

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

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 9th May 2016.

Present Cllr Halls, Cllr Duck, Cllr Mary, Cllr Fitch, Cllr Rains
DC Simon Howell CC Simon Walsh
20 members of the public
Cathryn Carlisle (Clerk)

Apologies James Briggs, Suzanne Walker

1. Welcome

The Vice-Chair opened the meeting due to the chairman be delay due to work commitments.

The year 2015 has been particularly busy for members of Radwinter Parish Council; all due to the sale of a parcel of land at the bottom of East View Close by Lady Parker. The land was sold with planning permission to build thirty-five new houses to Enterprise Property Group, who started building works in October 2015. The new houses are to include twelve affordable homes, some for rent and some for shared ownership with a Housing Association. People that are seeking housing and who have a connection to Radwinter will be given priority over the wider public on allocation of the twelve houses. Many hours of negotiation between Uttlesford District Council, Enterprise Property Group and Radwinter Parish Council took place prior to the granting of planning permission and start of building work to help ensure that Radwinter residents would have maximum possible benefit and minimum inconvenience from the new dwellings.

The Parish Council takes on a role of 'housekeeping' in the village; we review on a monthly basis the repair of street lights, electricity charges, village insurance, cleanliness and provision of road signs etc., we also make sure that best value is obtained in these areas. Also, in the 'housekeeping' theme, our village sign was taken down in December and is undergoing a refurbishment in which the colourful painted panel, designed by children from our village school, will be replaced with the same design digitally printed on to an aluminium composite board, the frame will also be replaced by hard wood beading. In October two new dog poo bins were installed. One stands at the entrance to Church Meadow, by permission of Sir Jonathan and Lady Parker, the other is in Water Lane close by the ford,

both places being popular with dog walkers. District Councillor Simon Howell has agreed to fund the new bins.

In May 2015 the telephone box, which is conveniently situated at the crossroads, next to the church and bus shelter, was purchased from BT for the sum of £1.00. The telephone in the kiosk had not been used to make a call for about a year and was not viable for BT to maintain. The box was refurbished, renovated and re-painted with donated paint by resident Rob Anderson and Radwinter Village Hall Charity funded the installation of a defibrillator with guidance from The Community Heartbeat Trust. The opening ceremony took place on 2nd October with a very well attended defibrillator training session following on October 12th.

In 2015 a new ninety-nine-year lease of the Recreation Ground was drawn up between Radwinter Parish Council and the newly formed Radwinter Recreation Ground Charity. This new lease will enable the Charity to make applications to various charitable organisations for funding to build a new pavilion, complete with showers, changing rooms and a kitchen. A new multi-use games area, paid for by funds received as a result of the new housing development, will hopefully be installed within next year. A new football pitch is planned on an extension to the present ground, the result of negotiation between Enterprise Property, Bidwells and the PC. The Parish Council have drawn up plans to improve access to the existing car park and to provide extra parking spaces in the form of a grass grid. When all is completed, Radwinter Recreation Ground will hopefully be a well-used social hub for the village.

It has been a busy and overall satisfying year, it is a pleasure to work in co-operation with other village organisations such as the Recreation Ground Charity and the Village Hall Charity to achieve the best outcomes for our village. With much still to do, such as widening the entrance to the Recreation Ground, exploring provision of fast broadband to the whole village and looking to embark on making a new neighbourhood plan, 2016 looks like it will be just as busy.

2. Chairmans Report

Hello and Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting, my role and that of all the 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. We continue to be well supported by 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 housing development has been one of the key issues this year. Councillors have worked hard to support the villagers and all other parties affected such as the school whilst initial work is undertaken. We appreciate that any work of this nature will be at times impacting on day to day life. I would like to thank people for their patience and understanding. We will seek to address any issues as they arise to ensure the least disruption for everyone.

My Thanks to the Recreation Ground Committee for all their ongoing work to maintain the rec as a village facility. Hopefully we will start to see the results of their hard work with the start of the pavilion project and improvements to the village's facilities.

My thanks to the Village Hall Charity Committee for their ongoing work and I 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.

