

Radwinter Parish Council Minutes of 14th July 2008

Prior to the meeting the death was announced of the Cllr Moore's Mother-in-Law.

Present:

Cllrs H Brown (Ch); E Duck; S Graves; J Harling; A Jarvis, with the Clerk R A Jones in attendance and C/Cllr Simon Walsh and 4 residents.

Public Session:

Mrs J Thompson raised the use of Jenkinhogs Farm as a Riding School and produced an advertisement for a large scale operation. This was discussed and further raised in Planning. The use of the cart-lodge as accommodation was also raised.

Lady Suzanne Walker distributed copies of the Rec report. She also agreed to take the cheque for £1700 and to deal with the invoice from Cambridge Newspapers.

She also reported the need for attention to footpath 85

Mrs Gillon asked about the Post Office situation which the Clerk answered (see later).

Mrs K Shoolheifer described the position of the Mother & Toddlers Group, which still only has 6-9 members. Our support to end of term was confirmed and will be reviewed in September. She also mentioned her work with the Speedwatch Group and the need for illuminated traffic signs.

1. Apologies for absence:

Cllr Kevin Moore; (The Chair was taken by Cllr Brown); Cllr Halls; D/Cllr Schneider – a report has been submitted which was read by the Clerk. At the previous public session D/Cllr Schneider was asked about funds from the Pig Market Charity. She has now received information that it is donated to the C.A.B, £33,400 being given in 07/08

2. Minutes of previous meeting of 9 June:

It was noted that Cllr Jarvis had sent apologies. A letter has been received from Mrs Simmonds objecting to the item in 7b stating that a bill had been received for an advert for a Boot Sale placed by her, which she denied. It was agreed that this should read 'seemingly placed by Mrs Simmonds'; as stated Lady Suzanne Walker accepted liability. Subject to these amendments the adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr Duck, seconded Cllr Graves and signed by the Chairman.

3. Reports from Councillors:

C/Cllr Simon Walsh reported that ECC are providing a subsidy for the retention of rural Post Offices. A subsidy is also being given to rural parishes for the provision of traffic speed control. Support is also being given to youth work; all of these are through the Community Initiatives Fund.

D/Cllr Sue Schneider sent a report stating that the DC finances are improving. She reported on the last meeting of the North Area Committee. Following a question raised here Sir Alan Haselhurst arranged for the DC to send a deputation to meet the Minister, Ian Wright, and discuss the housing negative subsidy; he informed them that the whole matter is to be reviewed.

4. Finance:

a) Statement:

Current Account £8978; reserve £47574; total funds £56552. No statement has yet been received from Cater Allen.

b) Current activity:

Income: Bofl interest £202. Expenditure: Recreation Ground £1700 (approved at last meeting) R A Jones £36.70 (Clerk's expenses); P Knight Construction £141.00 (repair to pot holes in car-park). The payment of these accounts was approved.

c) Other financial matters:

ECC have now sent £5450 as a grant for the new bus-shelter. The Clerk has received papers relating to our assuming responsibility for the care of the footpaths. A meeting will need to be set up by the Clerk & Cllr Halls with their Parish Paths Officer. Cllr Duck will also assist.

5. Planning:

a) Approved:

UTT/0631/08/FUL - Windyridge, Radwinter End: change of use of land from agl to garden – M Draper

UTT/0675/08/FUL – Gt Brockholds Farm: Demolition grain bins & erection agl storage – A Covey (2/7)

b) Refused:

UTT/0681/08/FUL – Gt Brockholds Farm: agl barns change to business use

UTT/0683/08/FUL - Gt Brockholds Farm: agl barns change to holiday lets

UTT/0684/08/LB – Gt Brockholds Farm: as 0681

UTT/0685/08/LB – Gt Brockholds Farm: as 0683

NB 0675 was called for Committee discussion following request from D/Cllr Schneider for its rejection. 0681, 0683, 0684, 0685 were refused on officer's decision.

c) Withdrawn:

UTT/0716/08/FUL) – Sellands Farm, Hempstead Rd: conversion 2 barns to

UTT/0717/08/LB) – dwellings - K Sheridan

d) Circulated:

UTT/1018/08/FUL – Hillview, Sampford Rd: 2 storey extn & demolish gge – S Graves (closing 18/7)

e) Other:

UTT/0980/08/TCA – 4 Beech Cottages: remove 2 Ash Trees – K Shoolheifer

A complaint has been received regarding the establishment of a riding school at Jenkinhogs Farm. Although it does not have planning consent, its use has been sanctioned since the instructor, Vicky Keating, is registered with UDC Env Services. Retrospective consent will be given. The use by Vicky Keating of a holiday let cottage as residence has been queried. It was agreed that giving automatic retrospective planning consent was completely unsatisfactory due to the large scale of the business, its impingement on neighbours and the traffic generated in a narrow lane. The Clerk to write to UDC plg, cc Chair of Technical Development Committee expressing our concern, and reminding them of the breach of Plg requirements on the Cart-lodge

6. Reports

a) Traffic:

ECC Hways have been asked to undertake repairs at Plough Hill, Water Lane/Ashdon Rd, Maple Lane/Walden Rd, and for sign at Church Hill Walden Rd junction. They were also informed of blocked drains causing flash flooding on Walden Rd by Halls Farm; this is in hand. Cllr Harling reported on a road accident in Walden road and asked about the incident reports. Mr Dave Smith is still attending to this and an update is to be requested.

