

Radwinter Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting 28th November 2011
Held in the Village Hall at 7.45pm.

Present:

Cllrs S Graves (Ch); M Halls; K Shoolheifer; K Thompson, K Moore with the Clerk, R A Jones in attendance, and D/Cllr S Howells, J Briggs, B Hyett and Cllr M Young (Ch Wimbish PC)

Public Session:

P/Chairman Mike Young was asked to address the meeting regarding the New Homes Bonus. He stated that £714,000 had been received by Uttlesford DC in conjunction with the government scheme to encourage new house building. UDC had derived a formula for its distribution which awarded payment to PCs which had completed over 50 new homes or an increase of 10% of their housing stock in the past 5 years. Only 9 Councils met this criterion, other mainly small councils received nothing. Both he and our Cllrs felt that this was unfair due to the restrictions placed on building in the smaller parishes by UDC. A prolonged discussion was held with D/Cllr Howells who tried to explain the DC position. He would not give any re-assurance that the situation would be any better next year.

Mike Young sought our help in establishing a 30mph speed limit in Maple Lane.

1. Apologies and reasons for absence:

Cllr V Boyden - sick; Cllr E Duck - Disability; C/Cllr S Walsh - other commitments. A bouquet has been sent to Cllr Duck with best wishes for a speedy recovery

2. Minutes of previous meeting of 17 October:

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

3. Matters arising not otherwise covered:

None

4. Reports from County & District Councillors:

Nothing further to above.

5. Other reports:

(A) Recreation Ground:

The sports pavilion plg appn has now been published and is open for comment until 13 Dec. Cllr Moore queried the size and location of the proposed building. It was pointed out that both had been agreed by the Parish Council in July after objections from UDC planning to the current site. Brian Hyett queried the provision of the services, especially effluent. It was agreed that adequate provision must be made to allow for the shallow fall.

We have accepted the quotation of £395 from Camline Cambridge for the white & yellow lining of the 42 car parking bays, which will be done on 19 Dec. The car-park is to be closed from 9pm Sunday 18 Dec until 8am Tuesday 20 Dec.

(B) Community Plan:

The Clerk has recently spoken to Rob Hopwood of Bidwells, who stated that the legal position between the parties is being finalised by the respective solicitors. An ecology survey has been carried out which unfortunately showed that a bat survey may be needed in the Spring. A company has been engaged to carry out an archaeological survey in view of Roman finds in the area. He, Henry Turtill and the Clerk will be meeting Andrew Taylor of UDC on Wednesday 30th.

6. Finance:

(A) Statement:

Funds at 1st Nov: £43988.02

(B) Current position and signing of cheques:

Receipts: interest £7.47; (payment of verge cutting £1925.71 awaited). Payments: R A Jones £71.03 (182 - expenses); SLCC £83.00 (183 - Mem Subn);

Retrospective consent was sought for payment of: EALC £40.00 (177 - Cllr Trg); Viking ££40.14 (179 - office); R Jones £66.11(180 - PC purchases); J Briggs £104.63(181 - newsletter). The payment of all these accounts was approved and the cheques signed.

(C) Report of the Finance Committee:

A change to the allocation of the earmarked reserves was recommended, together with a budget for 2011/2012. This included an allotment of £2000 for commemoration of the Golden Jubilee, which would be for 1 year only. The report was adopted.

Andrew Cohen suggested that some of our reserves could be put into a short-term interest bearing account, and suggested Scottish Widows yielding 1.6%. The RFO has also investigated such accounts and recommended the placing of £25,000 into a new 1 year tracker bond with Saffron Walden Building Society, which has a 30 day withdrawal facility. Acceptance of this was proposed by Cllr Halls, seconded by Cllr Moore, accepted and the RFO instructed to proceed with the implementation.

(D) Setting of 2011/2012 precept:

The Finance Committee recommended £11100, an increase of £3000 to cover the annual subsidy to the Rec Committee, following the loss of income from the village hall complex. It would result in an increase of 0.6% to the average council tax payment. After debate this was agreed by a majority with 1 abstention.

E) Other financial matters:

A bottle of wine was given to Andrew Cohen in thanks for his assistance.

7. Review of Action Schedule:

It has been impossible to get any confirmation of work done by Hways West Area despite repeated phone-calls.

Wimbish Green Lane (Bent Road) was closed for repairs 14 - 17 Nov.

A damaged drain cover has been reported outside South View which is a hazard to pedestrians.

There is a problem with car-parking at the junction of Church Hill and Walden Road. Clerk to report matter to the police.

8. Other matters for review:

(A) Garden Waste:

Communications have been received from UDC and other PCs regarding the action to be taken following the termination of weekly Sunday collections from the Rec. It has been agreed that we shall pay for the provision of a green skip on a fortnightly basis from 7 April to 4 November. It has also been agreed that Hempstead PC will share in its use and pay 1/3 of the cost. The nett cost to Radwinter will then be £270.