3. District Councillors Report Simon Howell

Last year there was an election where I was elected a DC for another 4 years it's a job that I really enjoy, there's a lot of work that goes on behind the screens. As a cabinet member I sit on the finance committee at the district council.

The District Council should be ok for the next 2 years but after that things look to be getting harder, with central government taking away the new houses bonus and a deficit of 10% of the budget there will be a need to change things.

Recycling is only at 50% which could be more and help save money our area is at 60% but we need to do more to save landfill taxes. There will be a campaign later in the year to encourage more people to recycle.

One of the problems in the area is littering not just the lanes but places like the common in Saffron Walden after the weekend. The DC thanked the WI for their Clean for the Queen weekend.

As the local plan grinds its way through the system, Uttlesford have got to find approximately 5000 homes through the district. A Call for sites has gone out and only 2 pieces of land were put forward in Radwinter both have been deemed not suitable for planning.

With regards to the development at the rear of East View Close the Planning Officer will be writing to Enterprise asking them why they've not kept their promise to get the road open on to the Walden Road.

One of the concerns for the DC is the Right to buy, the DC has 2500 council houses and as they become available they could be offered up for sale to help finance the housing association.

The District Councillors is always accessible either by phone or email. To discuss any issues that concern members of the public.

4. Neighbourhood Watch Alan Johnson Coordinator for Uttlesford

The Neighbourhood Watch work alongside the Police, there are less police about now than there ever has been, we are now served by the community policing team which are based in Braintree. NHW does a good job James Briggs is our local coordinator but he lives outside of the village, we need more people to sign up for the scheme.

We have a new crime commissioner Roger Hirst, the previous commissioner Nick Alston supported the NHW scheme.

We live in a very safe area and Essex is a safe county, the main problems are theft from Motor Vehicles/sheds etc. but we are told that these are reducing.

The growing problem now is fraud through the letterbox/over the phone and via the internet. People are very plausible at getting people to give away money. Please be very careful.

The most increasing cases are Domestic Violence, child exportation, people trafficking, it probably because more people are reporting it now that than they every use to.

NHW asks that people are more aware of what's going on around you. People can sign up for the Essex Police Messaging Service. There is also the ECC Community Agents which is funded by ECC, The Red Cross, RCCE, and Age UK.

If you see anything suspicious report it.

5. WI Judith Thompson

The WI in Radwinter has been going for 90 years it's all about education and better health care, some of the topics that have come up is addressing food waste, topics are things that matter to the committee. The Group meets once a month, on a regular base the Radwinter branch gets together with 5 other branches and get in a speaker.

The WI have produced a scrapbook which you can see in the library at Saffron Walden. The Annual Conference this year will be held in Brighton. New members are always welcome.

6. Neighbourhood Plan Cllr Fitch

Its 5 years since the last plan was completed and the Parish Council feels that it's time to think about a neighbourhood plan is more complexed there is money available to help get the plan started from central government. When we decide to start the plan we will be given a planning officer to help us get through the process which could take at least 2 years, It then has to go for validation and once it's been approved it goes to a referendum, if the majority of voters vote for the plan then the neighbourhood plan will be adopted.

The Parish Council are looking for people to come a long and help in this process, please see Councillors or the Clerk if you're interested.

7. Recreation Ground Report Julie Haines

The main aim to maintain what we have over the last couple of years we've updated a 50-year-old constitution with guidelines from the Charity Commission so we are now a Charity Organisation. They have taken on a 99-year lease from the Parish Council which has enabled the Recreation Ground Steering group to go out and get grants unfortunately they didn't get the Sport England grant they went after, but applied for a grant from Defra and the Recreation Ground Committee are pleased to announce that a grant of £80,000 has just been awarded, there's been a lot of hard work by a lot of people on the committee. They now hope to be able to start the work on the Pavilion in the next 6 months.

The Recreation Ground Committee organise the Boxing Day Walk, Duck Race, This year's Hani. There won't be a fete this year no one came forward to help organise it so it was thought that the committee would have a break for a couple of year then see if anyone else would like to take this on board.

8. Village Hall Report and Radwinter Lectures - Sue Bright

The new committee took over in 2011 after the village hall need a lot of work due to the water damage causing £14,000 worth of damage with grants from Viola and Landfill Funds we managed to get the hall up and running again.

