

Radwinter Parish Council – Minutes of Meeting 26th January 2009

Present:

Cllrs: K Moore Ch); H Brown; E Duck; S Graves; M Halls; J Harling; A Jarvis, Clerk: R A Jones

In attendance: C/Cllr S Walsh; Mr S Hargreaves; Lady Suzanne Walker.

Public Session:

Lady Walker expressed her thanks to Cllr Halls for his work in erecting and fitting out the bus shelter

Stephen Hargreaves gave a financial report from the Rec Committee. The ground condition was good following the work by Cllr Halls. Receipts from the Boot Fairs were down but the fete was a success (thanks to the extra help), and the activities of the Boxing Day Walk and Duck race also helped finances. Total income is slightly below budget.

Questions were raised regarding vehicle access to the Bowls Club, lighting in the Car Park, and installing a Skate Park, its cost and the effect on the neighbourhood.

1.Apologies and reasons for absence:

None

2.Minutes of the previous meeting of 24th November:

Having been previously circulated their adoption was proposed by Cllr Halls, seconded Cllr Graves and signed by the Chairman

3.Reports from County & District Councillors:

Cllr Walsh reported on the Council budget and the financial situation. The Council is considering forming its own Bank to aid cash flow. It is reviewing the speed management policy with a reduction in limit near schools. The review of services is nearly complete, and will be increasing investment to £90M in Social Welfare especially child protection. Increased payments are being made in concessionary fares. Questions were asked about road maintenance which is poor in Radwinter.

4.Clerk's & Committee reports:

a.Traffic:

The Clerk reported that he had been in contact with ECC Hways regarding:

Temporary Road Closure: Walden Road 1 March

Temporary Road Closure: Ashdon Rd Mon 2 – Fri 5 March.

Water Lane: pot holes repaired but will need road closure to attend to fords – next fin/yr.

Golden Lane: pot holes repaired but damage to verge – wait until dry weather.

Godfey's Farm: pending.

Church Hill: order to landowner to trim hedge.

Blocked ditch in Ashdon Rd.

Cross Rd markings: Being inspected.

Distance of signs at Walden Rd pinch point – this has now been amended.

Traffic control flashing sign – decision next month.

In addition the hedge at Bridgefoot needs attention. The possibility of a litter pick was mooted.

b. Bus shelter:

Cllr Halls has obtained and fixed 2 fibre-board notice boards. ♦ His bill is awaited.

c. Village Sign:

Cllr Halls has made the wood board and will take it to the artist. ♦ It was arranged for a decision on siting to be made at a meeting on Saturday 31st with Cllrs Halls, Graves, Duck and Jarvis.

d. Recreation Ground:

The Clerk has spoken to Stephen Hargreaves regarding VAT. It was agreed that the funds for the Rec would be £3500 as budgeted; of this £1500 has been spent on work by Cllr Halls leaving a balance of £2000.

Closure of Gates was scheduled 29 Dec. but not done until 3 January. It was agreed that it should be 29 December this year. A closure notice has been erected, Cllr Halls to discuss night closing with Mr Elsley if need arises.

ECC have informed us of grants for car-park improvements.

e. Village Hall Complex:

A reply is awaited to letters sent by Clerk & Sir Jonathan Parker to Ch Commn. The trap door in the stage has been repaired by Cllr Halls.

♦ Hall Cottage: Mr Elsley has requested a cowl, and permission for them to redecorate rear bedroom. Clerk to discuss with FDPM ; provisional budget for cowl £600.

Walden Road Cottage: Cllr Halls repaired a burst outside tap at short notice.

f. Village Amenities:

A new contract has been signed for the street electricity supply.

A new light has been fitted outside Frog's Croft

Information is awaited regarding Neighbourhood Watch.

Cllr Harling is to discuss requirements with Mr Colin Snell.

We have been asked by Hempstead PC regarding our participation in Neighbourhood Action Panel. ♦ Clerk to clarify action.

The Clerk has written to UDC housing regarding parking outside 4 South View and requesting reinstatement of off-street hard standing. A reply is awaited.

Following the meeting in the Post Office with Steve Rolfe of the PO and Clare Butfield who will run it as an outreach office, we were informed it should be operational by 1st April.

A query has been raised regarding the provision of allotments in Radwinter. ♦ Cllr Duck is to ascertain the likely interest, and if positive an approach will be made to Sir Jonathan Parker.

It was agreed that the dates for provision of bulk skips by UDC Environmental Services would be Saturday 16 May, Sunday 12 July and Saturday 5 September.

g. Community Plan:

We have been informed that the RHT are discontinuing operations.

