

# **Radwinter Parish Council**

## **Minutes of 25th February 2008**

### **Present:**

Cllrs K Moore (Ch); S Graves; M Halls; A Jarvis, with the Clerk R A Jones, and Lady Suzanne Walker and Mrs Katharine Shoolheifer

### **Public Session:**

Katharine Shoolheifer gave a resume of the activities of the Mothers & Toddlers playgroup and their problems. We have already agreed to pay the rent of the Hall for 2 terms, and asked Katherine to come back in July to discuss progress.

Suzanne Walker mentioned the meeting that was held with the Chairman regarding the five-year plan. 2 benches are being purchased. The lights in the toilet block have been repaired.

Prior to the meeting the Clerk announced the death of the former Chairman John Hardisty and a minutes silence was held.

### **1. Apologies for absence:**

Cllrs Brown and Harling.

### **2. Reports from C/Cllr & D/Cllr:**

none.

### **3. Minutes of meeting of 21 January:**

it was noted that the Finance section should be Para 5, not Para 4 as listed. An item relating to holiday lets at Jenkinhogs farm follows. The adoption of the minutes was then proposed and seconded and signed by the Chairman.

### **4. Resignation of Councillor Sandy:**

The vacancy following the cessation of office was advertised by the Proper Officer and no request for an election was received. The Parish Council is bound to fill the vacancy by co-optation. The names and details of people willing to fill the vacancy should be submitted to the Proper Officer (Clerk) asap; he will then write to them to confirm their willingness to serve and request a short summary of what they can bring to the Council. This will then be circulated to all Councillors for discussion at a restricted meeting, (already booked for 7 April).

### **5. Finance:**

#### **A) Statement as at 31 Jan:**

Current Account: £8786; Reserve Account: £56303; Total Funds £65089

## **B) Adoption of Budget:**

The RFO circulated a revised Financial Projection showing an anticipated loss for y/e 31 March of £2968. No further proposals for any projects for year 08/09 have been received from Councillors. A loss for the year of £1250 is anticipated. The budget was approved.

## **C) Current expenditure and signing of cheques:**

Receipts:- repair of Village Hall £1162 from Allianz insurance against our claim of £1811.38 arising from retention of £125 and disallowance of architects fee of £524.38 (Clerk is appealing)

Payments: - UDC £86.39 election expenses; UDC £306.38 village CA skips; BT £55.27 PO phone; Hewitsons £64.63 Statutory Declaration; RAJ £123.67 Clerk's expenses, including gift for internal auditor. The payment of these items was approved and the cheques signed.

## **D) Other financial items:**

(i) Hall Cottage: Mr & Mrs Elsley and family moved into Hall Cottage on 19th January following a delay due to Mrs Elsley's hospitalization. On their attempting to start the back boiler providing the central heating it was found to be leaking and unusable. It was inspected by Cllr Halls and plumbers were called as it became obvious that the whole system need replacing. FDPM arranged for the supply of 4 electric fires. It was agreed that some recompense was needed, and the Clerk called and it was agreed to pay for the whole electricity bill until a repair was effected; due to payment being by key meter this is ~£50 per week. Quotations for the replacement system have been obtained from 3 plumbers and that of Alastair Pike agreed with Cllrs Jarvis and Halls. Cllr Jarvis to supervise the work and arrange preliminaries. Plumber to commence 27 Feb for est. 3 days

(ii) Mr Alun Williams has been appointed new external auditor to the Council

(iii) Discussions have been held with Aon Insurers regarding the cover for the PC and the Village Hall. The current policies will be reviewed with the possibility of their being merged; EALC have negotiated a reduction in premium to members.

No request for payment has been received for the web-site.

## **6. PLANNING:**

Applications, decisions and related matters

### **Approved:**

UTT/2074/07/FUL – Fieldfare Red Oak Hill: extn – L Fougas – 17 Jan

UTT/2079/07/FUL – Lower House Farm Water Lane – Gge & store (revised appn)  
Lady M Parker – 18 Jan

UTT/2171/07/LB – The Old Vicarage Church Hill: int alterations – S Scott – 29 Jan

### **Refused:**

UTT/2254/07/FUL – Foxreach Stocking Green: bedroom & bathroom over planned dble garage – J Briggs 21 Feb

### **Appeal:**

UTT/0886/07/FUL – Stocking Green Farm: rebuild granary & reroof adjoining blgs – 4 Feb

UTT/1603/07/FUL – Foxreach Stocking Green: raise gge roof & insert extra rooms – 26 Feb

**Circulated:**

UTT/0232/08/FUL – The Old Cartlodge Jenkinhog Farm: change of use from holiday let to stableyard manager's accommodation – N Williams 21/2/08. This was debated and it was agreed that personal and social circumstances dictated consent to the change. However the original objections relating to permanent occupation still applied, and it was proposed that limits should be imposed on the duration.

