

Radwinter Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in the Village at 7.30pm on Monday 15th January 2007.

Present:

Cllrs G Simmonds (Ch); Dr H Brown; M Halls; A Jarvis; K Moore; D/Cllr S Schneider, with the Clerk, R A Jones in attendance, and 4 members of the public.

1) Apologies for absence:

Cllrs J Hardisty, D Smith and C/Cllr S Walsh

2) Minutes of previous meeting held 13th November 2007:

having been previously circulated were taken as read but noted that in Section 4E it should read Lady Walker, not Lady Parker. They were then adopted and signed by the Chairman.

3) Reports from Council Representatives:

C/Cllr S Walsh e-mailed a report requesting our views on the rationalization of the mobile library service, and the proposed switching off street lights. The Clerk noted that we were already in discussion with UDC regarding street lighting.

D/Cllr Schneider reported that her enquiries regarding the Pig Market Charitable Trust funds has resulted in these being shown separately and that c£24,000 should be available for allocation through the North Area panel. The UDC is having another staff restructuring. It is proposed that an Olympic Games working group is set up.

4) Continued items

A) Traffic, transport & related items:

The Clerk has discussed earlier items with ECC H'ways:

- i) The large pot-hole in Walden Road has now been repaired 3 times but is still subsiding.
- ii) The hedge at High Path has now been trimmed, and overhanging growth in the opposite side.
- iii) The blocked culvert in Water Lane has been cleared.
- iv) The reports on the traffic surveys will be forwarded.
- v) The angle of release of the pinch-point in Walden Road will be examined when the speed limit distance is changed early next financial year.
- vi) The 30 mph sign in Water Lane outside Mrs Stickley's will be moved to the opposite side of the road.
- vii) The Clerk wrote to Mr & Mrs Finch of Saxons regarding their side gate. He has had a reply apologizing for the obstruction and agreeing that it should be re-hung.

viii) We were notified of an obstructing fallen branch in Walden Road which was removed by Cllr Jarvis; another recently fallen in Ashdon road was also removed.

ix) A complaint has been received regarding the placing of large blocks on the verge in Wimbish Green Lane. Clerk to check with H'ways regarding legality of this and then write to the offending resident if appropriate.

x) Cllr Smith has forwarded a copy of his road accident survey for 2006 to H'ways. A copy is to be circulated.

xi) It was noted that the traffic island on Walden Road outside South View had sunk making it unusable in wet weather.

B) Village improvement

i) It was confirmed that the litter bins are now being emptied. We are awaiting details of the bulk rubbish container schedule.

ii) The Clerk has had a discussion on site with a lighting engineer regarding Bridgefoot. He was informed that the lighting is sub-standard due to changes in specification. A quote was obtained for an extra light between the bridge and Frog's Croft. The Clerk is awaiting a report on lighting from ECC Hways.

iii) Complaints have been made regarding the frequency of interruptions to the electricity supply. Clerk to raise the matter with EDC Energy.

iv) A query has been made regarding the notice boards, their use and maintenance. It was agreed that the Clerk should prepare a schedule governing their use, confirm key-holders and obtain signatures.

v) A letter has been received from ECC H'ways requesting a schedule for the cutting programme for footpaths. Clerk has requested details of what is cut at present.

vi) A light is not functioning by the Plough PH, and on Church traffic island; Cartledge to be informed.

C) Low cost housing:

The Clerk has been in discussion with Bidwells and Cheffins. We are awaiting news regarding the acceptability of access to Walden Road, probably through a mini-roundabout.

D) Parish Plan:

Cllr Brown said that a meeting has been held to progress matters and that they are hoping to agree the final text at their meeting on 25 January. It was agreed that this would be shown to the Council before printing.

E) Recreation Ground:

A request for funding has been received and is discussed under Finance. Mole draining is being checked by Cllr Halls.

F) Village Hall Complex:

A letter has been received from Sir Jonathan Parker with a form from the Charity Commission regarding a new scheme. This will be circulated.

Vic Rae had announced his intention to retire and since he had no satisfactory applicants had placed advert. in the local paper. Meanwhile Post Office Counters

have announced that they intend to close a large number of rural Pos, and in consequence no replies were received to the advert. Mr Rae has agreed to extend his service until the position is clearer. A letter of appreciation was sent by the Clerk on behalf of the Council and village.

