

Radwinter Parish Council

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Council held in the Village Hall on Monday 13th November 2006 from 7.30pm.

Present:

Cllrs G Simmonds (Ch); Dr H Brown; M Halls; A Jarvis; K Moore; D Smith, with the Clerk, R A Jones in attendance, and D/Cllr S Schneider, G Schneider, L Simmonds and Lady Sue Walker.

Public Session:

D/Cllr Schneider addressed the Council as Secretary of the Village Hall Management Committee to explain the Committee's wish to obtain a renewal of the 1973 lease on the same terms.

Lady Walker presented a list of maintenance requirements relating to the Rec. These were discussed later in the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr J Hardisty. The Council noted his indisposition and instructed the Clerk to send best wishes for a speedy recovery. C/Cllr Walsh has sent a briefing note which will be circulated.

The Clerk was also instructed to record the regret of the Council on hearing of the death of Mabel Richardson and express our gratitude for 44 years of loyal service.

2. Minutes of previous Meeting:

held on 4th September having been previously circulated were taken as read, adopted and signed by the Deputy Chairman

3. District Councillors Report:

It was reported that the District Council have increased their funding for grants to the North Area Panel to £14,000. She has raised a query regarding the allocation of funds from the Pig Market Charitable Trust and suggested that this should be allocated to the North Area Panel; this is being investigated. The Audley End Station park and ride scheme is being examined. Mention was made of the help being given to British evacuees from Lebanon. The Conservative Party has selected her to stand again for the Sampford ward in the May elections.

4. Continued items:

A) Traffic, transport & related items:

The Clerk reported that he had received a call relating to a large pot-hole on Walden Road near Bridgefoot. On notifying Highways it was repaired within a week.

Chris Stonham of H'ways stated that

- i) The obstructing hedge at High Path has been scheduled for cutting.
- ii) The blocked culvert in Water Lane should also have been cleared.
- iii) Traffic surveys have been carried out in Maple Lane and Water Lane (prior to any quiet lane investigation); the Maple Lane survey showed speeds of 40.7mph northbound and 38.3mph southbound. Other details on both surveys will follow.
- iv) An investigation is being carried out on the Walden pinch point to relocate signs and check on angle of release.
- v) The extension to the zig-zag markings outside the school is in hand.
- vi) Our interest in traffic controlled speed signs has been noted, but it is of low priority due to good accident record.

A discussion has been held with the footpath officer Nigel Eley regarding the access to path 67; this is scheduled for attention to the access.

The 30mph sign in Water Lane still needs clearing, and another added opposite Mrs Stickley.

A query was raised regarding the side gate at Saxons which opens outward into the Lane; a letter is to be written pointing out that this is a road safety hazard.

B) Village improvement:

Lady Walker has complained about the litter bins not being emptied; Clerk to raise this matter with Environmental Services.

A meeting has been held with Chelmsford Electrical for the installation of an extra street light near Bridgefoot. Discussions are being held with ECC Highways regarding phased street lighting and low energy bulbs.

A complaint has been received from Mrs Wright of The Bungalow Great Brockholds Farm stating that she does not want to be recorded as living in Wimbish Green Lane. The matter has been raised with UDC Building Services who installed the signs at our request, but who now say they do not know of Wimbish Green Lane, nor Church Hill nor the limits of Princes Well; further discussions will be held with UDC.

C) Low Cost Housing:

The Chairman and Clerk had a joint discussion with Bidwells (for Sir Jonathan Parker) and (Cheffins for Mrs Rayment) regarding possible future phased development for mixed Low Cost and Market Price Housing. Highways are being consulted regarding access to Walden Road. The RHT and UDC have confirmed the continuing need for Low Cost Housing.

D) Parish Plan:

Cllr Smith circulated a draft of the proposed Parish Plan; he also circulated as a separate item the section dealing with Housing and Development, and asked for comments on this by 1st December at latest.

Their next meeting is scheduled for end of November.

E) Recreation Ground:

A list of requirements has been received from Lady Parker (chair)

- i) Car park – it was agreed to obtain a quote for delimiting this with sleepers.

- ii) Car park lights – although a bill has been received for attention to them they are still not working correctly.
- iii) Recycling – the glass recycling bins will need to continue.
- iv) Play area – details to be provided of what is required.
- v) Title – The Clerk reported that Sir Jonathan’s solicitor is still seeking the past records for clarification.
- vi) Pavilion – it was reported that this was in a dangerous condition, despite the expenditure by the Council over the past two years for its repair.
- vii) Trees – A letter has been sent to BT, EDF Energy, ECC Highways and ourselves for help in pollarding the Lime Trees along the edge of Walden Road.

The question of mole-draining was raised and Cllr Halls offered advice as he did not consider this a correct solution to the problem of surface water at the Bowls Club.

