

**Radwinter Annual Parish Meeting  
7.30pm Monday 18th April 2011  
in the village hall.**

**Present:**

Cllrs S Graves (Chairman); V Boyden; E Duck; M Halls; A Jarvis; K Moore; K Shoolheifer, and C/Cllr S Walsh, Sir Jonathan Parker, Mrs C Smith, M Southgate, J Briggs, with the Clerk R A Jones in attendance.

**Prior to most reports, copies were circulated by the Clerk. Copies are available at the Post Office**

**1. Apologies for absence:**

None

**2. Report on the establishment of the Village hall charity:**

The Chairman read a summary of the scheme prepared by the Clerk. It was set upon 2 March and there are 7 Trustees: these initially are The Rector (acting Chairman); The Chairman of the Parish Council; Wendy Rowley (appointed by the PCC); Katharine Shoolheifer (appointed by the PC); Sue Schneider (acting Secretary); June Tupper (acting Treasurer); Shirley Orrock. The last 3 are acting trustees until the first AGM which will be on 17 May, when they or any other resident may stand as a trustee. The object of the charity is the provision and maintenance of a village hall and other charitable purposes, so there is wide scope in the use of the funds. A copy of the summary will be available in the Post Office, or the full scheme by application to the acting secretary.

**3. Chairman's report:**

Stephen Graves reported on the past year's activities although he has only been Chair since October. The main activity this year was the erection of the village sign and its unveiling by Melvyn Catton, since it marked both the school participation and his retirement. He was also presented with an oil painting of the school by Ian Simpson RA. The Council has also been involved in the fight against the closure of the 'Plough' both by contesting the change of use and funding the setting up of 'Plough 2'.

**4. Financial report by Clerk/RFO:**

Ray Jones reported that this year we had suffered a loss from a cut in ECC grant and less VAT recovered. This was matched by a very significant rise in expenditure. Following Linda Cass's vacation of Walden Road Cottage after 30 years occupation a full refurbishment was required at a cost of £13,881, which combined with an increase in the maintenance cost resulted in a loss against income of £3729, giving an overall adverse variance for the year of £15068.

**5. County Councillor's report:**

Simon Walsh presented a report detailing the work undertaken in the past year under the new leader Peter Martin. Much has had to be done to meet £300M cost savings, including re-organizing Highways dept with a loss of 100 posts. Many other economies have had to be made but none will directly affect Radwinter.

## **6. District Councillor's report:**

Sue Schneider reported on the activities during her tenure of office since she will not be standing again. Her work has been throughout the district but there were no items specific to Radwinter.

## **7. Recreation Ground report:**

Andrew Jarvis reported that the ground continues to be used by a youth football club, cricket team and rounder's and the bowls club, as well as individuals at the play area, the swings being renewed. Fundraising is by the Easter duck race, car-boot sale on August bank holiday Sunday and the fete the following day, and other sources are being explored. There is a new committee for the pavilion project and a proposal is to be submitted shortly. The AGM is on Monday 16 May in the pavilion and all are welcome.

## **8. Highways report:**

Eileen Duck reported that much work had been done but much still remains. The unsightly finger post at the cross-roads has been replaced but other signs are still awaited in Water Lane and Stocking Green. The poor visibility at the cross-roads is an ongoing problem. We now have 6 salt bins for winter gritting which have recently been refilled. The flooding in Water Lane has been attended to by dredging the ditches. Pot-holes have received some attention but more need filling.

There is still a need for allotments, and Sir Jonathan said it may be possible to find a site.

## **9. Environment report:**

Stephen Graves reported that we examining the land at Stocking Green following a request for the keeping of bee-hives by Uri Gerhard. Possible improvement is being considered in association with Essex Biodiversity but no decision has been made. Thanks were given to Vic Rae for his cutting of the pond area at the cross-roads for many years.

The Clerk circulated copies of the report which is available from the PO

## **10. Footpaths report:**

Mark Halls reported that most of the paths are walked regularly and are in good condition. The P3 scheme for ECC funding of maintenance by the PC has been scrapped. The Highways Dept still help with any problems.

## **11. Village development:**

Mark Halls stated that most of the topics had already been covered except any housing which is awaiting clarification of UDC intentions.

## **12. Publicity:**

Katharine Shoolheifer reported that the website is running well thanks to David Mann, but needs greater input from village clubs and societies to ensure that it is relevant, so a plea was made for more contributions. We regularly report in Ambo on the Council activities.

## **13. Public Transport:**

Katharine Shoolheifer reported on changes to the concessionary bus pass scheme; details were placed in the bus-shelter which is a useful source of publicity, thanks to Suzanne Walker and for her care of the notice-board. As part of our submission to the local transport plan we asked for a bus service directly to Audley End Station.

There being no questions the meeting was closed at 9.15.