5.Councillors reports:

a.Govt.

legislation now requires every Council to operate a publication scheme under the Freedom of Information Act wef 1 Jan 2009. The Govt. CLG has issued a Code of Conduct for publicity schemes. It was agreed that Cllr Harling should be Press Officer with a publication committee comprising Cllrs Graves and Brown in addition.

b.Cllr Halls

reported on the progress on the footpath P3 scheme The guidance notes are being circulated to all members of the team, comprising Cllrs halls, Jarvis, Duck, Harling and Mrs Graves and Mrs Bright

Charlotte Fellingham has sent details of courses, attendance on one being essential.

6.Finance:

a.Statement:

as at 1Jan current account £8885.40; reserve account £48372.61; total £57258.01. The RFO is investigating the transfer of the current account from Cater Allen to the Co-operative Bank. The reserve fund banking is being reviewed.

b.Minutes of Finance Committee meeting of 16 December 2008 and precept:

The minutes of the Finance Committee were adopted, including the Precept remaining at £8100, the budget for 2009/2010, payment to the Chairman of £18pcm for communication, and the Clerk's supplementary fee continuing until a review by the Staff Committee in conjunction with changed responsibilities following a new scheme.

c.Current activity:

Receipts -interest £48.71 current a/c, £103.15 reserve.

Payments:

Retrospective consent for UDC £324.30 (skips); RVHMC £24.00 (Hall hire); Viking £87.60 (office sundries); R Jones £54.00 (broadband 3 months); Jarvis Electrical £110.97 (Hall light); M Halls £1772.09 (Rec drainage); M Halls £653.30 (Bus shelter); The Sign & Graphic Co £74.75 (Car Park sign) A&J Ltg £74.75 (st light repairs).

Payment of the following accounts is requested: Mother & Toddler Group £72.00 (Hall hire); Radwinter Society £5.00 (membership); A&J Lighting £224.25 (st light repair); Audit Commission £350.75? (audit fee); PC Flying Doctors £89.00; R Jones £52.24 (clerk's expenses); K Rudder £53.90 for plants for tubs.

d.Other financial items:

It has now been arranged to pay PO phone by direct debit. A standing order has been set up for part-payment of Clerk's broadband; another is to be set up for the Chairman's communication fee.

Allianz Insurance has been contacted regarding an increase in Fidelity Guarantee cover.

A request has been received for the supply of road salt as previously; Clerk instructed to purchase 3 bags and leave outside Post Office.

7.Planning:

a.Approvals:

UTT/1838/08/FUL) – Gt Brockholds farm Wimbish Green Lane: change of use of barn

UTT/1841/08/LB) – to office use

b.Applications

UTT/1781/08/TCA – Harbury Ho Princes Well: reduce ht of 20 trees

UTT/1958/08/FUL – Springfield: creation of new vehicular access and erection of gate – H Brown

c.Under investigation:

ENF/167/08/B – Jenkinhogs farm: holiday let being used for yard manager accommodation

UDC plg have informed us that they have visited the Riding School and the holiday cottage is at present empty. The situation there is fluid due to the recent death of Mr Williams They are not pursuing matters and ask us to keep an eye on it. Licence held by Victoria Keating. Cllrs report property is being let by Cheffyns

ENF/196/08/B – Stackyards Maple Lane: garage/annexe being used independent of main blg

ENF/263/08/B – Springfield: access not as approved

ENF/285/08/B – Plough Inn Sampford Rd: unauthorized internal works

ENF/148/08/B – Brook Farm Eq centre: unauthorized mobile home

ENF/31/09/B – 1 Princes Well Yew Tree Cottage - summer house not PD

8.Correspondence

a.Meetings

Thurs 29 Jan – EALC – Councilor Trg Day – Gt Dunmow 9.30 – 1pm

Wens 25 Feb – RCCE Community led plans – Marks Tey 9.30am

b.Other papers

Cllr Brown reported receipt of details of new requirements for a grievance procedure from EALC. It was agreed to adopt the procedure and Clerk to circulate details. Committee (A) would be same as Staff Committee ie Cllrs Brown, Halls and Moore, with back-up (B) committee of remaining members.

UALC letter 30 Oct requesting Councillor to join team to study strategic land availability.

David Mann email 22 Jan & Mike Henson email 10 Dec re web-site - Cllr Graves to discuss with Clerk

ECC Letter 5 Jan & document – Speed management Consultation – passed to Cllr Duck

9.Other items inc for next agenda:

None

10.Date of Next meeting:

Already arranged for Monday 9 March at 7.45pm.

The meeting closed at 11.05pm