The Parish Council provided parking at the rear of the hall for the cottages and there is now space for caters to park with access straight into the kitchen.

Radwinter Village Café is open on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month between 10.30 - 12 noon everyone welcome. They normally have between 25-30 people attend.

There is a new leaflet for the village hall on the notice board.

The Radwinter Lectures take place in November the speaker is William Tyler everyone one's welcome. Tickets will be on sale nearer the time.

9. Radwinter Friendship Group Diane Redfern

The Friendship Group needs more members there are only 16 at the present time, it costs £5 per year to join, we meet every 1st Wednesday in the month in Radwinter Village Hall at 2.30pm.

The friendship group has a speak and their programme is very varied, so far this year we've had Lord Walker of Guestingthorpe, an ex-policeman on scams etc. he's left some leaflets on how to keep your home safe.

This month they've had MB Parker on her life in Spain and she brought along various Spanish nibbles all of which she had cooked at home, which were very much enjoyed by everyone.

June- there's a Mystery coach trip there are some spaces if anyone would like to come along.

July – Paul Goddard keep fit for the elderly from Lord Butler Swimming Pool

August – Bingo

September – Pollhill Garden Centre Cambridge again anyone is welcome

October – Photos

November – AGM plus Stan Sutherland with a quiz

December – Christmas Dinner served by the payback boys, we are very grateful for the PC for their financial support with this and to the school choir who come and entertain us.

The Friendship Group also go to Sir Jonathan and MB Parkers hoist an afternoon tea for the elderly, where there's lots of chatter.

The Primary School invite the Friendship group to anything that's going on June 10th we've been invited to the Queen's Birthday tea at the school on the 22nd June a community lunch.

Events for the next year so far are Beetle drive, Bingo, Burton Butchers, a boat trip and a talk of Saffron Walden Museum, a talk by a PC on policing in a rural village and 2 jumble sales a talk by Scotdales Peter Jackson.

What we really need is more members.

10. Radwinter Cubs Julie Pledger

The Cubs in Radwinter have been going now for 35 years, they recently moved from the school to Hempstead Village Hall due to financial reasons.

The take children from 7 ½ - 11 yrs. old, the boys like building bonfires but they do many other activities.

Radwinter get together with Thaxted Cubs and take the children on a 5-day camp which goes down very well.

12. County Councillors Report

After pegging Council Tax with no increases for five years, the Council has reluctantly increased its element of Council Tax by 1.99%. In addition, a 2% Social Care Precept has been added in order to meet the increasing demands of an ageing population across the County. This means a Band D property will now pay £1,130.13 per year, a weekly increase of just under 84p per week. This despite a number of high level meetings with Government ministers, but unfortunately there was little movement on their part to improve the financial settlement for Essex County Council.

savings made by the Council over the past six years are some £521 million, with a further £76 million planned for this financial year. However, moving forward, a funding gap remains for future years as confirmed by the Budget Statement recently, where cuts to public services will continue to be made.

However, front-line services will continue to be protected: For example, Adult Social Care increases by £89,000 to £493.3 million. Children and Families grow by £10 million to £125.8 million. Communities and Healthy Living is now £69.5 million up from £8.7 million reflecting elements of the NHS public health budget now administered by ECC. Infrastructure and Highways Delivery is up by £2 million to £59.4 million and its capital allocation rises by over £7 million to £137 million.

Clearly savings across a number of areas will need to be made, for example the Local Highways Panels have had their budget halved, with an option for the Local district to make up half of the deficit, and the County will then match that. Only two Districts have done this, one is Uttlesford and that means we should be able to deliver a good number of schemes. However, our budget of £460,000 has schemes on its books exceeding £700,000!

Highways maintenance remains a challenge. Extra funding has been allocated to improve the condition of roads and footways and an extensive programme of works is about to commence. Other defects need to be reported so that they can be dealt with. The increase in the Highways Capital Budget is designed to get the roads back into good order with an enhanced programme of resurfacing works planned throughout the year.

The new waste plant in Basildon is up and running and is still in test phase. Less and less household waste is going to landfill which will make a considerable saving for the Council. Interestingly projected recovered recycled materials is much higher than expected, perhaps reflecting a degree of apathy for domestic rubbish sorting in parts of the County, but not I hasten to add, in Uttlesford!