A letter is being circulated from NATS following our submission re changes to flight-paths.

A letter from UDC has been received regarding the possible ECO town developments at Hanley Grange Hinxton and Elsenham. It was agreed that a letter objecting to the Hinxton development should be sent to the Government objecting as adversely affecting the quality of life of our residents.

b) Community Plan:

A letter is to be sent to members of the Development Control Committee regarding the block being imposed by UDC Plg. We have heard from Bidwells that UDC Planning have sent to various parties a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment identifying sites with housing potential. We were not included, and the Clerk has written reminding Sarah Nicholas of our submission to the Community Plan. A somewhat dismissive reply was received. The Clerk was instructed to include this in is letter to the Development Control Committee.

c) Recreation Ground:

The Clerk is waiting to hear from Stephen Hargreaves since he does not have contact details. The pot-holes in the entrance drive have been repaired by Peter Knight. A letter has been received from the Bowls Club objecting to the closure of the gates to the Car Park. The Clerk to reply pointing out that it was an exceptional occurrence due to it being overlooked previously. The legal position regarding closure will be examined; Cllr Duck agreed to assist. Closure for the coming period has been provisionally set for Monday 29 December. The ROSPA inspection has been carried out.

d) Village Hall Complex:

An email has been received from VHMC regarding (a) installation of a porch light (b) central heating oil tank replacement. Clerk to reply agreeing PC to undertake the work. Their AGM minutes and annual accounts have now been received and will be circulated.

A query has been raised regarding the extent of the Hall Cottage garden and the adjoining Almshouse. The maintenance of the garden has been attended to, but some bulky scrap has been found and needs clearing; Cllr Jarvis will organize. The hedge needs cutting – Clerk to inform FDPM.

e) Village Improvement

(i) Bus Shelter: Funds from ECC have now been received and new drawings from Littlethorpe are awaited.

(ii) Churchyard: A letter has been received from the PCC requesting help with the boundary fence and paths. Clerk to write confirming willingness to help but want 2 quotes for the work. PCC to be informed of Community Initiatives Fund.

f) Village sign:

The artist has asked for more information on the likely site and height. It was agreed that the sign should be 3m high and situated on wide area of verge below Frog's Croft.

g) Traffic Signs:

Following the report from C/Cllr Walsh on availability of funds it was agreed to obtain illuminated traffic signs (a) a '30mph zone' sign at start of zone by Plough PH; a 'cross roads ahead' sign opposite the bus shelter. Cllr Jarvis agreed to help erect the 'children playing' signs at Bridgefoot and Walden Road prior to 23 July.

h) Neighbourhood Watch:

Mr C Snell of 5 East View Close has agreed to take on this responsibility; he has been put in touch with pc Peter Caulfield. The police are going to appoint an officer to look after all watch schemes.

i). Street Lighting:

Quotes have now been received from A&J Lighting solutions for an annual maintenance contract. It was agreed to accept a 1 year contract at £409.50.

j). Post Office:

On 4 July Clerk attended the PO where REMAC stripped out the alarm and computer etc, followed by POSC ascertaining if it was suitable for equipping as an outreach office. It now seems likely that it will re-open as a dependency of West Wickham PO, who already runs Castle Camps as an outreach office, but no date could be set.

We have been informed that ECC are proposing to help with retaining rural POs.

7. Correspondence:

(a) meetings:

Wens 23 July – UDC: Farming & wildlife Gp SW offices 7.30 - noted

Thurs 4 Sep – UDC: N Area Community Forum – SW offices 7.30 - noted

Wens 17 Sep, Mon 29 Sep - proposed dates for Councillors EALC teach-in at village hall 7 – 9pm Clerk to inform EALC

Mon 22 Sep, Mon 29 Sep, Fri 10 Oct – suggested dated for meeting with VHMC and Almshouse Trustees – 8pm V Hall. Agreed provided that a reply has been received from Charity Commission and that Lord Walker chairs.

It was noted that there is a conflict of activities on Monday 29 Sep, but that priority should be given to the VHMC Meeting over Councillor Training.

26 Sep – closing date for any representations regarding Stansted Airport phase 2.

(b) Other papers:

An email has been received from CMS regarding the supply of a Council web-site

A bag of non-priority items was handed to Cllr Graves.

8. Other Matters:

(a) it was agreed that the Standing Orders, Clerk's Job Descriptions, Emergency Plan and other PC documentation should be distributed to all Councillors prior to possible revision.

(b) It was noted that the Plough PH was closed; clarification of intensions of landlord to be ascertained.

9. Next Meeting:

Already arranged for Monday 8th September at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.