

Radwinter Parish Council Minutes of 9th July 2007.

Present:

The meeting was held in the Village Hall and commenced at 7.30pm. Present were: K Moore (Ch); H Brown, S Graves, M Halls, J Harling, A Jarvis, N Sandy, with the Clerk, R A Jones in attendance and Lady Suzanne Walker and Sir Jonathan & Lady Parker

Public Session:

Lady Walker raised matters connected with the Rec. She apologized for the lack of minutes of the joint meeting with the P.C. on 30 April, and later gave some notes for distribution. The Chairman reminded Lady Walker of our request for a 5 year plan of proposed capital spending and activities. A memorandum was circulated defining the duties which the RGMC are willing to undertake and requesting support from the PC for other duties. Mention was made of the hedge adjacent to the Almshouses by the car-park. Sir Jonathan undertook to cut this on behalf of the Almshouse Trustees. A donation from UDC community fund of £1250 has been received. The fete will be held on 27th August and help is required.

Sir Jonathan Parker raised items which have been transferred to the minutes.

1. Apologies for absence:

D/Cllr S Schneider.

2. County Councillor's report:

Simon Walsh reported on the restructure of the CC and his appointment as Chair of Fire Authority. He mentioned the discussions with BAA regarding access to Stansted Airport and the development of the coach terminal. He also commented on the Essex Strategy which is designed to raise funds from central government for successful projects, eg recycling. The recent flooding problem is being studied to endeavour to increase available funds by strengthening the Environment Agency and for example their adoption of the River Pant. The CC intends to comment adversely on the Government White Paper to centralize planning consultation on major projects.

3. Minutes of Meeting of 14 May:

These having been circulated were taken as read and their adoption proposed by Cllr Graves, seconded Cllr Harling and signed by the Chairman. It was noted that some Councillors had not received their email copies and hard copy will be sent when requested.

4. CONTINUED ITEMS:

(A) traffic, transport & related matters:

The Clerk reported on his discussions with Mike Felgate of H'ways. (i) The amended distance for the 30mph sign at Walden Road pinch point is in hand; (ii) no change is planned for the angle of narrowing at this pinch point despite problems for heavy vehicles. (iii) The traffic island by the green on Walden Road crossroads will be inspected for patch repair, together with water seepage down Bridgefoot. (iv) possible speed restriction or traffic control in Water Lane is still being investigated (v) the repeater speed sign in Water Lane is to be moved; (vi) reduced speed limits outside the school are being checked; (vii) the footbridge in Clay Wood swept away in the flood is to be replaced. Attention was drawn to the damaged footbridge on footpath from Water Lane to river Pant. Mention was also made of overgrown access to path 69, despite repeated requests for clearance. The Clerk was instructed to investigate taking over responsibility for path clearance. David Smith has responded positively to our request that he continues the accident analysis; it was agreed to repeat printing report forms in Ambo. Marion Gillon has declined to act as Passenger Transport representative for the PC; the position remains unfilled. Cllr Halls will obtain clips to enable new 'Children Playing' signs to be erected.

(B) Village improvement

(i) footbridge: A paper was circulated from Sir Jonathan Parker regarding the footbridge behind the Old Vicarage and improvements that he is making in conjunction with those to Church Meadow. The Council was very appreciative of the work and gave their support but could not confirm that they were the owners of the bridge. They also hoped that Mr David Emerson would cut his hedge alongside the footpath.

(ii) Community Plan: The Clerk reported on a meeting by Cllr Brown and himself with Sarah Nicholas of UDC Planning Policy regarding future development. We were told that there are 2 approaches; firstly a direct approach by the PC for amendment to the existing Uttlesford Local Plan, secondly a submission for inclusion in the new plan scheduled for the near future. The first course would be the quicker and would not preclude the second. The Clerk read the draft Community Plan he had prepared from that discussed with Messrs Bidwells & Cheffins. Cllr Brown is to help with expanding this and it will then be circulated for comment by Councillors by 1st August prior to discussion with UDC. It was noted that the suggested screen along East View Close and new development is part of the agreement with Sir Jonathan; it may also be a planning requirement to preserve the north end of the village from future development and preserve the landscape.

(iii) Village sign: The views of all Councillors have now been received and a decision is to be made on siting and quotes obtained for cost.

(C) Post Office:

Vic Rae retired as Postmaster on 26 June and notices have been posted. A retirement presentation was made by the Chairman. Mrs Susan Halsted has applied to take over the position and we are waiting to hear how her application is progressing.

5. FINANCE:

Statement:

Current Account: £8015; Reserve Account: £52644; Total Funds: £60659

Change of Signatories: All members had to sign a form from Cater Allen re signing new mandate; new members ie Cllrs Graves, Harling & Sandy needed to bring identity confirmation. Authorization for the reserve account with Bank of Ireland is already in place. Authorization of signatory is to be cancelled for former Councillors Hardisty, Smith and Simmonds.

Current business:Receipts: - VAT repayment £686.10; current a/c interest 64.35; V Rae £49.96 (PO phone).

