

Radwinter Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 26th February 2007.

Present:

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

Public Session:

Lady Walker queried the performance of the bollard lights in the Car Park which were functioning incorrectly; Clerk to raise matter with Cartledge again. Lady Walker also queried keys to the public notice board. The Clerk has had keys cut but had been asked by Cllr Simmonds not to issue them as board was unsafe. Cllr Halls is investigating this. It was agreed to give keys to Lady Walker at her own risk. She was given 2 keys by the Clerk who did not realize that 3 were required. Another will be obtained.

The secretary of the VHMC read a prepared statement (attached) regarding their position in regard to the draft scheme from the Charity Commission.

1) Apologies for absence:

The Clerk read a statement from Cllr Hardisty tendering his resignation. All members regretted the need for this and the Clerk was instructed to write a letter of appreciation of his past services for the Chairman to send. The Clerk has informed UDC and EALC and will be putting in motion arrangements for electing a new Chairman for the remainder of the session until the elections.

2) Minutes of previous meeting held 15th January 2007:

having been previously circulated were taken as read, their adoption proposed by Cllr Halls, seconded Cllr Moore and signed by the Chair.

3) Reports:

D/Cllr Schneider reported that the District Council had agreed an increase in the budget of only 2% over last year, lowest in Essex. There was no report from C/Cllr Walsh.

4) Continued items:

A) Traffic transport and related items:

The Clerk had received a complaint about concrete blocks being placed on the verge in Wimbish Green Lane. He wrote to the instigators and they were removed. He has also received 2 complaints regarding the damage to the verge in Wimbish Green Lane caused by grain lorries from Gt Brockholds Farm, and has received

photographic evidence. He has raised the matter with ECC Hways but little can be done. He will write to the farmer to point out the problem.

He has been in touch with ECC Hways on various matters. It was noted that we are still awaiting details of the traffic surveys in Water and Maple Lanes. The Walden Road traffic island has not yet been repaired. The 30mph sign in Water Lane has not yet been moved. Mr Finch has not yet altered his side gate which opens into the road; Clerk to write a reminder.

Cllr Moore reported that the footbridge at Ashdon Road end of Water Lane was dangerous as being very slippery with no covering to the planks; Clerk to report to Hways.

Cllr Halls raised the parking of a vehicle in Water Lane outside 4 South View; Clerk to visit new residents and clarify the matter.

Cllr Moore reported that water is again running across Walden Road in 2 places from field below Frog's Croft to Bridgefoot; Clerk to raise matter with appropriate water company.

Cllr Smith reported on his attendance at a North Area Panel Meeting which gave details of traffic regulation. He will attend a RCCE meeting on Parish Plans.

B) Village improvement:

The Clerk reported that arrangements had been drawn up for bulk waste containers to be on the Rec car park on Sunday 20 May (morning); Sunday 8 July (afternoon) Sunday 16 September (morning). These arrangements were confirmed. Weekly green bins will commence on 31 March.

Schedule of cutting for footpaths has been agreed. The footbridge over the Pant at back of Saffron Cottage was in a dangerous condition; Clerk to report to Hways.

A complaint was made regarding the use of footpaths by horseriders. Clerk to raise matter with Robin Wallbank ECC Hways.

The forms have been received for the 'Best Kept Village Competition'. Cllr Brown to complete.

C) Low Cost Housing:

The Clerk has been in contact with the land agents. Cheffins seem to have done little to clarify road access in Walden Road; Bidwells are redrafting their scheme and will be contacting us shortly.

D) Parish Plan:

Cllr Brown stated that final draft has been issued incorporating comments from the Council and they were waiting to proceed. Cllr Moore expressed his concern that so much emphasis was placed on the Parish Council for future development in many areas of activity. Cllr Smith said that this was because the Council was the main body with which many of the ideas would be involved, either as originating or monitoring; it was realized that funding would not be available for all but no other group had the status to do this. A motion for the adoption of the Plan was proposed by Cllr Halls, seconded Cllr Jarvis and carried with Cllrs Moore and Simmonds against, due to their concern about the degree of Council involvement and arising costs.

E) Recreation Ground:

The Clerk read a letter from the Chairman of the Recreation Ground Management Committee requesting clarification of the Council's position regarding the work they undertake on behalf of the Council and their earlier request for urgent funding. The matter was fully discussed and Cllr Brown proposed, seconded Cllr Halls that the Council agreed to the request that they formally record their thanks to the Committee for the work they do in managing the maintenance of the Ground; further the Council accepts the recommendation of the Finance Committee given on 15th January for the immediate payment of £6,000 to the Committee. The motion was carried without dissent. It was agreed that a joint meeting with the Rec Committee should be held to discuss future policy.

