

# Radwinter Parish Council

LUKE BROWN  
Clerk & RFO  
Email: [radwinterparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:radwinterparishcouncil@gmail.com)  
[www.radwinter.net](http://www.radwinter.net)



Village Hall, Radwinter,  
Saffron Walden, CB10 2SN  
Tel: 07713 926 645

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Minutes of **Radwinter Parish Council meeting** held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024, at Radwinter Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Halls, Cllr Gerhard, Cllr Boyden, Cllr Davidson  
DCllr Tayler  
Luke Brown (Clerk)

1 member(s) of the public

## Minutes

### 23/173 **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Rains, Cllr Richardson

**Resolution:** Accept apologies for absence.

**Proposed:** Cllr Davidson      **Seconded:** Cllr Gerhard

### 23/174 **Public Forum**

A member of the public brought up the issue of parking at an entrance along Church Hill road which is sometimes causing an obstruction. The member of the public noted that the junction at the top of Church Hill road is also an issue as cars are parked too close to the junction.

The member of the public also brought up the grant process for the Rec Grnd Cmt and the council confirmed that the Rec Grnd Cmt are required to submit a grant request to the council.

### 23/175 **Members' Declarations of interest**

None for this agenda.

### 23/176 **Minutes**

**Resolution:** Approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024 as a true record.

**Proposed:** Cllr Halls      **Seconded:** Cllr Boyden

### 23/177 **District & County Councillors Reports** (APPENDIX A)

See appendix.

### 23/178 **Clerks Report**

The Clerk announced their resignation from the council.

The Department for Levelling, Housing and Communities has reconsidered the laws surrounding spending public money on Churches and places of worship and deemed it now lawful for a council to grant money towards the fabric of a building.

### 23/179 **Action Tracker** (APPENDIX B)

Chairman went through the action tracker and noted that Cllr Gerhard and Davidson have provided 2 quotes for new speed limit signs.

### 23/180 **Finance** (APPENDIX C)

**Resolution:** Agree payments for this month.

**Proposed:** Cllr Halls **Seconded:** Cllr Boyden  
Cllr Richardson appointed as authoriser.

The bowls club have requested a grant of £3,300 to go towards 2 water tanks and clubhouse repairs.

**Resolution:** The council agreed to a grant of £1,380 to go towards the clubhouse maintenance and roof repair.

**Proposed:** Cllr Davidson **Seconded:** Cllr Gerhard

### 23/181 **New Planning Applications**

Review and comment on new planning applications.

**UTT/24/0316/FUL** | Erection of a two bay cartlodge within the grounds of a new house currently under construction UTT/21/3757/DFO | Jenkinhogs Farm Roman Road Radwinter Essex CB10 2TF | **Expiry Date: Mon 11 Mar 2024.**

- No objections

**UTT/24/0227/FUL** | Resubmission of UTT/22/0845/FUL (Proposed development of 2 no. dwellings within existing agricultural barn footprint and build form with 1 no. cartlodge to serve both dwellings) to allow for proposal of structure and cartlodge to be relocated west by 4 metres | Homestead Farm Ashdon Road Radwinter Essex CB10 2UA. | **Expiry Date: Fri 15 Mar 2024**

- No objections

### 23/182 **Recreation Ground & Pavilion**

No update.

### 23/183 **Village Hall**

No update

### 23/184 **Highways and Footpaths**

#### 23/184.1 **Footpath 85**

No update.

#### 23/184.2 **Parking**

2 members of the Council put themselves forward to carry out the petition.

23/184.3 **Lighting**

Clerk has contacted Cllr Foley to find out who's responsibility the lamp is.

23/184.4 **Speed Indicators**

Cllr Davidson and Cllr Gerhard have provided 2 quotes for new speed indicator signs.

23/184.5 **Traffic Calming**

Clerk to contact Cllr Foley with regard to installing new speed bumps.

Clerk to ask Cllr Foley about the progress of the light bollards at the junction of the Church and Village Hall.

23/185 **Stocking Green update**

Very wet, due to all the rainfall, with water draining off the fields. The hedges are over grown in the area and forcing larger vehicles on to the verges. The road is also starting to sink.

- Clerk to pass Cllr Gerhard David Lowe's number.

23/186 **Land at the Rear of Gillon Way**

Update on legal transfer.

23/187 **Neighbourhood Plan Update**

No update.

23/188 **Matters to be Raised by Members for the Next Agenda**

None

23/189 **Date of the Next Meeting**

25<sup>th</sup> March.

23/190 **Meeting Close** @ 8:55PM

Signed.....

Dated.....

## **APPENDIX A**

### **RADWINTER REPORT**

#### **ECC BUDGET**

ESSEX County Council is set to increase its portion of council tax by **nearly five per cent** as the present ECC administration look to address "significant financial pressures" facing the authority

County Hall is looking to raise just over £40million during the 2024/25 tax year by hiking council tax paid by more than 500,000 homes in Essex by 4.99 per cent from April. In Essex, council tax will increase by £72.36 to £1522.53 for Band D residents, by £67.32 to £1,353.36 for Band C residents, by £56.28 to £1,184.19 for Band B residents and by £48.24 to £1015.02 for Band A residents. Essex County Council is also hoping to generate £32million by slashing the amount of funding it allocates to certain sectors. Nearly half of those savings will be accrued by cutting the amount of money given to adult social care, including a programme supporting adults with learning difficulties and autism. The current administration had to make £32million in cuts, which will also impact adults with disabilities, but that there had been a "spike in the requirements in children's services".

