

Radwinter Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting 20th October 2008

Present:

Cllrs Moore (Ch); E Duck; S Graves; M Halls; J Harling (late); A Jarvis, with the Clerk R A Jones in attendance and C/Cllr S Walsh.

1.Apologies and reasons for absence:

Cllr Brown. There was no communication from D/Cllr Schneider.

2.Minutes of previous Meeting 8 September:

Having been previously circulated it was noted that no mention was made of the problem of access for disabled motorized wheelchairs, and the need for a modification to the emergency exit. Subject to this revision the minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3.Reports from County Councillor:

Cllr Walsh reported that ECC have started to assist in the funding of Post Offices threatened with closure, including those with manning problems. The Clerk commented on the lack of progress in filling the vacancy, and Cllr Walsh said that he would take up the case. He would also follow up the problems we are encountering with H'ways, and the variation in concessionary fares for over 16s on school buses. He also reported on major reviews which ECC are undertaking, and confirmed that they have no funds in Icelandic banks. He then left the meeting.

4.New agenda, Committee structure and circulation.

Following the EALC trg session the Chairman has suggested a revised structure. This involves a shorter agenda with reports from the Clerk, and Committees which would be set up to undertake specific topics with a given budget and time-frame. The circulation pack also needs activating. A letter of thanks was sent to Joy Shepherd for her help.

5.Finance:

(a) Statement at 1 Oct:

Current account £18,972; reserve account £47,926; total funds £66,898. The RFO reported that the interest rates have been reduced; current to 2.7% current and 4.0% reserve. He has also had a meeting with our Financial Advisor regarding accounts and banking, and was advised that it was satisfactory. Cllr Harling then joined the meeting and stated that she was not happy with our money being in foreign controlled banks and wanted it transferred to English. It was agreed to refer the matter to the Finance Committee.

(b)Current activity:

Income: ♦ precept £4050; Bofl interest £182; CA interest £108. Expenditure: VHMC £24.00 (replacement for C/No 534); FDPm £85.00 (energy certificate); A&J Ltg.

£287.76 (see below); A&J Ltg £409.50 (annual contract paid monthly by d/d); Viking £36.04 (stationery); R A Jones £81.04 (expenses); EALC £244.0 (training); Littlethorpe £10516.25 (bus shelter).

(c) Other financial items:

Our letter to Thomas Higgins re May & Gurney invoices has been acknowledged.

A & J Lighting have carried out a full survey of street lighting and found various deficiencies, including replacement of 10 lamps, 6 photocells, and trimming 2 trees. It was also found that 1 light was u/s and 2 others required replacement, each costing £195. It was agreed to accept these charges but Clerk to negotiate call-out.

A letter has been sent to PPC stating that we will contribute towards graveyard upkeep. It was agreed that we would contribute £12pcm for the 6 months until 31st March 2009

The VHMC have written requesting a charge to be made to the PC for use of the Muniments room of £30 per week and return of the Post Office for them to hire. Clerk replied suggesting matter is referred to new Trustees.

A letter has been received from The Audit Commission querying our Annual Accounts and raising matters which they feel require attention eg a comprehensive risk assessment and review of Financial Regulations and Standing Orders.

The Clerk has now acquired broadband and is seeking remuneration. This has been referred to the Staff & Structure Committee.

The Clerk has been in contact with ECC/3P scheme re our assuming responsibility for footpaths. An arrangement has been made for Charlotte Fellingham to attend the Nov meeting to explain matters.

The Clerk is to attend an EALC/SLCC meeting at Gt Baddow on 7 Nov - cost £7.

6.Planning:

(a) Applications

UTT/1390/08/FUL) – The Old Forge London Road: demolish front wall, replace with UTT/1391/08/LB) - wood fence and increase car parking – A Jarvis - no objections
Stansted Airport: Our representation of 12 Sep has been acknowledged

(b) Approved:

UTT/1379/08/FUL – Foxreach Stocking Green: rear conservatory – J Briggs

(c) Refused:

UTT/1346/08/TCA – 4 South View ; fell 1 chestnut

UTT/1394/08/TCA – Poplar Hall Princes Well: fell 1 Oak Tree

7.Clerk's reports:

(a)Highways:

Hways have confirmed a legal order for the introduction of revised distances for the speed restriction zones in Walden Road, Water Lane and Wimbish Green Lane. They have also confirmed that 2 Parking signs are to be erected in Walden Rd.