Footpaths: Cllr Halls raised the use of Footpath 69 by Hall Farm, where the farm road is being used instead. Clerk to raise clearing access with h'ways again.

## **7. REPORTS:**

### **A) Traffic:**

Chris Stonham of Hways has reported:

- i) Traffic survey in Water Lane has been done and results are being assessed
- ii) Walden Road pinch point signs are in new positions; a surplus sign is being removed.
- iii) Car Park signs will be made in April for fixing to existing post
- iv) The zig-zag hatching outside school has been modified (?)
- v) Then condition of the bend in Wimbish Green Lane is being examined; repair to the bend in Maple Lane will be charged to the Water Board.
- vi) They await a report on any small repairs we wish undertaken
- vii) Clerk wrote to Mr Culpin on 30/1 regarding his obstructive gate but no reply yet received.

### **B) Affordable Housing:**

Cllr Brown and the Clerk attended a meeting at Bidwells with Henry Turtill and Rob Hopwood, and Simon Lewis of Cheffins. The Clerk was requested to write to Sarah Nicholas of UDC planning to thank her for her help, and to Roger Harborough asking for confirmation of the support of UDC plg in implementation of the Community and Parish Plan approved by them. A reply was received which was non-committal and a meeting with Planning may be necessary

### **C) Rec**

- (i) The Clerk met David Hollest of Hewitsons re the Statutory Declaration of Title, and the Statement sworn and sent to Land Registry.
- (ii) The Chairman has met Lady Walker about forthcoming programme, including Mole Draining
- (iii) Allianz insurance have confirmed that 3rd party cover only extends to activities organized by the Rec Committee on behalf of the PC.

**D) Village Hall Complex:**

(i) The Clerk is in touch with Chris Knight of Hewitsons who is still in discussion with the Charity Commission. It was noted that Mr Carol of the Commission has left and the matter will be dealt with by another officer.

(ii) As previously stated, the Elsley's moved into Hall Cottage on 19th January.

**E) Bus Shelter:**

ECC H'ways has stated no funds are now available for current year but we are on list for next. Cllr Halls to report following discussions with suppliers and ECC H'ways.

**F) Street Lighting:**

Clerk has written again to Cartledge concerning spurious invoices which they do not accept. Arrangements are being made for contract with Just Lamps.

**G) Post Office:**

The Clerk has submitted the names of Ian Creek and Steve Elsley to Steve Rolfe of PO agent recruitment (outreach workers), and is awaiting a reply.

**H) village amenities:**

UDC have stated that the civic amenity skips will be available on Sat. am 17 May; Sun pm 13 July; Sat am 6 September

**8. CORRESPONDENCE:****(i) Meetings:**

26 Feb – RCCE event on traveling wisely – Margaretting 9.45am (with lunch)

26 Feb – RCCE event on saving energy – Margaretting 1.45pm (with lunch)

28 Feb – EALC Chairman's trg day Dunmow 10am (fee £50)

11 Mar – ETP Roles & Responsibilities Course – Dunmow 9.30 (fee £30)

13 Mar – Sir Alan Haselhurst – special mtg on Housing in Uttlesford – SW 8pm – HB or RJ to attend

13 Mar – RCCE event on shop ethically – Gt Saling – 9.45am (with lunch)

13 Mar – RCCE event on saving resources/recycling Gt Saling 1.45pm (with lunch)

18 Mar – Rec Committee – Mtg at the Plough to thank helpers at the fete 7.30pm

20 March – UDC public liaison Mtg SW 7.30pm

17 April – Local Govt Service – Chelmsford Cathedral 7.30pm (all Councillors) reply 1st April

23 April – Rec Committee AGM at RVH

15 May – ECC – mtg Passenger transport reps SW 14.30

21 Feb – letter from SSE requesting mtg for presentation. Clerk to arrange

**(ii) Other**

Request from PCC for joint meeting dates – Clerk to arrange; possibly 7th April

ECC Letter 20 Feb regarding changes in concessionary fares – will be restricted to use 9.30am to 11pm within Essex

Pack for circulation – this will include a draft from ECC re validation checklist for all future planning applications – response by 27 March.

Leaflets & DCD regarding proposed changes to airspace. It was considered important that the village is informed of what is proposed; the meeting with SSE may be helpful.

RTP – A questionnaire on village amenities was completed.

## **9. Other Matters:**

The views of Councillors on new format were discussed. It was considered helpful in sharpening the discussion and shortening the meeting.

## **10. Parish Meeting:**

Already arranged for 7pm Monday 14th April, probably preceded by a restricted meeting to co-opt a new Councillor (later arranged for Monday 7th April). The Clerk reminded all Councillors that they will be expected to give a report to the village of the activities for which they are specifically responsible.

The Meeting closed at 9.50