(Btw UDC 2.99%)

#### **ECC HUGE FACEBOOK COSTS**

ECC payments of almost £500,000 for a comedian to run a coronavirus information social media page. Here are just some of the details in the Press and TV about

this.<https://www.gbnews.com/news/essex-council-raises-taxes-simon-harris-covid-facebook>

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/essex-county-council-simon-harris-pandemic-covid-social-media-comedian-b1131751.html>

During the Full Council/Budget Meeting there has been much controversy over Council payments of almost £500,000 for a comedian to run a coronavirus information social media page have been described as "concerning". Essex County Council paid campaigner Simon Harris the six-figure sum during the coronavirus pandemic for his work as a "community engagement" contractor, which primarily included running a Facebook page. The payments to the 40-year-old, who is known for running the spoof Southend News Network as well as fundraising for charities, were detailed in finance documents released by the council. Analysis of Essex County Council's day-to-day spending breakdown reveals 34 payments were made to Mr Harris between 4 June 2020 and 24 April 2023, totalling £493,000.

#### **Highways**

Just waiting on a Radwinter Highways update and Local Highways Panel...to follow my meeting with senior Highway Officers, Portfolio Holder and the Local Highways Panel.

## **Youth**

Putting together a significant grant bid for local Youth Clubs to counter budget cuts. ECC has been cutting youth funding for years. In fact, since 2010 -77% has been slashed from youth budgets.

I continue to push for Mental Health Practitioners for secondary schools which have seen a significant rise in self-harm over the last few years.

## **ECCLr Martin Foley**

### **Note for the Radwinter Parish Council Meeting**

On behalf of UDC, can I apologise to all members and residents of the Parish for the failure of bin collection. This result from the failure to act on a reminder concerning the application of a new license needed for refuse collection. Through considerable efforts by officers, managers and refuse collectors themselves, the service has now been restored, and a new license issued. Peter Holt, UDC's CEO has reassured us all that there will be a thorough exploration into why this error occurred, and how changes in the organisation can prevent this from occurring again.

### **Local Plan Pannel**

The Local Plan Pannel is the new iteration of the Local Plan Leadership Group. We had our first meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> February. We are at present on target to present Reg 19, the final version of the Local Plan prior to inspection, to the Council in the summer. There has been a considerable response from residents, Parish Councils and other stakeholders to Reg 18, these responses are now been reviewed in subject groups. I am somewhat concerned that there does not appear to be a review of "education", as apparently Essex County Council favour 2 form entry primary schools, hence the suggestion of a new primary school in Thaxted. I am concerned that this might have an impact on the viability of Radwinter and Great Sampford primary schools, and therefore on the sustainability of the whole ward of the Sampfords. Essex County Councils own figures suggest that school pupil numbers will fall during the Plan period. Having raised this issue with officers after Local Plan Pannel meeting, I will explore this matter further.

There was an interesting and productive discussion about affordable and social housing, and how targets for this can be realistically introduced into the Local Plan.

### **Housing Board**

I sit on the housing board which on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February discussed a new Damp and Mould Leaflet for residents. This is a well-balanced and informative document, without being alarmist.

In addition, Introductory Tenancies for council house tenants have been withdrawn. This will allow Housing Officers to undertake more tenancy audits and reduce time on administration.

## **DCILr Mike Tayler**

**APPENDIX B**

Council Meeting	Reference	Details	Status
Feb '22	22/185	Footpath 85 indefinitely closed due to legal dispute.	Ongoing
Jan '24	23/162	Make grant payment to Men's Shed	Clerk to action
Jan '24	23/166	Ask member of the public if they will carry out the petition	Clerk to action
Jan '24	23/166.3	Light number 6 seems to be faulty – Clerk to follow up with A&J lighting	Clerk to action
Jan '24	23/166.4	Forward links regarding speed indicator signs to the council	Clerk to action
Jan '24	23/120	Get quotes to add land to RRGc lease	Clerk to action (Ongoing)
		<b>PLANNING RESULTS</b>	
UTT/23/2573/HHF		DEVELOPMENT: Internal alterations to existing detached double garage with living area and toilet to become single garage and Annexe with shower and kitchenette for ancillary use to existing dwelling. LOCATION: Little Gates Radwinter End Radwinter Essex CB10 2UD	DECISION: Approve with Conditions - 22nd February 2024
UTT/23/3048/HHF		DEVELOPMENT: Replacement of roof covering and guttering. Installation of 30 no. solar PV panels LOCATION: Outbuilding At Jenkinhogs Farm Roman Road Radwinter Essex CB10 2TF	DECISION Refuse - 2nd February 2024

**APPENDIX C**  
**February Payments**

Date	Supplier	Description	Invoice	FPO/DD	Min Ref	Rec	Credit	Debit	VAT	Net
<b>Opening Balance</b>							<b>46,106.72</b>			
	A&J Lighting	Lighting	37993	DD				48.38	8.06	40.32
	BT Group	Internet	M102 6J	DD				52.46	8.74	43.72
	Village Hall	Hall Hire	100280	BACS				120.00		120.00
	Employee	Saraly - Feb	N/A	BACS				351.78		351.78
	Employee	Expenses - Feb	N/A	BACS				20.80		20.80
	HMRC	Tax	N/A	BACS				5.20		5.20
<b>Totals</b>							<b>46,106.72</b>	<b>598.62</b>	<b>16.80</b>	<b>581.82</b>
							<b>45,508.10</b>			