Concern was expressed regarding the withdrawal of the bulk recycling skip; UDC are to be asked about the possible re-instatement at PC expense, or possibly obtaining a private contractor if there is demand.

(B) Training:

Cllr Thompson has attended a course on funding matters. He found this very helpful in providing sources of funding and making contacts.

The Chairman & Clerk attended a course on the Localism Bill and voluntary Code of Conduct. The Chairman was extremely concerned about the proposed requirement for the interests of spouses, partners or co-habitees to be disclosed. The Bill will be effective from April 2012 and applies from the next election.

9. Planning

(A) Approved:

None

(B) Action withdrawn:

ENF/316/11/D - The Old Bakehouse, Church Hill: new black cladding & entrance in Conservation Area

UTT/1025/11/FUL - Homestead Cottage, Ashdon Rd: erection of garden blg - withdrawn by UDC

(C) Circulated:

UTT/1666/11/FUL - Sports Pavilion, Rec Ground - Radwinter PC closing 17 Nov.

UTT/2022/11/FUL - The Plough PH, Sampford Rd - demolition of existing wing and replacement with 1½ storey extn with increased accommodation - PMJ properties - closing 25 Nov.

UTT/2213/11/FUL - The Gables, Walden Rd: erection 1 storey side extn, new porch & boundary wall with gates - D Liddell (amends UTT/1497/09/FUL) - closing 9 Dec

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10. Correspondence:

(A) Meetings:

Mon 28 Nov - Veolia drought management consultation mtg - Harlow 1.30 - 4.30pm
Tues 29 Nov - ECC consultation on waste disposal Hoblongs Ind Estate, Gt Dunmow or Armigers Farm Thaxted - Foakes Hall Gt Dunmow 3 - 7pm
Tues 24 Jan - UDC Plg Mtg
Wens 25 Jan - EALC Trg - roles & responsibilities course
Fri 27 Jan - SLCC Clerk's Mtg
Wed 22 Feb - EALC Trg: Council publicity - Dunmow (1/2 day - £40)
Wed 29 Feb - EALC/CPRE conference on Plg - Dunmow (full day n/c)
Mon 12 Mar - UDC Plg Mtg
Fri 23 Mar - SLCC Clerk's visit to Parliament.
Sun 3 June - J Briggs 'Big Lunch'?

(B) Communications:

The Clerk circulated copies of UDC list of Councillors and committee timetables.

We have been advised that Saffron Walden & Dunmow Police Stations will only open from 12 noon to 6pm Monday to Saturday wef 28 November. Concern has already been expressed by several D/Cllrs.

Veolia letter 21 Nov re consultation on drought management (closing 16 Jan) ECC letter 21 Nov re consultation on waste disposal sites at Thaxted, Little Canfield & Elsenham (Closing 19 Jan) ECC letter 11 Nov re local bus tender round - (closing 3 Feb); Clerk to comment on 18 bus route extended to Audley End Station

SLCC circ Nov re orders for Diamond Jubilee Commem. Mugs

SLCC have sent details of legal requirements for Golden Jubilee celebrations.

A circulation pack was brought to the meeting and given to Cllr Halls.

11. Other Matters:**A) Village Amenity:**

The PCC held their annual Christmas Tree Festival on 26/27 November. A tree from the PC was erected by Cllr Halls.

B) Radwinter Times:

The publication was discussed with James Briggs, and matters concerned with printing and distribution clarified. All present expressed satisfaction with his production.

C) Golden Jubilee Commemoration:

James Briggs announced that he will be holding a 'Big Lunch' on 3 June to which all distributors and Cllrs are invited, and the P/Clerk.

The Chairman asked all Cllrs to give consideration as to what else should be done, and to report at the next meeting.

D) Acknowledgements:

Of behalf on the Council the Chairman thanked Cllr Boyden for representing us and for laying a wreath at the Remembrance Sunday commemoration. He also thanked

Cllr Halls for his undertaking the purchase and setting up of the Christmas Tree for the Festival.

E) Funding:

Details have been received of the Essex Legacy Fund, and the Princes Trust funding for Community Development.

F) Defibrillator:

The Chairman has had a communication from Lorna Plant enquiring about the possible purchase by the Council of a defibrillator. After discussion it was decided against due to the need for a trained operative and lack of suitable accessible storage.

G) Car-park lighting:

The school have enquired about the lighting in the car-park. It was confirmed that all present lights are operating, although the hedge around the bollards is overgrown and causing them to be obscured.

12. Next Meeting:

The following dates have been proposed for 2012; all are on Mondays at 7.45pm :

16 January

12 March

16 April - Parish Meeting (subject to change after discussion with VHC)
(Thurs 26 April - Finance Mtg)

28 May

2 July

3 September

22 October

26 November

The meeting closed at 11pm.