

Radwinter Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting 28 June 2010
Held in the Village Hall at 7.45pm.

Present:

Cllrs V Boyden; E Duck; S Graves; M Halls; A Jarvis; K Shoolheifer, with the Clerk, R. A. Jones in attendance, and C/Cllr S Walsh, D/Cllr S Schneider & G Schneider, and Mr Paul Camp

Public Session:

The reports from the Councillors and discussion with Mr Camp are detailed below.

1. Apologies and reasons for absence:

Cllr K Moore - personal

2. Minutes of the previous meeting 24 May:

Having been circulated they were taken as read and were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2a. Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda:

Cllr Graves pointed out that there was an error in the numbering of the items under 8B. The Clerk stated he has removed the numbering to prevent confusion.

3. Reports from County & District Councillors:

D/Cllr Sue Schneider reported that The Plough PH had been inspected by Roger Harborough. Although substantial damage has occurred in the modern part of the property by a burst water pipe this has not affected the listed part, and so there is no need to put it on the 'buildings at risk' register. There has been some vandalism, and more effort needs to be made to effect a sale. The position regarding the mushroom farm was also discussed.

C/Cllr Simon Walsh reported on the work of Highways, particularly pot-hole repairs and road closures in the area. He also stated that the council tax by the CC was frozen for the coming year and thought this would also apply to the DC. There was now a new fund available for PCs to plant orchards; details would be sent. He would investigate the provision of holiday sports training for young people. The Clerk raised the wording of the recent 'road closure' notice which he considers misleading.

4. Finance

(A) Statement:

Funds as at 1st June: £60,318.04

(B) Current position:

Receipts: £10.39 interest.

Payments: Suffolk Acre Services £1493.25 for V Hall Insurance#; R Anderson £120.00 (removing and clearing ceiling tiles from WR Cottage); K Rudder £62.94 (VH plant tubs)*; R A Jones £92.22 (Clerk's exp). Retrospective consent was sought for payment of: RVHMC £24.00 (Plow 2 April); RVHMC £24.00 (Plow 2 May); Cllr E Duck £7.04 (exp); C W Low £445.92 (verge cut); Viking Direct £96.40 (stationery); RCCE £40.00 (Mem'ship); R Jones £529.90 (to J Lewis for computer & printer). The appropriate cheques were then signed.

It was confirmed that the old computer in addition to being written off was not considered reliable.

(C) Report from the Staff Committee:

The committee have had a meeting with the Clerk. It was noted that the Clerk has so far not received any retraction of or apology for the adverse comments made by the Chairman.

Regarding his remuneration, it was agreed that a more correct basis would be the NJC scale, LC2 category; within this it was agreed that payment would be at SC33, wef 1st July 2010, and would be further reviewed in December. The minutes have been circulated. After discussion the minutes were accepted and a new bank mandate for Clerk signed.

(D) Other finance matters:

The payment to Suffolk Acre Services of £1493.25 is only for the village hall (2nd year of 3 yr contract. For the Parish Council insurance we have been offered terms of £951.99 for 1 yr contract; £904.39 for 3 yr, & £856.79 for 5 yr fixed price contracts. It was agreed to take a 3 year fixed term contract, and payment for a total of £2397.64 is required. (NB unfortunately the Clerk took the costs from a previous offer without the bus shelter upgrade, and a cheque for £2306.18 was issued, leaving a balance due of £91.46.

EALC have advised that the casual users rate for car users has been increased to 65.0p/mile wef 1st April. SSE has requested that we renew our subscription of £10 (supported by Lady Walker); after discussion it was agreed to do so, and the cheque signed.

*Kate Rudder wishes to discontinue servicing the VH tubs; the Clerk is to approach Clare Butfield the post-mistress so see if she would agree to take over.

The Clerk has obtained quotations for a new notice board. He and Cllr Halls inspected the present board and agreed that it could be refurbished. Cllr Halls was given a budget of £400 to do so.

An acknowledgement has been received from EACH for our donation.

No request has been received from the PCC for ground maintenance.

5. Review of Action Schedule

(A) Highways:

The Clerk discussed the work itemised from the Planned Parish Visit with Ray Curtis and it was agreed that most had been completed, and dates given for the remainder. A questionnaire about the work was completed by the environment committee.

