

**Radwinter Parish Council – Minutes of the Meeting 19th
October 2009
Held in the Village Hall at 7.45pm**

Present:

Cllrs Moore (Ch); V Boyden; E Duck; S Graves; M Halls; A Jarvis; K Shoolheifer, with the Clerk, R A Jones in attendance and Dave & Cindy Smith

Public Session:

Dave Smith raised the problem of the likely closure of 'The Plough' PH and its change to a private house, and asked what the PC could do to safeguard its future. After discussion it was agreed that the Council would write to the Development Control Committee strongly opposing any change of use by the current owners, and to assist any endeavour to retain its use as a public focus for the village. It would be represented on the committee which Mr Smith agreed to form, and he would be seeking the participation of others concerned with the interests of the village. The Clerk to write to the CPRE soliciting their support. Mr Smith agreed to consider acting as a fundraiser for village activities by contacting Grant-making bodies. The Clerk is to liaise and provide information.

1. Apologies and reason for absence:

C/Cllr S Walsh – other commitments.

2A. Minutes of previous meeting of 14 September:

having been previously circulated their adoption was proposed by Cllr Halls, seconded Cllr Jarvis and signed by the Chairman.

2B Matters arising:

The Clerk/RFO has prepared a new set of Financial Regulations for approval by the Finance Committee. A set was distributed to other Councillors to inspect prior to approval by the Council at its next meeting after review by the Finance Committee. The Clerk also circulated a new UDC meetings schedule for inclusion by Councillors in their Documentation pack

3. Reports from County & District Councillors:

Cllr Walsh sent a written report. He stated that the 'Lights Out' scheme is being vetted and our concerns have been passed on. He has met the new Chief Constable and mentioned concerns for the elderly regarding speed enforcement particularly by motorcyclists. Farm Watch has issued warnings regarding hare-coursing and the theft of machinery and equipment from outbuildings.

4. Finance:

(A) Statement:

Funds as at 30 September: £58769.95

(B) External Auditors Report:

Received by the Council, for review by the Finance Committee

(C) Current income:

Interest £8.99; Second half of precept is due

Current expenditure:

Sign & Graphics Co £51.75 (Rec sign); CPRE £29.00 (M'ship); Audit Commission £327.75 (audit fee); PCC £37.50 (gardener); R A Jones £29.74 (Clerk's expenses);

(D) Other financial matters:

ii) The contract for street light maintenance has expired; renewal cost proposed by A&J Ltg is £480pa for 3 yr, £439.80 for 5 yr contract (present cost is £410 pa). It was agreed to renew for 5 years.

ii) The Radwinter Society has received a grant of £1124 from Stansted Airport Community Trust to enable them to purchase an A3 scanner. They still need to purchase a lap-top computer to drive it – est £500. The Clerk was instructed to inform Mr Southgate that we are prepared to help if 3 quotes are obtained.

iii) The residents of Hall Cottage have given notice wef 7 November. The Clerk has instructed FDPM to advertise lease at an increased rent. (NB new tenants wef 14 November)

NB The Finance Mtg scheduled for 24 October has been deferred until 2 November.

5. Review of Action Schedule:

(A) Highways:

i) The TAWS sign are being erected; there is a delay due to need to paint Walden Rd signpost black as in a conservation area. Concern was expressed regarding the location of this sign, and the matter is to be raised with Hways.

ii) Bidwells have agreed to arrange clearance of Hall Farm pond.

iii) Hways will be sending illustrations of the proposed finger post replacements at the crossroads

iv) The traffic survey in Water Lane has been carried out. Hways are examining the results and will probably propose either a speed limit throughout or closure to through traffic.

v) Jossaume's clearing of the ditch in Water Lane is to start shortly following the discussions by Cllr Graves with local residents and the agreement for the disposal of the excavated soil.

vi) Robin Wallbank of Hways has sent a planned maintenance programme of work to be carried out on footpaths in the parish, which will be started shortly. Cllr Halls is to liaise.

vii) Clerk has received information regarding hedge cutting at Brook Farm, and is to consult Hways.

viii) Mention was made of the flooding at Grange Corner in Wimbish Green Lane , and the need for Hways to rod out the pipe.

ix) The chairman has discussed visibility at the crossroads with Chris Stoneham and a site visit is being arranged.

x) The 'Beware Walkers' sign by Purkis Cottage in Mill End causes a blind spot for farm vehicles joining the road. Hways to be informed.

xi) A letter has been received from Mrs Lorna Platt expressing concern about speeding and parking. It has been acknowledged and a copy sent to Hways

(B) Village sign:

Mrs Bennett is proceeding with design and painting. Cllr Halls is obtaining post.

