

RADWINTER PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on 9th
September 2013
commencing at 7:45pm
in Radwinter Village Hall

Those Present:

Parish Councillors Mark Halls (Chairman), Stephen Graves (Vice-Chairman), Rob Rains, Vicky Boyden, Eileen Duck, Jill Mary, Kevin Moore. Parish Clerk Marisa Baltrock, District Councillor Simon Howe and two members of the public.

Public Session:

Before commencement of the formal Meeting two members of the public spoke.

P1

Sue Bright asked whether the Parish Council would consider discussing the Village Hall Committee's intention to extend the entrance to the car park, and the Chairman agreed that this would be added to a future Agenda.

P2

James Briggs asked whether his proposal to hold a "Big Lunch" event could be discussed by the Parish Council and the Chairman agreed that this would be added to a future Agenda. Mr Briggs also advised the Meeting that he had secured funding from the District Council to produce a "Radwinter Information Pack" for residents and that this is ready to be published as soon as the money is received.

54/1 Apologies for Absence:

County Councillor Simon Walsh

54/2 Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Mary declared an interest in Agenda Item 6 as a resident of East View Close.

54/3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Parish Council Meetings:

20th May 2013, 8th July 2013 and 5th August 2013 Minutes were agreed and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

54/4 Matters arising and Reports from District and County Councillors:

County Councillor Simon Walsh sent a report by email: Please accept my apologies for Monday, I have other commitments (the Highways Panel). Nothing of great significance to report as August tends to be a quiet month. However, a few points to note: ECC has signed up with BT to develop high-speed broad band provision across the County, and will be an early recipient of Government Funding if demand

is demonstrated. Cllr Bass (Cabinet Member, Highways) is developing a new hierarchy for categorising roads and the speed that defects are attended to. This should ensure that urgent cases on heavily used roads are attended to promptly, the downside is that lesser roads may take longer. If you have spotted gritter lorries around, they are testing new routes ahead of the winter period, to check the timings and that the routes actually work. There is looming a public transport review, and I would urge your parish to take a close look when it goes live as it may be an opportunity to get better services, and certainly to campaign to keep the ones you have. I will try and drop in if time allows, after the Highways Panel.

District Councillor Simon Howe reported the following: (i) The grant for the Radwinter Information Pack is on its way; (ii) Regarding the school's concerns about increased need for places if new houses are built, he has spoken to Cllrs Walsh and Gooding at Essex County Council who are very aware of these concerns; (iii) Regarding Housing Benefit claim performance targets, figures were shown which show that whilst most targets were met in the last quarter there is a need for improvement; (iv) There has been a sharp rise in homelessness in the District and the Council are planning to invest in new housing over the next 20 to 30 years; (v) He is making enquiries as to whether s106 money from the proposed new housing development would go directly to Radwinter Primary School.

54/5 Appointment of Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer:

The Council RESOLVED to appoint Marisa Baltrock from 2nd September 2013 and agreed payment for 15 hours work as Temporary Clerk during August. A Contract of Employment prepared by the Personnel Committee was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

54/6 Proposed development of land to rear of East View Close:

After communications and meeting between Members and Bidwells, a revised offer was considered. Previous offers had been rejected due to the high number of houses and fewer benefits proposed. Main points of the revised offer are: land to be conveyed to the Parish Council, land to be conveyed to the school, a maximum of 35 houses to be built, £200,000 to be paid to the Parish Council to develop community facilities, the desired allocation of affordable housing to be agreed between the two parties before negotiations with the District Council commence. It was noted that the District Council will approve a development and that the Parish Council's task is therefore to secure the best deal possible for the local community. The Council therefore RESOLVED to accept Bidwell's offer of 6th September.

54/7 Finance:

The Council approved the following payments:

EALC - Annual membership fee - £166.81, Suffolk Acre Services Ltd - Annual Council Insurance - £682.01, Wendy Graves - Postage stamps - £6.00, A&J Lighting - Callout and repair at Eastview Close - £105.30, Radwinter Village Hall Charity - Hire January to July 2013 - £45.00, CW Low & Son - Verge trimming - £483.00, Radwinter Parochial Church Council - Gardening in churchyard - £112.50, Eileen

Duck - Refund advertising fees - £66.00, EALC - Councillor training for Cllr Mary - £67.00.

54/8 Recent Planning Applications:

None pending

54/9 Highways:

Potholes near the Plough and near New House Farm, and a tree obscuring street lighting at East View close were reported, the Clerk will report to Essex Highways. A resident had contacted the Clerk regarding overgrown hedges obscuring the footpath along Walden Road, which has been reported to Highways. Clerk to investigate the role of the new Uttlesford Rangers and whether this would be a more suitable contact.

54/10 Recreation Ground:

No reports but the car park entrance extension will be discussed at next Meeting.

54/11 Correspondence:

Clerk to recirculate information about the UDC/RCCE affordable housing event to Councillors.

There being no further business the Meeting was closed at 9:20pm.