The B1053 from Anso Rd to Sampford will be closed at night 19 & 20 July. Further work is scheduled 1-8 August.

Robin Wallbank has inspected the footpaths, and stated that only limited restoration of path 85 can be done by cutting back vegetation. Path 87 proved inaccessible due to growth from adjoining properties. PC to ascertain the owners for ECC to contact. The kissing gate for path 67 is being prepared.

Chris Stoneham is to arrange inspection of the footway by the E bound bus-stop to see if the grass can be trimmed back. He said that there is no hope of any major items being undertaken due to lack of funds.

It was noted that the illegal blocks on the verge outside Saxons had still not been removed. Clerk to remind Hways.

Clerk to clarify ownership of verges in East View Close. He is also to approach UDC Housing re parking provision for 4 South View.

(B) Village Hall complex:

Walden Road Cottage is having a major refurbishment supervised by the property committee (Cllrs Hall & Jarvis). Rob Anderson has quoted £1700 for redecoration which was accepted. A new kitchen and heating system is to be installed.

A leak in the flat roof of village hall was reported which flooded the light fittings making the hall unusable - Cllr Halls attended.

6. Other matters for review:

(A) Village Hall Management Scheme:

Sir Jonathan Parker has forwarded a copy of the latest draft scheme from the Charity Commission. He has replied stating that he considers the scheme far from satisfactory. The Clerk had prepared an analysis for the PC and has been in touch with the Charity Commn, and it was agreed that Cllrs Graves and Shoolheifer should arrange to see Sir Jonathan to discuss the matter further.

(B) Village sign:

Cllr Halls confirmed that the sign and mounting were virtually complete and would be erected on July 16th. This is to align with the barbecue being organised by the school governors for a ceremonial unveiling by the Headmaster on Saturday 17th July. Mr Paul Camp is to liaise with the Clerk and Cllr Shoolheifer regarding the programme. Clerk to contact the press. Mr Camp will also assist with arranging a gift for Mr Catton from the PC.

7. Planning:

(A) Approved

UTT/0743/10/LB -3 Almshouses Walden Rd - moving internal door

(B) Refused:

UTT/0657/10/FUL) - 1&2 Bendysh Hall Barn, Ashdon Rd: insertion roof-lights, new entrance and

UTT/0658/10/LB) - vehicle access - R Pullin (closing 14/5)

(C) Enforcements:

ENF/96/09/11 - The Old Cart Lodge Jenkinhogs Farm: advertised to let in breach of UTT/1976/03/FUL

(D) Circulated:

UTT/0845/10/LB - Radwinter CPS - replacement windows - Essex CC (closing 11/6)
UTT/0970/10/LB: Bradburys, Walden Road Stocking Green - Replace concrete render with lime based render. Treat timber frame. Replace windows. Installation of secondary double glazing. Replace concrete tiles on dormers with clay tiles. Mr L Reid (closing 2/7)

UTT/1079/10/CLP: Woodside Radwinter End - Cert. of lawfulness for erection 1 storey rear & side extn - Mr & Mrs J Meyrick (closing 2/7)

8. Clerk's Service Contract:

A contract initially prepared by Cllr Dr Brown and the Clerk was studied by the Staff Committee and revised, deleting any responsibility for the Clerk's work area in his home. It was then approved and signed.

9. Health & Safety:

The Clerk has recently attended a course on Health and Safety requirements and risk analysis. He has found that it is not necessary for the Council to have an H&S officer; it is the responsibility of all Councillors led by the Chairman. He has prepared a new H&S scheme for adoption by the Council, which after review was accepted and signed. Copies of our general & financial risk assessments were sent to the external auditor as requested. An accident book has been produced.

10. Correspondence**(A) Meetings**

Wed 30 June - EALC - Budget & Precept Course - Gt Dunmow 9.30 - 12.30 (£36)
Wed 7 July - RCCE: AGM - Essex Golf club, Earls Colne, 7.30pm

11. Other Communications:

ECC - Questionnaire on Broadband quality in parish. This was discussed and completed by Cllr Graves.

Next Meeting;

Already arranged for Monday 6th September. The meeting closed at 10.40pm.