to be on the Agenda for the next Council meeting).

**Action: Clerk**

### **13. Report from the Playing Field Committee**

- 13.1 Cllr Marriott pointed out that the path near The Lodge needed tidying up and regeneration. He will look into the costings. **Action: Cllr Marriott**

- 13.2 Cllr Marriott reported that a sycamore tree had been dealt with by a contractor and he expected an invoice for that in due course.

- 13.3 Correspondence had been received from a resident in Lewis Road as to the condition of the play equipment; Chairman had responded in writing in which he had invited the resident to come forward with a group of like-minded people to see if the project proposed by the resident could be implemented.

### **14. Report from the Finance Committee**

There was nothing to report in addition to matters referred to above.

### **15. Report from the Sports and Social Club Committee**

In the absence of Cllr A Malin, it was noted that a new Committee had been formed and it appeared that they had taken a turn for the better.

### **16. Report from the Village Emergency Committee**

Cllr Edwards reported that there was nothing to report.

### **17. Report from the Community Hall Committee**

In the absence of Cllr Chater and Cllr Loveridge, there was no report.

### **18. Report from the School Governors**

It was noted with pleasure that Cllr Pickford had taken on the responsibility of being the Council's representative on the Board of School Governors. Her contribution was much appreciated as there had been a vacancy in this area of the Council's representation for some time. The first meeting is in September.

### **19. Any Other Business**

- (a) There was a short debate which ensued about the bus shelter. It then progressed to the wider issue of whether improvement to the visual appearance of the main road with the junction of Lewis Road could be undertaken. Some Councillors favoured expenditure on works but other Councillors were doubtful of the efficiency of the works due to the likely incidence of vandalism.

Cllr Marriott expressed his concern at the deteriorating condition of the telephone box and said that he would undertake the repair works in the near future. **Action: Cllr Marriott**

The point was made that it might be possible to obtain funding from the Community Forum for a substantial portion of a new bus shelter.

It was pointed out that the Council had sufficient funds to finance the entire cost of a new bus shelter and the refurbishment of the telephone box.

Reference was made again to the possibility of making a standing arrangement with a contractor to look after the playing fields, the bus shelter, the telephone box and any other item requiring regular attention.

- (b) Cllr Marriott raised the question of fly tipping. He acknowledged the difficulty the Council faced when the items were placed on private land. Particularly objectionable items were scrap tyres. It was thought that there was a facility via WDC to dispose of tyres if it was organised responsibly.

The Clerk to ascertain the position.

**Action: Clerk**

**20. Date of next meeting: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm.**

Signed.....

Date.....

**Chairman of the Parish Council**