

Radwinter Parish Council

Minutes of meeting 8 September 2008

Present:

Cllrs K Moore (Ch); H Brown; E Duck; M Halls; J Harling, with the Clerk, R A Jones in attendance and Mrs K Shoolheifer and Mr Stephen Hargreaves.

Public Session:

Mrs Shoolheifer described the work of the Mother & Toddler Group and the turnover in membership. She asked for support for the coming year.

Stephen Hargreaves introduced himself as the new Chair of the Rec Committee and discussed liaison. The fete was a success and the finances are improving.

1.Apologies for Absence:

Cllrs S Graves & A Jarvis, C/Cllr S Walsh and D/Cllr S Schneider.

2.Minutes of previous meeting 14th July 2008:

having been previously circulated their adoption was proposed by Cllr Duck, seconded Cllr Harling and signed by the Chairman.

3.Reports from County & District Councillors:

Cllr Simon Walsh sent a written report which was read by all; it was noted that a pilot scheme has been introduced for reporting Highway problems, and concern was expressed about the lack of any maintenance locally. The Clerk to write drawing his attention to this failure.

4.Finance

(a) statement:

Current Account £14998; Reserve Account: £47744; total funds £62742

(b) Current activity:

income: Bofl £170 interest; VAT 2241.75 (1/9/08)

Expenditure: UALC £25 (mem'sp); E&E Plumridge £70.25 (printing); C W Low & son £418.89 (Verge cut); Mrs K Rudder £52.81 (planting); Viking Direct £41.68 (office); Post Office £55.22 (PO phone); Harts Direct £27.34 (stationery paid cash RAJ); R Jones £85.68 (clerk's Exp); A&J Lighting £34.12 (Sep maint. charge); VHMC £24.00 (hall hire); VHMC £80.00 (Hall hire for Mothers' & Toddlers' gp last term) The payment of all items was approved and the cheques signed.

An order for bus shelter has been placed with Littlethorpe @ £10516.25.

(c) Other financial items:

A concessionary arrangement was made with Mr Elsley for a deferment of part payment of rent for Hall Cottage of £300 in July, to be repaid at £60 pcm August to December. (August payment rec'd).

A letter has been rec'd from Thomas Higgins, solicitors, demanding payment to May Gurney of £467.39 for street lighting repairs. This was discussed and agreed that it was desirable to close the matter and that a contribution to the second bill should be made without prejudice.

A contract has been rec'd for maintenance of st lighting from A&J Lighting Solutions Ltd at £409.50. This will be paid monthly.

The finances of the Mother & Toddler group were discussed and it was agreed that we should continue to fund them for the coming year, paying for half cost of hall hire each term but subject to review.

An application for a grant from ECC Community Initiatives Fund for illuminated traffic control signs is being made by Helen.

The Rec committee has accepted liability for the bill for advertising the Boot Fair last year.

5.Planning:

A)Approved

UTT/0631/08/FUL – Windyridge, Radwinter End: change of use of ag land to garden – M Draper

UTT/0980/08/TCA - 4 Beech Cottages: Remove 2 Ash Trees - Katherine Shoolheifer (TL606 372)

UTT/1018/08/FUL – Hillview: 2 storey extn & demolish Gge – S Graves

It was noted that written details of the terms of the approval are no longer available.

B) Circulated:

UTT/1346/08/TCA – 4 South View: fell 1 chestnut – K M Hartley - rsp 8 Sep

Objections have been rec'd and on discussion with Ben Smeeden it was noted that it would not be allowed.

UTT/1356/08/FUL) – Sellands Farm: Barn conversion to dwelling –

UTT/1357/08/LB) – K Sheridan rsp 21 Sep

UTT/1379/08/FUL – Foxreach Stocking Green: rear conservatory – J Briggs – rsp 21 Sep

The Council had no objections to any of these applications

UTT/138408/TCA – Poplar Hall: fell 1 oak tree – ms V Colwill

UTT/0400/08/FUL – Stansted Airport 2nd Runway – any submissions must be registered by 15 Sep. The Clerk was instructed to object on grounds of noise.

C)Under investigation:

Jenkinhog's Farm – use of holiday let cottage

Stockyards (ex White Gables) – use of garage/annexe (not raised by PC)

6.Reports:

(A)Traffic:

There was a temporary daytime road closure of Walden Road 29 July - 1 August.

