

Radwinter Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting 3 September 2012
Held in the Village Hall at 7.45pm.

Present:

Cllrs K Thompson (Ch); V Boyden; E Duck; S Graves; M Halls; K Moore; K Shoolheifer, with the Clerk, R A Jones, in attendance and C/Cllr S Walsh, D/Cllr S Howell, Mr R Anderson, Mr J Briggs, Mrs J Simpson, Mr J Whitehead.

Public Session:

Mr Rob Anderson raised the matter of the speed of traffic in Water Lane which he felt was making the road increasingly dangerous, especially for pedestrians since there is no foot-way. C/Cllr Simon Walsh said that ECC are reviewing speed limits throughout the county. It was generally felt that this was irrelevant since it would not be monitored; what was required was a speed reduction system. He said he would refer the matter.

1.Apologies for absence:

None

2.Minutes of the previous meeting 2 July:

Having been circulated they were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3.Matters arising:

None

4.Reports from County & District Councillors:

C/Cllr Walsh reported on the new h'ways admin procedure through Local Highway Panels; this would give each area a greater say in what was required. Our contact at West Area office was still Mrs Rissa Long. He also said that new contractors had been engaged and £11M allocated for winter repairs. He would like details of the lack of response to the Clerk's enquiries. The Council are reviewing their ancillary operations and are passing management of the parks eg Cressing to private administration although trg courses would still be held. There are changes planned for bus passes, details to follow.

D/Cllr Howells apologized for his recent non-attendance but said that he was aware of local activity. There has been an improvement in recycling provision which could now take glass and that in consequence the Council bottle-banks would be removed. There is likely to be a change in collection dates following a rescheduling. He said that he had £666.67 available for any worthy cause undertaken by a public body in Radwinter by 31 March 2013.

He was reminded of the concern of residents here and in Wimbish regarding the future of the Mushroom Farm, particularly its possible change to a traveller's site. He said he was already aware of the problem.

5.Appointment of new Clerk/RFO:

The Chairman reported that following an interview panel with members of the Staff Committee Ms Becky Bowles has been appointed as 'Clerk Designate' on a 6 month trial basis following receipt of suitable references. Prior to her taking up the position she will work under the present clerk at agreed times for familiarization. Cllr Duck of the Staff Committee then requested that the date of her appointment should be from this meeting, and this was agreed. It was also agreed that she should attend the EALC 'roles & responsibilities course' on 18 September and the EALC 'new clerk's day' on 24 October.

6.Finance:

(A) Statement:

Funds at 3 September were £4808.72 current account, £35,000 (plus accrued interest) in 2 bonds in reserve. Payment of ½ precept of £5550 is due shortly.

(B) Current position and signing of cheques:

Receipts:

Payments due: R A Jones £87.10 (232 - Clerk's exp); retrospective consent was sought for payment of D Tonks £1864.85 (228 - Clerk's pay and back pay, following an error in s/order payments); RVHC £27.00 (229 - Hall usage); J Briggs £122.38 (230 - Radwinter Times; amended invoice following cancellation of 227); Viking £43.14 (231 - office supplies) The payment of all these accounts was approved and the cheque signed.

(C) Report of the Finance Committee Mtg 24 August:

The major items raised at the meeting were the existing Clerk's gratuity, which is to be discussed later; the remuneration of the new clerk was agreed as being SCP18 on the NJC scale for a LC1 council, with regular annual reviews.

It was noted that the Radwinter Recorder has vacated the Muniments Room, leaving it solely as a parish office. It was noted that possibly the VHC will not require payment for this village facility.

(D) Other financial matters:

We are still awaiting details of a promised grant from the UDC Jubilee Fund towards the cost of repairs to the car-park.

An invoice for £135 has been sent to Hempstead Parish Council for payment of 1/3 share of the cost of fortnightly green waste collection by UDC. The cost for the coming year could be from £818 to £892.50. It was agreed to continue the use of the service on a fortnightly basis.

The PCC has requested help with purchase of a strimmer. They have also warned that they will be seeking help with a major refurbishment of the village clock and its tower. They are to be asked to supply quotations for both but without commitment.

7.Matters for review:

(A) Highways:

The Clerk has still not received any replies to his attempts to contact W. area office. There has now been a restructuring of the contact procedure. It was reported that the 30mph speed limit sign in Water Lane is defective.

(B) Community Plan:

A meeting was held on 31 August at the UDC offices by Nigel Brown, with Clair Jenkin of H'ways, 3 representatives from Bidwells, Sir Jonathan Parker, Cllr Graves and the Clerk. (Although Cllrs Duck and Moore had asked to attend Mr Brown had not invited them). The major topic of discussion was access from the proposed development to Walden Road. After prolonged discussion Clair Jenkin agreed to review her objection in light of further information and a revised schema. She raised no objection to the access from the possible improved Recreation Ground to Walden Road.

(C) Recreation Ground:

No further action has been taken pending clarification of the community plan proposals.