The Clerk reported that 3 quotes had been received for sleepers for edging the car-park. Cllr Halls to calculate number required. He enquired whether it would be sensible to consider widening the car-park before this was undertaken. No decision was made.

The feasibility of a path around the ground facilitating access to the bowls club and play area was briefly discussed, and agreed that this should be a topic for joint discussion.

Katharine Shoolheifer of the Mother & Toddler Group has completed a questionnaire from UDC on play strategy on our behalf.

No information has been received about the funds of the defunct Youth Club. Cllr Moore to follow up with Lorraine Shepherd.

F) Village Hall Complex:

There was a disagreement between Cllr Simmonds and the Clerk regarding her eligibility to continue to chair the meeting and to vote. Cllr Simmonds left the meeting after stating that she had consulted EALC. The Clerk stated that he had consulted UDC and EALC and that Cllr Simmonds must have misunderstood the advice given.

The meeting agreed that Cllr Moore as senior cllr should assume the chair and the meeting continued

The Clerk reported that he had discussed the problem with Joy Shepherd, EALC Secretary, and she has agreed to examine the position and jointly chair a meeting with Nick Shuttleworth of RCCE (on behalf of RVHMC) to endeavour to resolve the issue. This offer was accepted by the Council and the Clerk instructed to supply all necessary paperwork. He confirmed that there was documentary proof of the lease to the Council being extended to 2024.

It was agreed to hold an informal closed meeting to discuss this matter at 7.30pm on Monday 12th March in the Village Hall.

It was agreed that Cllr Moore would if available represent the Council at the VHMC meeting on 5th March, or Cllr Jarvis in his stead.

5) Finance

A) Funds at 1st Feb:

Current Account: £17270; Reserve Account: £45640; Total Funds: £62910.

B) Accounts outstanding:

Aon £1728.42 (Village Hall Insurance); BT £56.02 (PO phone); Ambo £20.00 (subn); Good Technology £205.63 (PO photocopier); Ridgeons £28.25 (salt); Viking £77.73 (Stationery); UDC £284.82 (bulk waste skips); R A Jones £127.34 (ck expenses & purchases); VHMC £32.00 (hall hire); Cllr Smith £6.00 (travel).

The Clerk reported that repairs to Hall Cottage for drain clearance and Raeburn repair totaling £167.50 had been agreed.

Payment of these accounts was proposed by Cllr Brown, seconded Cllr Moore and the cheques signed

Bus Shelter: a quotation has been received by Cllr Brown; Cllr Hall to seek second quote.

6) Planning: Applications, decisions and related matters

Approved:

UTT1965/06/FUL – Willow House Radwinter End: 1 Storey Extn – J Hillson

Circulated:

UTT/1874/06/FUL) – Lower House Farm: conversion of Barn to disabled dwelling – Lady Parker - UTT/1877/06/LB) – No objection

UTT/0026/07/FUL) – Little Gates Golden lane Radwinter End – 2 Storey Extn – A Cohen

UTT/0028/07/LB) – No objection

UTT/0055/07/FUL – Fox Cottage Princes Well: 2 storey extn – C Baker – No objection

UTT/0125/07/LB – 4 Church Hill: creation of downstairs WC – R Steenkamp – No objection

UTT/0128/07/FUL – Gt Brockholds Farm: erection of Grain Store – A Covey - circulated

7) Correspondence

A) Meetings

Mon 5 Mar – UDC Plg enquiry Stansted Devt – SW 2pm

Tues 6 Mar – RCCE Field Team surgery event – Feering 3pm – Cllr D Smith

Tues 13 Mar – UDC Parish liaison mtg – UDC 7.30pm – Cllr H Brown

Mon 26 Mar – Hewitsons – mtg re planning – Cambridge 5.30 - Clerk

Fri 27 Apr – ECC invitn to LG service Chelmsford Cathedral – 7.30pm - noted

B) Other

20 Feb – UDC plg letter re adverse social effects Stansted Airport (in circn)

20 Feb – UDC concessionary fares scheme (in circn)

A bag of non-priority communications was given to Cllr Brown for circulation.

8) Other business & reports:

Cllr Moore produced a batch of drawings from the school produced in the design & tech classes for a village sign. These will be circulated for Cllrs to select elements to include in final design, returning them to Cllr Moore to brief School Head of proposal for final draft.

9) Next Meeting:

Parish Meeting 16th April.

Important Note

A complaint has been received from D/Cllr Schneider that following discussion with Cllr Simmonds she understands that Cllrs Jarvis & Halls are Trustees of the Rec and should have declared their interest. She states that this constitutes a prejudicial interest and that they should have left the room and certainly not have voted for funds for the Rec.