Payments:

- EALC 22.50 (3 x new Councillor packs); C Low £391.87 (verge cutting); Kay Pilsbury £614.24 (V Hall repair admin); RCCE £40 (m/ship); R Jones £69.90 (Clerk's exp); K Moore £29.96 (Ch exp)

Retrospective Payments:

BT £53.55 (PO phone); Saffron Screen £200 (agreed donation; it was agreed that we should take up the offer of 16 seat vouchers, the previous having been given to Over60s club and the fete). Payment for these accounts was approved and the cheques signed.

A request has been received from the PCC for help with cost of churchyard tree pruning; further details to be obtained.

Non payment of rent by James Cox £680 – definite address to be obtained to serve summons

6. PLANNING:

Applications, decisions and related matters

Approved

UTT/0512/07/FUL) – RADWINTER School: demolish wall & replacement fence -

UTT/0514/07/LB) – T&F design

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

UTT/0756/07/FUL – The Plough PH: change of use of garden – A Haken – no objection

UTT/0796/07/FUL – 6-9 Princes Well: off-street parking – A Young – comment re surface

Refused

UTT/050/07/FUL - Hillview Sampford Rd: 1 storey extn & Dble gge – S Graves – comment re sewerage

Circulated

Old

P/A/2/14/257 – Ag Detmn – Park Farm Radwinter End: erection wooden barn – A Kiddy – no objection

New

UTT/0877/07/FUL – Godfreys Farm Radwinter End: 3 bay gge & room above – E Charnaud (23/6) – no obj

UTT/0885/07/FUL – The Cliff Radwinter End: retrospective for extra windows in extn – G Pitt (20/6) – no objection

UTT/0886/07/FUL – Stocking Green Farm: rebuilding farm blg – J Cooke (21/6) – no objection

UTT/1149/07/FUL – Fox reach Stocking Green: 1 storey extns front & rear – J Briggs (29/7)

7. REPORTS:

(i) Low Cost Housing:

covered under village improvement

(ii) Recreation Ground:

It has been reported that the direction of the cctv has been moved. It has also been reported that suspicious behaviour in the car-park late at night may be drug pushing; police to be asked to carry out late night inspection; possible closure of gates to be investigated, and reminder given for annual closure. The Clerk raised the need for obtaining Land Registry for the Bowls Club area of the Rec, for which we need confirmation of use over 15 years by sworn statements; Cllr Harling said that her husband would be willing to assist. Sir Jonathan agreed to participate.

(iii) Village Hall:

No response has yet been received to our submission to the Charity Commission; the Clerk to chase. It was noted that the surroundings have been tidied.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

(A) Meetings:

Wens 13 July – ECC visit Radwinter mobile library 2.45pm (revised schedule)

Fri 13 July - UDC end consultation on new corporate plan

Tues 17 July - ECC/RCCE public transport 'drop-in day' SW Town Hall 2pm

Wens 18 July – Radwinter Society AGM & talk

Thurs 19 July – UDC end consultation on Core strategy – Clerk outlined what is involved and it was agreed to inspect the letter and make comment, even if it was too late for deadline.

Thurs 19 July – RHT open house Newport (low cost housing)

Wens 25 July – Vol Centre AGM – Thaxted 1pm (NB need to nominate rep; Cllr Harling agreed to serve as only 1 meeting each year)

Mon 30 July - UDC report on long term empty property; noted none available in Radwinter

Fri 17 Aug – end NALC consultation on revised planning system. It was agreed that a reply should be made to government Communities & Local Government Planning Reform Team expressing our strong desire that planning consultation is kept as local as possible.

A circulation pack of non-priority material was passed to Cllr Harling.

9. Stansted Airport:

It was felt that there was nothing further to add to report from C/Cllr and the NALC document.

10. Other Matters

(a) Electors:

It was agreed that only the Clerk and Chairman need regular updates on the electoral roll, the remaining Councillors having an annual update. It was also agreed that a welcome pack should be prepared for all new incomers, the names being obtained from the roll. The pack would comprise the Parish Plan, a copy of the latest Ambo, a list of local organizations and a welcome letter inviting them to a PC meeting; Cllrs Brown and Harling to undertake this.

(b) Law on no smoking in enclosed public places:

The VHMC have confirmed that the appropriate notices have been displayed. Signs have been obtained for the bus shelter. The RGMC have been informed.

(c) Bus shelter:

Quotes have been obtained and an application for a grant made.

(d) Hall Cottage:

A report has been received on the good condition of the property both house and garden. It was agreed that the tenants could repaint the main bedroom. It was agreed that the rent should be increased by 3% wef 1st October.

(e) Flood prevention:

Concern was expressed at the lack of action by the appropriate authorities to prevent the severe damage to property in the village in the recent flood, 4 properties still being uninhabitable, several cars written off and other items of value lost. The C/Cllr is to be asked to undertake action on our behalf, and Clerk to raise matter with Environment Agency.

(f) Code of Conduct:

Copies of the Code of Conduct for Councillors have been received from the Standards Board and circulated to all Councillors.

(g) Night intruders:

The Chairman reported that intruders have been seen in the fields around the village acting suspiciously close to housing late at night on at least two occasions, possibly with metal detectors. He thought their presence may cause concern both to the elderly and for property security, and that suitable screened spotlights around the area would be beneficial. The Council rejected the idea as being too costly and intrusive and that the Police should be requested to keep watch.

11. Next Meeting:

Already arranged for Monday 3rd September at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 10.15pm.