

**Radwinter Parish Council
Herkstead Green Bungalow Cornish Hall End
Braintree Essex CM7 4HH
Tele 01440 731964 07766112536
radwinterparishcouncil@gmail.com**

Minutes of the Radwinter Parish Council meeting and APM held on Monday 27th April 2015,

Present Cllr Halls
Cllr Graves
Cllr Rains
Cllr Duck
Cllr Boyden
Cllr Mary

1 member of the public
Cathryn Carlisle (Clerk)

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will start at 7.30 pm

Chairmans Report Cllr Mark Halls

Hello and Welcome to the annual general meeting, my role and that of all Councillors continues in keeping us busy within the village. I would like to thank all councillors for their time and their dedication to the village which is admirable. In this last year we have welcomed Cathryn as Parish Clerk. My thanks to her for her work, we are very lucky to have her and the knowledge and skill she brings to the role.

The Proposed housing development has been one of the key issues this year. As you are all aware site preparation work and the archaeological survey are now underway. The Parish Council is working closely with the Recreation Ground committee to move the pavilion and rec project forward.

Following recent elections myself, Councillors Duck, Boyden. And Mary have been duly elected. My thanks to Councillor Moore, who after a considerable time in office has recently resigned, due to work commitments. My thanks also to Stephen Graves who will be stepping down from his parish council role. His support with many tasks such as the housing development and section 106 monies has been greatly appreciated.

The Parish Council are looking to co-opt 3 Radwinter residents to complete the new Parish Council going forwards from today. If anyone is interested please contact myself or any other member of the council for a chat about the role.

My thanks to the Recreation Ground Committee for all their ongoing work to maintain the recreation ground as a village facility.

My thanks to the Village Hall Charity Committee for their ongoing work and hope that we can continue to pull together for the benefit of the village.

My thanks also to, all the individuals within the village who continue to bring the village community together with social events and entertainment.

Clerks Report

The Parish Clerk Cathryn Carlisle summarised the Parish Councils accounts for the year that ended 31st March 2015. There had been an income of £ 15,020.22 and an expenditure of £14,556.30.

Approximately all the income came from the Precept, a small amount from interest on investments, about a quarter on fixed costs such as staff, audit and insurance costs, and the remainder mostly on provision of street lighting and the green skip, telephone in the Post Office. The Parish Council this year gave Grants to the following organisation British Legion Poppy wreath, Radwinter Pre-school, The Recreation Ground Grass cutting, The over 60's Christmas lunch, Big Lunch and Sure Start. The Parish Council also organise for the verge cutting through the village.

Vice Chairs Report Cllr Graves

New Housing in Radwinter

Both nationally and locally, planning policy is a thorny issue, but regardless of the causes, it is very evident that there is a need for more houses to be built. Here in north Essex this is particularly true with the housing demand created by a major expansion of employment in science and technology around Cambridge, and also our proximity to London making this area very attractive to commuters. While politicians may argue about other causes like immigration or an overheating London economy, these two local factors are very real and will not go away.

No-one wants to see our countryside covered in concrete but everyone bemoans that their children have very little prospect of being able to afford a home of their own near here, and we frequently hear calls for more affordable housing.

Back in 2005 the Radwinter Village Appraisal identified this need for more affordable housing and the PC has been pursuing that objective since then. From the outset it became apparent that provision of affordable housing would only be possible by combining it with a commercial development, but for several years this was blocked by Uttlesford. Then, in 2009 the proposals for new national planning guidelines in 2012 lead to a change of heart and suddenly our project sprang to life.

Whilst we were pleased to see this moving forward, it did create additional work, and much time was spent in negotiations, which culminated in an agreement that there would be 35 new houses built and 12 of them would be affordable housing (rented and shared ownership)

The houses will be built by The Enterprise Property Group who are based quite locally in Whittlesford, and we were very pleased to be able to meet their CEO and some of the team at our PC meeting in January. We were also pleased to meet their architect, James Snell. James is even more local, having grown up in Ashdon and over the years developed a practice with a London office and also in Saffron Walden. We are very impressed with James' work so far. He obviously has a passion for his job and he has demonstrated to us how small things can make a big difference in how a house sits in it's surroundings. We are also impressed with Enterprise Property Group and how they have, not only kept to the original agreement, but have also involved us in their planning process.

In March they gave a public exhibition of the plans for the site prior to the detailed

application being submitted to Uttlesford. There was a good attendance at this event and the developers are currently refining their application based on comments that were made. With the arrival of heavy earth movers on the site which is adjacent to East View Close, we can see the fruition of all our efforts about to come into being. The huge amount of soil that has been moved is nothing to do with house building. It is for the archaeological survey. My spies have been out and apparently this survey is proving to be very interesting with many finds indicating that it is a 'high status' Roman site. I do not know what 'high status' means - it could just be a well defined farmstead, but there are plans for an open event in the near future when we will all be able to learn more about it.

The negotiations that I mentioned earlier, were not just about how many houses would be built. We also had an intense period discussing the section 106 settlement which provides money for community improvements. Our negotiations focused on improving facilities on the Recreation Ground, because it is central to the village and is available for everyone to benefit from.

Our wish list was:

- Additional land for a new football pitch
- An all weather Multi Use Games Area (a MUGA)
- Improved children's play equipment
- A new access for the Recreation ground from the Walden road to relieve the traffic congestion in Water lane

I hope that you can see that we were targeting the investment at all age groups, and this remains a core objective, but at the time of the negotiations there was much guesswork about what these things would cost, and of course, we will be subject to planning permissions. So now we must start the process of fully costing each of the above elements and budget for the best possible outcome.