A six-week consultation on the pre-submission waste plan was launched recently, with proposed key sites in Uttlesford located in Canfield, Newport and Elsenham; it can be viewed online at <http://consult.essexcc.gov.uk> and at all libraries, and County and District council offices.

A consultation on Children's centres closed on April 10th. Key proposals affecting Uttlesford are that the children's centre in Saffron Walden will close, the Dunmow children's centre becomes a family hub open 15 hrs a week, and the children's centre at Stansted Mountfitchet becomes a family hub delivery site open 40 hrs a week with a further 10 hours of telephone service provision. The intention of the service is to extend provision for a child and their family from pre-birth through to age 19. Details are available on <http://surveys.essexinsight.org.uk/childrenscentresconsultation2016>.

Public transport has been reviewed recently, and in a number of areas, Demand Responsive Transport has been introduced in a number of North Essex Parishes. This service will allow people to travel between 0600 and 2000 Monday to Saturday, increasing the opportunities to travel and improve access to shopping, health appointments, work, school or college as well as being able to visit friends and family. Clearly during the early days of this new service there will be some bedding in, and officers are closely monitoring and having liaison meetings to better understand how the new DaRT service is settling in. More information is

available at www.essexhighways.org/Transport-and-Roads/Getting-Around/Bus/Demand-Responsive-Transport-DaRT.aspx

DaRT 2 covers the parishes of:

Bardfield Saling, Chickney, Debden, Gt Bardfield, Great Easton, Great Saling, Great Sampford, Lindsell, Little Bardfield, Little Easton, Little Sampford, Radwinter, Stebbing, Thaxted, Tilty, and Wimbish

To book, phone 01621 874411

I continue to chair the Place Services Scrutiny Committee. This deals mostly with highways and economic growth matters, but also environment, county parks and waste. It is a wide but interesting brief and keeps me very busy. Key pieces of work include the passenger transport consultation, third party responsibilities on flooding, and the government's Welfare to Work programme. I also chair the Scrutiny Board which has oversight of all of the scrutiny committees. I serve on the County's planning committee and the Lea Valley Regional Park Authority.

11. Radwinter PCC - Wendy Rowley

The PCC would like to thank the Parish Council for its support for the Gardener at the Church, they also thanked Sir Johnathan for the little Zeta house refurbishment. The main job this year is the north roof need to come off the estimate for the job is £108,000 at the present time they are trying to get a grant but won't know until later in the year.

The Church hold a coffee morning once a month many people attend.

12. Radwinter Society Michael Southgate

The Society not had many meeting lately Michael Southgate is collating old photo's documents onto a data base unfortunately this can only be done by himself, one of the biggest job is reading all the newspapers looking for anything that may have Radwinter in the text which is very time consuming. Mr Southgate is hoping to have another book out titled Radwinter at War it's about the Great Sampford airfield, the runways for the airfield are actually in Radwinter.

Mr Southgate would like to step down as chairman of the society, but someone would need to ensure that people need to attend meetings, Mr Southgate has a lot of data that need archiving and the computer equipment need maintained for another year. Anyone interested in history or book writing please see Mr Southgate.

13. Questions

- 1) is there anywhere in the plans for the new pavilion where disabled people or the infirm can go and sit
 - A) Julie Haines explained that they hope that the pavilion would be somewhere where people can go and sit. In the summer month they hope that the large doors at the front of the pavilion will open right up and people will be able to sit on the veranda and watch whatever is going on.
- 2) Is there any plans for Allotments in the village?

A) The Clerk explained that if 6 people came forward and wanted allotments the parish council had a duty to find them.
Cllr Duck said she did have 10 names of people who wanted an allotment a few year ago. This to be looked into.

3) Has the rectory been sold?

A) Not as far as anyone knows,

4) Question to County Councillor the DaRT doesn't work there's not enough drivers. CC will look into this.

5) The no 60 bus gets into the station just as the training leaving. CC will speak to the transport team.

6) Question to District Councillor do business do recycling?

A yes but they have to pay

Meeting Closed at 9pm.