(C) Village improvement:

The graffiti removal kit has been collected from UDC.

No news has been received from Sir Jonathan Parker re allotments. Clerk to contact Bidwells.

No further news on sandbag usage for flooding.

6. Other matters for review:

Community Plan & Housing:

new regulations have been introduced wef 7 September regarding protection for residents.

Village Hall:

Sir Jonathan Parker has informed us that he is having a meeting with members of the VHMC w/c 26 October. A communication has been received from Chris Knight of Hewitsons expressing his continued interest. Mr David Hollest of Hewitsons has retired with the closure of Saffron Walden office.

Rec:

A quotation has now been received for projects for consideration. These are: widening of car-park £9789; extra for edging £1134; footpath around field £37,800; improved entrance £14,000; to be discussed by Finance Committee.

Lady Walker is to be asked to provide an update on their funding requirements for next year for assessment by Finance Committee on 2 November.

7. Planning

Enforcements

ENF/196/08/B Under Investigation - White Gables (now known as Stackyards) Maple Lane :

Garage/annex to front of property being used as accommodation. Notice of 18/5/09 – an appeal is being made

New Case - Waiting investigation - Yew Tree Cottage: unauthorised sign advertising Cricketers PH. Clerk to inform Plg that wrong property.

New Case ENF245/09/B - 4 Beech Cottages: erection of play platform in rear garden. Council expressed support for retention.

(E) Circulated:

UTT/0950/09/FUL) – Thatch Cottage, Radwinter End: 1 storey extn – J Moses – no obj

UTT/0951/09/LB) – Closing 27 Aug

UTT/1171/09/FUL – Plough Cottage, Sampford Rd : 1 storey extn,etc. – N Mellerick , agent J Denn. Closing 16 Oct: Objection re parking

8. Correspondence

(A) Meetings

Weds 11 Nov – VCU: working with volunteers – Radwinter VH 6.30pm

Tues 27 Oct – Home Safety Service demonstration – Foakes Hall Gt Dunmow 10am

Tues 3 Nov – East of England RA – consultation re extra housing in Uttlesford – Clerk to attend

Fri 20 Nov – EALC/SLCC – Clerk's joint mtg – Dunmow 10am £7 – Clerk to attend

w/e 28/29 Nov – St Mary's Ch Christmas Tree Festival. Cllrs Halls & Jarvis to provide tree.

Other Matters:

A) Village Pump: Kay Pilsbury has written requesting support for a project to restore at her own cost the village pump outside the Post Office. Council to support.

B) Telephone kiosk: BT has written requesting consideration of purchase of the kiosk outside the church for retention as an ornamental fixture, at a cost of £1. It would be decommissioned. Council want phone retained for another year and then re-assessed.

C) West Area Forum has advised us that £50,000 is available for projects not otherwise funded. ECC have advised that funds available for any Hways project. Clerk to process.

D) UDC has advised us that the Gambling Act 2005 is being reviewed and request comments.

E) A complaint has been received regarding parking outside 'The Old Bakehouse' Church Hill causing an obstruction. Clerk to process.

F) It was agreed to form a sub-committee to revise the Emergency Plan, which would comprise Cllrs Graves, Halls, Jarvis and the Clerk.

G) It was noted that Mrs Agnes Gibbs will be 100 shortly; consideration to be given about recognition.

H) It was agreed that Cllrs Boyden and Duck would be jointly responsible for matters affecting the elderly.

9. Next Meeting:

Already arranged for Monday 30th November in the Village Hall at 7.45pm

The Meeting closed at 10pm.