We must also consider how these projects will be managed, and currently we are looking into the practicalities of passing this over to the Recreation Ground, so it can all be integrated with the new Pavilion project.

We are dealing with a large sum of money and a project that has several elements, so we must all work together on this. If it does become the sole responsibility of the Recreation Ground then we must give them all the support that they need, both as a Parish Council and the wider community. We must not just pass the buck and then expect a small group of volunteers to do all the work for us.

Another aspect of the negotiations was how the affordable housing would be allocated. This became a very thorny issue at one point and we are grateful to Simon Howell our UDC councillor for his work in resolving it, with the final commitment that allocation would be offered first to Radwinter residents, then residents of neighbouring villages, before being extended to all Uttlesford. Importantly this commitment is in perpetuity.

However, that was only the start of the process that will see these houses occupied by local people, and it must be emphasised that from here on, **the ball is in your court!!** Please do not wait to see the rafters going on the new houses and then expect to be asked if you would like one. If you, **or someone you know**, may be interested, then **NOW** is the time to consider your eligibility and make the first steps towards taking residence in one of the new houses. That first step is to get on the Uttlesford housing list, because it is from that list that allocations will be made.

This process, which started before I became a parish councillor and will be completed after I cease to be one, will change our village. I am proud to have been part of the process because

it will provide new facilities and also affordable homes for local people. The negotiations have been hard at times, but I have had great support from my fellow councillors and also Simon Howell, and it was very gratifying when the Uttlesford planning committee complemented the Parish Council and the land owners, for the way that we had all worked together to bring this project forward.

15/60 Apologies for Absence
There were none

15/61 Members' Declarations of interest
There were none

15/62 Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 30th March 2015 were approved and signed.

15/63 Clerks Report
The Clerk reported she had received an email from the residents of Stocking Green Saying "Please thank Mark and Rob (or whoever was responsible) for clearing tree stumps from the cleared area at the bottom of the wood.

The community did a final bit of clearing at the top before the autumn and sprayed the weeds around the trees. All of these are looking good and have survived the predations of deer etc. In the autumn we will continue clearing and planting trees. Jeremy continues to put up bird boxes in local woods and in residents' gardens. Uli will create an earth bank at the bottom of the wood where it has been cleared to prevent unwanted access (by travellers etc.) Clerk to draft a letter asking that the residents of Stocking Green don't plant any more tree's in the autumn and not to create a bund around the area.

The new houses to be built on the Saffron Walden road will be called Mallards and Allwells

Uttlesford DC has issued it Call for Site

15/64 District Councils Report
No Report

15/65 County Councillors
No Report

15/66 Recreation Ground:
The Parish Council received a letter from Recreation Ground Committee. Explaining that the Recreation Ground Committee will only use the money for the development of the new recreation ground pavilion, muga etc. The PC has previously agreed to give the money from the sale of land to build the new houses at the rear of East View. This will go towards match funding for the project.

- 15/67 Finance:
To agree the following payments:
- | | | | |
|---------|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 15/67.1 | Cathryn Carlisle – | salary April | 500328 |
| 15/67.2 | £65.32 | E-on | Electricity D/D |
| 15/67.3 | £28.94 | Cathryn Carlisle | Clerk Expenses 500329 |
| 15/67.4 | £48.38 | A & J Lighting | S/O |
| 15/67.5 | £112.50 | St Mary the Virgin Radwinter | Grass Cutting 500331 |
| 15/67.6 | £175.49 | EALC | Subs 500332 |
| 15/67.7 | £156.00 | Clartax | PAYE 500333 |

Payments were agreed by all members of the council present.

- 15/67.7 Monthly Budget and Bank Reconciliation
Were agreed by all members of the council present.

- 15/67.8 Audit to sign the External Audit forms
The Finance Committee met with Andrew Cohen to complete the internal Audit Andrew Cohen wrote “I write to confirm that during the meeting at Mark Hall’s house on Tuesday 21st April 2015, I carried out a full independent audit of the financial transactions and statements for the Radwinter Parish Council books.
This included a check on the cheque books, bank statements, receipts, minute book entries, accounts, statements etc.

I have found everything to be in perfect order as last year. The structure of the accounts in spreadsheet format makes it much easier to reconcile and I thank you for the efforts you have made to get these in order.

Balance sheet

I have recommended that the funds held in the Saffron Building Society accounts are noted down (at least in part) as “earmarked” sums – as Ray Jones had done in previous years. We discussed the purposes etc.

I am more than happy to continue to be independent auditor for you for another year.”

The Chairman signed off the External Audit Form

- 15/67.9 Risk Review
The Risk Review was reviewed and adopted

15/68 Recent Planning Applications:

15/68.1 Planning Applications

15/68.2 UTT/15/1099/HHF Single storey rear extension; addition of 3 rooflights to front elevation.

Ripple View 5A Princes Well Radwinter Saffron Walden
Supported the application

15/68.2 New Development of East View

To discuss the naming of the development/street/lane?

This to be looked at next month.

At the present time there is an archaeological Dig going on they've found some skeletons. The team hope to have an open day in a few weeks to look at the site.

15/69 Highways: There's been a lot of road works in the area many roads have had temporary road closures

15/70 Elections

The Parish Council will have 4 elected members after the election on the 7th May. We now have 3 spaces to be co-opted. Cllr Rains said he would stand to be a councillor again.

15/71 Defibrillator

The Council completed the forms to adopt the telephone box and signed a cheque for a £1. The Clerk to send off the forms

15/72 Annual Report

It was agreed to put the annual report in the Ambo.

15/73 Other updates

15/74 Date of next Meeting

18th May

15/75 Matters to be raised by members for the next agenda

15/76 meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Signed.....

Dated.....