Cllr Simmonds vacated the Chair as he had declared a personal interest; this was then taken by Cllr Moore

F1) Village Hall:

The Council reviewed the submission made by the VHMC, but it was not considered sensible to hold a meeting at which they were legally represented and the Council was not. The Clerk read and circulated a letter from Sir Jonathan following his receipt of a letter from the Charity Commission. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Sir Jonathan asking for clarification of the Charity Commission proposal and requesting his help in the production of a new scheme. When this is obtained we will then be able to discuss matters with VHMC regarding the future administration of the Hall with the VHMC prior to its adoption. The Clerk to write to the VHMC explaining this.

Cllr Simmonds resumed the Chair

F2) Hall Cottage:

The Clerk reported that he and the Chairman had inspected the Cottage after Mr Cox left and as previously reported found it in a dirty condition. FDPM had found new tenants but there was insufficient time to seek quotations for the refurbishment and the existing contractors were instructed to proceed. This was carried out satisfactorily within the 14day window and Mr Paul Walker and Ms Caroline Vineall moved in on 15th September with an enhanced rent to cover the improvements made. They have so far proved very good tenants.

Mr Cox is being sought for payment of his outstanding account of £680; he has vacated his shop premises in Church St Saffron Walden overnight with no forwarding address.

Neighbourhood watch: It has been reported that vandalism occurred on the Rec with cars being driven over the pitches, but attempts to report this through the web had proved fruitless. It was recommended that a phone call to the NW co-ordinator would be more effective. The police were contacted by NW regarding suspicious visitors to East View Close. More help is being sought for distribution of newsletters.

5) Finance:

A) Statement of Funds:

The RFO reported funds of £16986 current, £45137 reserve, totalling £62123.

B) Accounts outstanding:

Viking Direct £75.21 (office supplies); FDPM for Tiamco £830.00 (Hall Cottage refurbishment; FDPM for Kenzies £70.00 (Hall Cottage carpet); J Hardisty £27.21 (Ch Expenses); R Jones £128.84 (Clerk's expenses including £33.88 renewal of pc security); May Gurney £174.71 (street light repair); Royal British Legion £20.00 (wreath).

Retrospective consent was sought for payment of A James Ltd £141.00 (repair Church clock); VHMC £44 (hall hire); CPRE £26.00 (mem'ship).

The payment of these accounts was proposed by Cllrs Halls, seconded Cllr Jarvis and the cheques signed.

It was noted that E.On will be charging £203.85 for 5 months outstanding charges due to their failure to collect our Direct Debit. Their charges are also increasing to 8.30p/kwh from 5.855p/kwh wef 1st November.

D Richardson has paid the outstanding money due from the Parish Plan Group.

C) Finance Committee:

Mr L Simmonds has tendered his resignation as advisor to the Committee. A letter of appreciation is to be sent but asking for clarification of the reasons for his action. An approach has been made to Andrew Cohen, a registered IFA of Radwinter End who has signified his willingness to serve. This was accepted with pleasure. It was agreed to hold the next Finance Meeting on either Wednesday 6th or 13th December.

6) Planning – applications, decisions and related matters:

Approved:

UTT/1358/06/FUL – Cowlass Hall Farm: barn conversion – C Cowell

UTT/1534/06/FUL – The Cliff Radwinter End: 2 storey extn – G Pitt

Circulated:

UTT/1499/06/FUL – Radwinter School: pedestrian back entrance – M Caton – no objection but concern about traffic in East View Close.

7) Correspondence

A) Meetings

16 Nov - launch history database – SW 2pm – Clerk to attend

17 Nov – UDC charity quiz night SW 7.30 (£10 each) - not sufficient support

17 Nov – SLCC/EALC Clerks mtg & lunch 11am Gt Baddow – Clerk to attend

22 Nov – W. Essex Forum Mtg – Brentwood 9.30

23 Nov – UALC Mtg – Thaxted Guildhall – 8pm

28 Nov – EALC Conference – Gt Dunmow 9.30 (£20) Cllr Simmonds to attend

2 Dec – Radwinter Ch Tree festival – Cllr Jarvis to arrange tree

5 Dec – UDC parish liaison mtg SW 7.30

13 Dec – UDC Carol Service - Lt Hallingbury - no interest

29 Jan – W. Essex Forum Mtg

B) Other

A letter and reply form has been received from UDC regarding grants for 'play initiatives' for 0 – 19yo both indoor and outdoor. A copy is to be given to Lady Walker.

Thanks were given to Cllr Brown for representing the Council at the Remembrance Service.

Cllr Simmonds invited all to a New Year's Eve function she is holding in the Village Hall on 31st December.

8) Next Meetings:

The Meetings to be held in 2007 will be on the following Mondays:

15th January;

26th February;

16th April (Parish Mtg);

14th May (AGM following elections 3rd May);

2nd July;

3rd September;

12th November.

The meeting closed at 10.15pm