

RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

APPROVED MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held at the Community Hall on 25th April 2022 at 8.30 pm.

Present: Parish Councillors: Cllr S P Sabin (in the Chair), Cllr D Carter, Cllr J Dempsey, Cllr B Follett, Cllr B Friar, Cllr A T Hitchcox, Cllr Mrs J P Malin, Cllr R Munn and Cllr J Sudbury

Also present: WCC Cllr W Redford and three members of the public

Apologies for Absence: Received from Cllr Musa (on holiday) and WDC Cllr Mrs Leigh-Hunt (WDC meeting).

Minutes: The Minutes of the last Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting held on 26th April 2021 had been approved by Councillors at a Council Meeting in June 2021.

Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence to hand.

- Reports:**
1. The Chairman of the Finance Committee, Cllr Brian Friar, outlined the Council's financial position, in particular he pointed out there is a large sum in the Council's bank account but the bulk of that sum is ring fenced for specific projects. The Clerk said that the unrestricted amount at the current date is approximately £16,000. Cllr Friar outlined the considerable activity by the Council in the last year from a financial point of view, in particular the installation of the adult gym equipment in the Playing Field. These activities had created large figures in the annual accounts and a significant amount of VAT was paid by the Council which was in the process of being recovered.
 2. Cllr Munn outlined the current position on the SpeedWatch project; he said he was pleased by the response he had had from volunteers to take part in the scheme although he could do with more. He is in the process of asking the Police to train more volunteers as this is an obligatory element in the work. He currently has 8 volunteers awaiting training – normally a team going out on the street numbers about 3 people. It is hoped that in the process of time, this activity will encourage motorists to conform to the speed limit when travelling through the Village.
 3. Cllr Carter tabled a report on planning matters during the preceding year and spoke briefly to outline the contents of the report.
 4. Cllr Mrs Malin reported on activity in the Community Hall which had come to life since the end of lockdown (prior to that things had been difficult). The committee had introduced online booking as a result of lockdown and this was now proving very efficient. A booking clerk was employed on a part time basis to manage this. Process is being taken to repair the surface of the car park which is in a poor state.
 5. Cllr Follett reported on the extensive activity of this Council in the Playing Field, in particular the replacement of the zip wire, play equipment, total refurbishment of the skateboard park, the installation of adult gym equipment which has been financed by HS2, a comprehensive safety inspection of all the equipment by Wicksteed and refurbishment of the area of the ditch adjacent to the new housing development in Spring Lane including the creation of a habitat for wildlife.
 6. Cllr Sudbury reported briefly on the School and the Pre-School (the latter being in urgent need of significant funds for a new building).
 7. The Chairman spoke briefly to his written report which had been filed on the website; in particular, he said it was very satisfactory now that Council meetings could now meet face to face. He was pleased at the number of projects which this Council had undertaken during the last year or so despite the pandemic. He made the point that the Council always look to residents to come forward with suggestions for future projects. He was pleased with the input from the current group of Councillors and he expressed particular thanks to the support given to the Council by WCC Cllr Redford and WDC Cllr Mrs Leigh-Hunt.

Any other business: It was mentioned in the Minutes at the last meeting in 2021 that expectation, the Council were now pleased to be able to arrange a face to face meeting on Saturday 30th April next. This will be described as a Annual Parish Assembly and will run for 2 hours in the Community Hall. The objective is to create a social environment so residents in general and local village groups can mingle and meet with the Clerk and Councillors; they will be on hand to answer questions from residents and to outline the work of the Council. It is expected that a number of groups will man tables to demonstrate their paperwork etc and if it is successful the Council will envisage holding a similar event each year in the future.

Signed **Chairman** **Date**
..... **Clerk**