They are to undertake road repairs following a survey.

The Clerk has worked with Cllr Halls on checking route of 80 footpaths and determining their length, which totals 55,680m. The ECC/3P scheme is to be followed up with a visit from the organizer. H'ways have stated that no landowner is operating a Headland Management Scheme.

The meeting of the National Flood Forum has been deferred.

(b) Community Plan:

Following discussions a submission has been submitted to UDC on Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment.

(c) Village Hall Complex:

After consultation with Sir Jonathan Parker the proposed meeting with the VHMC Was cancelled. The Chairman and Clerk met Sir Jonathan to discuss the proposed scheme from the Charity Commission.

Jarvis Electrical has quoted £96.50 to fit a proximity light in the porch, which was accepted.

(d) Village Improvement;

A notice has been put on the board stating paint cans and electrical goods are not to be placed in the large skip.

(e) Lighting:

A survey of our street lighting was made by the new contractor who found several defects (see schedule).

(f) Post Office:

Still no positive results from PO Counters.

8. Committee & Councillors reports:

(a) Traffic Control:

Cllr Brown has been informed that our application is being processed. Forms sent to ECC for finance.

(b) Bus Shelter;

Cllr Halls – new shelter rec'd and in situ. A vote of thanks to Cllr Halls was given; his account is awaited. It was agreed that as thanks for the excellent design submissions for the Village Sign the old shelter should be given to the school and that Cllr Halls would undertake its installation, the cost being borne by the PC.

(c) Village Sign:

Cllr Halls – papers rec'd from Brenda Bennett and he will supply base board.

(d) Recreation Ground:

Following a meeting between Lady Walker and the Chairman regarding vandalism, the Clerk contacted both the Police and the Community Police about their taking action. The closing of the Rec gates was discussed and Cllr Duck advised that the annual closure should be continued; Clerk to advise Rec committee & Bowls Club. It

was also agreed that the gates should be closed Friday and Saturday evenings for a period, but that a notice needs to be displayed first. Cllr Duck to supply text and Cllr Halls to obtain board and fix to railings. Cllr Halls to liaise with Mr Elsley regarding the closing and opening of the gates. The siting of the recycling skips and their cleanliness was discussed but no decision taken.

(e) Web-Site:

Cllr Graves advised that continued minor problems will be resolved with appointment of new server.

9. Correspondence

(a) Meetings

Wed 5 Nov – EALC Cllr Trg Day Dunmow 9.30am £52

Fri 7 Nov – EALC/SLCC network mtg 11.30am PH Gt Baddow – clerk to attend

Tues 18 Nov – ECC Hways 'by-ways conservation day' – Chipping Ongar 10am

Tues 18 Nov – Hewitsons seminar on Development of land, by M11 group – Hilton Stansted 10am

Sat 29 Nov – closing date for replies to NHS dentistry survey – Cllr Halls

Wed 10 Dec – UDC Ch Civic carol service – Hatfield heath 7.30pm – Clerk to attend

Tues 6 Jan – UDC North Area Forum 7.30pm

(b).Other papers:

Details have been received of the Regulatory Reform Fire Safety Order (RRFSO) 2005 and the need to appoint a person responsible for implementing and complying with the Order in regard to fire safety of the village hall. Pass to VHMC as responsible for internal safety.

Lady Walker has emailed regarding planting bulbs beside the bus shelter Cllr Harling to meet her and discuss suitable solution.

A notice has been received that The Plough PH is to re-open on 4th November.

Essex Community Fdn have sent details of £2M grant scheme.

10.Other matters, and items for next meeting:

All Cllrs are requested to provide details of projects and costs for coming year.

It was noted that the trap doors on the stage are fragile. Cllr Halls offered to repair if agreed by VHMC

It has been requested that allotments should be an item for the next meeting.

11.Date of next meeting:

already arranged for 24th November at 7.30pm. It is intended that future meetings without a speaker will start at 7.45pm.