8. Planning Applications

(A) Approved:

UTT/0942/12/FUL - 2 Church View Close: new access drive - Sir J Parker
UTT/1085/12/FUL - 4 Beech Cottages: 1 & 2 Storey rear extn - J Shoolheifer
UTT/0725/12/FUL - Radwinter House, Wimbish Green Lane: 1st floor rear extn - F Foxall
UTT/0726/12/FUL - Radwinter House, Wimbish Green Lane: new gge with gym over - F Foxall
UTT/0750/12/LB - Purkis, Mill End: new plumbing & amended layout - P Thomas
UTT/0875/12/LB - Radwinter village hall complex, 1&2 Hall Cottages: secondary glazing - RVHC
UTT/1345/12/REN) - Cowlass Hall Farm - renewal of Appn for conversion of barn to short term
UTT/1346/12/LB) - holiday lets - C Cowell
UTT/1365/12/FUL - Apple Tree Cottage, 7 Maple Lane: erection side & rear extns & porch - J Gribbib

(B) Withdrawn:

UTT/1290/12/FUL) - Newhouse Farm, Walden Road - extn & conversion of
UTT/1291/12E/LB) - 2 residences into 1 - N Redcliff

(C) Enforcements:

ENF/200/12A - Jenkinhogs Farm: retiling roof, rewiring & insertion of underfloor heating.

(D) Circulated:

UTT/1176/12/FUL - Hill Farm Sampford Rd- installation 2 micro wind turbines - S Graves
UTT/1286/12/FUL) - Great Brockholds Farm, Wimbish Green Road: conversion of barn to
UTT/1287/12/LB) - residential use - A Covey

UTT/12/5007/FUL - Homestead Cottage Water Lane: replacement of garage with small cottage - M Hollidge.

It was noted that there has been a change in the listing details following a re-programming.

9. Correspondence:

(A) Meetings

Tues 7 Sep: closing date for entry in EALC immunity Jubilee, newsletter, & website

Thurs 13 Sep: EALC Chairman's Trg day Modules 1&2 - Gt Dunmow 10am -3.30 (£65)

Tues 18 Sep: EALC Roles & Responsibilities Course- Gt Dunmow 9.30 - 12.30 (£43) - B Bowles to attend

Tues 25 Sep: UDC Parish Forum - 7pm UDC offices S Walden

Thurs 27 Sep: EALC Annual Conference - 1.30pm Foakes Hall, Gt Dunmow

Tues 9 Oct: EALC Budget & Precept Course - Gt Dunmow 9.30 - 12.30 (£43)

Thurs 18 Oct: EALC Chairman's Trg Day Modules 3&4 - Gt Dunmow 10.00 - 3.30 (£65)

Weds 24 Oct: EALC New Clerk's Day - Gt Dunmow 10.00 - 3.30 (£65) - B Bowles to attend.

Mon 19 Nov: UDC PAS trg session: gypsies & travellers 1.30pm UDC S Walden

(B) Other:

30/8 - 25/10 ECC First review draft of Statement of Community Involvement regarding Planning (local development) - available www.essex.gov.uk/SCI

Tues 16 Oct - Start date for Clerk's CiLCA course; 7 sessions 9.30 - 1.30pm (£385 + £150 registration) - deferred for 12 months

The new Buffy Bus timetable indicates that it will no longer be calling in Radwinter
EALC County Update 108 contains details of updates of NALC Legal Topic Notes (13 in total)

10. Other Matters:

UDC Lisa Lipscombe is requesting an update of our Emergency Plan; training is possibly suggested; The Clerk has a pack of information to pass to a sub-committee to process the matter.

James Briggs said that he is busy still working on the welcome pack, especially the footpath map. He confirmed that he still has the Parish Council maps.

He enquired about the result of the housing needs survey which had been carried out in conjunction with the RCCE in May. He was told that it had been intended to publish this in conjunction with the launch of the community plan, but in view of the delay in this we will ask Moira Groborz to address us separately.

Cllr Shoolheifer enquired about the public telephone box, particularly in view of its parlous condition and it no longer functioning. The Clerk said that the arrangement with BT was that they would keep it operational for emergency calls due to the poor mobile reception in the village; obviously this was not happening. It is understood that it can be purchased from BT for £1, and the Clerk was instructed to do so. A reminder was given of its possible use as a site for storing a defibrillator.

11. Closed Session:

At the start of the session the Clerk read from a prepared statement briefly commenting on his work for the Council. He then left the meeting.

The Chairman stated that after discussion with EALC the gratuity due to the Clerk could not be paid due to a change in the law. The Clerk, supported by SLCC, had contested this stating the law was not retrospective.

At this stage a discussion ensued at which the Chairman said that as he obviously did not have full support of the Council he would resign, and left the meeting.

Cllr Halls, Vice-Chairman, then took the chair.

It was reported that the Council has received advice that it would be possible to resolve the issue under section 111 of the Local Government Act and have a compromise settlement. After prolonged discussion it was agreed to pursue this course and make an offer to the Clerk of a compromise figure, and was referred back to the Staff Committee to arrange this.

12. Next Meeting:

Already arranged for Monday, 22nd October at 7.45pm with the new Parish Clerk, Ms Becky Bowles.