Concern was expressed at the lack of any maintenance in Radwinter for some considerable time, and that claims in regard to accidents arising from road conditions have been made already and that conditions continue to deteriorate. The last report from Chris Stonham is that instructions have been passed to May & Gurney for the work in Radwinter to be undertaken.

A complaint has been made regarding condition of path 85 being eroded by the river.

A complaint regarding condition of a footpath has been received from Cllr Dean. Attention was drawn to a report in AMBO of Sampford PC receiving a P3 grant for footpath maintenance. This has been discussed with Robin Wallbank and the matter is to be processed by Cllr Halls and the Clerk

An enquiry has been made about a change of route of a path at White Gables.

Details of a national Flood Forum presentation have been rec'd from UDC; after discussion it was agreed that we should send representatives. Cllr Harling reported that a working party is being undertaken this week-end to clear debris from the river; the work already undertaken seems to have improved the situation over last year.

An application for a grant for illuminated traffic signs is being made by Cllr Brown.

(B)Community Plan:

Our Community Plan and ancillary papers was submitted to members of the Development Control Committee on 1st August and our MP. Replies have been received from Sir Alan Haselhurst, Clive Smith & Jan Menell.

A letter has been received from Joint Parish Council Steering Group regarding allocation of new mixed housing amongst villages; it was suggested that Radwinter should have 33.

A form has been received from Plg re Strategic Housing Land availability, which has also been sent to Ron Hopwood at Bidwells, who is delaying replying due to cost of submission. Clerk to process and raise the matter with Sir Jonathan Parker.

(C)Recreation Ground:

Further comments have been rec'd from the Bowls Club regarding the closure. The right to closure has been checked, and Cllr Duck will prepare an explanation.

(D)Village Hall Complex:

Our comments on the draft scheme from the Charity Commission have been sent to them and acknowledged with promise of a speedy resolution. A copy of the submission to the Charity Commn by J Dawson for the RVHMC was circulated, together with their reply.

Andrew has agreed to deal with the problem of the oil tank and its re-siting; drawings have now been obtained which will also clarify the garden boundary.

Graham Jarvis has been instructed to install a proximity light in the porch.

FDPM are obtaining an Energy Performance Certificate for Hall Cottage.

(E)Village Improvement:

An order has been placed for a new bus shelter, and installation arrangements are with Cllr Halls; it is expected to be in situ early next month.

The Clerk has held discussions with Mrs Brenda Bennett regarding the village sign and a price agreed of £400 for a double sided sign; it was agreed that Cllr Halls will obtain the appropriate material after discussion with her.

The UDC operative manning the large waste skip has asked for it to be made clear that paint cans and electrical goods are not accepted

(F) Street Lighting:

A 1 year contract has been placed with A&J Lighting for the maintenance of the street lights wef 1st September. A complaint was received from Andrew Coote of East View Close regarding vandalism during the night when there was no street lighting. He was informed that the responsibility for lighting that area rests with UDC and the complaint should be made to the D/Cllr to relay to the Council.

(G). Post Office:

No definite reply has yet been received as to when it will re-open.

7. Correspondence

(A) Meetings

Thurs 11 Sep – ECC – W Essex forum Mtg – Ongar 10am

Wed 17 Sep – EALC – in house trg session RVH 7pm – all to attend

Wed 24 Sep EALC – AGM – Coggershall 6.15pm – KM to attend

Sat 4 Oct – CPRE - AGM Bolford Hall Thaxted 5pm

Sat 18 Oct RCCE Village Hall Conference - Copford 10am

Tues 21 Oct – ETP – Trg course roles & responsibilities – Dunmow 9.30am

(B) Other

PCC – following a letter to Wendy Rowley 30/7/08 suggesting grant making Trusts, she has written requesting funding for a gardener of £24pcm. It was agreed to offer support for the period October to March.

8. Other Matters:

The Clerk issued a set of Papers for each Councillor comprising all policy documentation issued by the Council.

Mike Hanson has sent a note re PC web-site facilities.

The chairman asked each Councillor to prepare for the next meeting action plans and funding for their specialist areas.

9. Next meeting:

Already arranged for Monday 20 October at 7.30pm