G) Neighbourhood Watch:

Cllr Simmonds handed out bundles of a newsletter for circulation. The committee is not functioning effectively and may be restructured

5) Finance

A) Statement of Funds:

The RFO reported funds of £17756 current, £45305 reserve, giving a total of £63061.

B) Report of the Finance Committee:

A query was raised regarding the reason for Mr Simmonds resignation as adviser; The Clerk confirmed that a letter of explanation had been received and accepted by the Finance Committee, and he apologized for omitting to inform the other members of the Council, and will circulate a copy.

The recommendations for future expenditure were discussed and the following were agreed:

- i) Hall – paint porch and fit proximity light: clarify Planning Consent and proceed – est £500
- ii) Village sign: proceed with obtaining quotes for sign on pole. Cllr Moore to contact school re participation.
- iii) Donation to Museum: Clerk to clarify if space available for Radwinter items.
- iv) Purchase of land: hold pending clarification of LC Housing provision
- v) Old people: hold £500 for providing some benefit later in year, e.g. lunch.
- vi) Extra light at Bridgefoot: quote £5350 – proceed as soon as ECC lighting requirements clarified.
- vii) Litter Contractor: Organize voluntary village clean up day; obtain pickers and bags.
- viii) V Hall exterior hand rail: clarify planning consent and install – est. £500
- ix) Car Park: get quotations for providing sleepers or similar to block access to Rec.- est. £2500. Investigate possible grant aid.
- x) Churchyard: improve village appearance by clearing and reinstating access if agreed by PCC – est. £500
- xi) Rebuild bus shelter: Seek grant aid and proceed - Cllrs Brown & Halls to action.
- xii) The former Youth Club Leader has informed us that c£1500 may be available on disposal of their assets. It was agreed that this should be available to the Rec either as 'seed corn' for grant aid, or the purchase of specific items e.g. replacement bark for play area and new practice wall and basket ball net. The detailed application from Lady Walker was examined and agreed that Council should assist as fully as is

required; however it was felt that some of the required funds could be raised by grants. Cllrs Jarvis and Brown to action.

The remainder of the Finance Committee recommendations were accepted, including the increase of Clerk's salary by £9pcm wef 1st April.

C) Precept:

The budget was agreed and Precept to remain at £7700.

D) Accounts outstanding:

Village Hall Mngt. Com £40.00 (Hall hire); SLCC £75.00 (mem'ship); R A Jones £114.79 (clerk's expenses). Permission was also sought for the retrospective payment of Viking Direct £29.36 (stationery); Good Technology £228.95 (photocopier usage 2006); May Gurney £214.63 (street light repairs). Consent was given for the payment of all these accounts and the cheques signed.

It was noted that a quote has been received for £175 to replace the photocopier which has broken; this was accepted. The previous payment to May Gurney has been held awaiting clarification. It was agreed that the outstanding account for the rent of Hall Cottage by Mr Cox is to be pursued if need be through a Small Claims Court.

6) Planning:

applications, decisions and related matters

A) Approved;

UTT/1499/06/FUL – School: back pedestrian entrance – M Catton

B) Circulated:

UTT/1965/06/FUL – Willow House Radwinter End: extn – M Hillson – no objection.

UTT/1874/06/FUL – Lower House Farm: conversion of Barn to disabled dwelling and office – Lady M B Parker (as previously sent by Bidwells).

7) Correspondence

A) Meetings

Tues 16 Jan – UDC N area panel – UDC 7pm – Cllr Smith will attend.

Tues 23 Jan – UDC Environment Com: street crime etc – UDC 7.30

Thurs 25 Jan – ELF conf.on legal perspective on environmental devt. St Cedds hall Chelmsford 2.15pm

Mon 29 Jan – West Essex Forum Mtg – Brentwood 9.30am

Wens 31 Jan – Airport Trust Grant closing date

Thurs 1 Feb – DEFRA Community Grant closing date

Sun 4 Feb – SSE conf. – Stansted Hilton 2pm

Thurs 8 Feb – LGIU seminar – influencing planning – LGIU offices London 11am (£100)

Tues 13 Feb – NALC shaping communities conf. – Russell Hotel London 10am (£129)

B) Other papers:

Football Fdn - details of funding – passed to Cllr Brown.

UDC – request for Councillors e-mail details to contact directly – refused.

8) Other Matters:

Cllr Halls enquired regarding authority to stop dog owners fouling the Rec in contravention of the By-Laws. He was told he had full authority to reprimand the individual.

9) Next Meeting:

already arranged for Monday 26th February at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 10.10pm.