

**Radwinter Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting Monday 12th March 2012**  
**Held in the Village Hall at 7.45pm.**

**Present:**

Cllrs M Halls(Ch); V Boyden; E Duck; K Moore; K Shoolheifer; K Thompson, with the Clerk, R A Jones in attendance, with D/Cllr S Howells, Mr James Briggs and Mr Dixie Walker

**Public Session:**

(A) Mr James Briggs reported that a new format has been introduced to Neighbourhood Mtgs, which will be held as group mtgs at which the police would be present. The latest was held in Newport, otherwise Thaxted. He thanked Cllr Shoolheifer and the Clerk for the help they have given in the preparation of the 'Welcome Pack', and agreed to the insertion of P/Cllrs details. He noted that the 'Parish Plan' was for the period 2007/12, and was now out of date.

(B) Mr Dixie Walker submitted a report on the Pavilion Steering Committee's work. It was noted that the pavilion needs to conform to the minimum requirements on the FA and E&WCB. The requirements for funding and their likely sources were analysed, and there is already £23,000 in hand. Help in kind would also count towards match funding. It was planned to have an 'open day' for residents to inspect the plans as part of the development of the Rec. in the Community Plan. In discussion he thought that they were capable of raising the funds without recourse to S106 support.

**1. Apologies and reasons for absence:**

Cllr S Graves (personal); C/Cllr S Walsh (other mtg)

**2. Minutes of the previous meeting 16 January:**

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

**3. Matter arising:**

The Clerk read a letter from Cllr Graves resigning as Cllr and Chairman following his failure after long discussions to resolve the complaint from Cllr Moore regarding the November minutes. Afterwards there was a debate after which the objection was withdrawn. The adverse personal comments on the Clerk and his work made by Cllr Moore in an email to the Cllrs have also been retracted.

**4. Reports from County & District Councillors:**

C/Cllr Simon Walsh was unable to attend but sent a report which had been circulated. This included details of plans to help vulnerable people, reduction in bus subsidies, work to improve the maintenance of highways and winter gritting.

D/Cllr Simon Howells reported that the council tax for the coming year will be kept as current; this has entailed obtaining a loan of £30M to balance the accounts. He has

been given £333 for each of his 3 parishes from the New Homes Bonus Fund. Next year he will be able to give us £666. Future donations will probably require an application to the panel of a proposed 'Jubilee Fund' to be set up with government payments for the 'New Homes Bonus'; this will amount to £1,461,927. It appears that funds would not be apportioned to the building of new homes as intended by the government, so Radwinter will have to make a special case to receive any funding.

## **5. Other reports:**

See (B) above.

## **6. Finance**

### **(A) Statement:**

Current £7019.49; reserve £35,000.00

The reserve account has been increased with another 1 year bond of £10,000 at 2½%.

### **(B) Current position and signing of cheques:**

Receipts - interest £2.23 ; Payments - A&J Ltg £105.30 (198 - light repair); R Jones £56.98 (199 - expenses); retrospective consent was requested for payment of: St Mary's PCC £75 (191 - churchyard maint); Radwinter over 60s/Friendship group £200 (192 - Xmas lunch); UDC £349.20 (193 - skip hire); UDC £105.06 (194 - election expenses); Radwinter Society £5 ( 195 - mem'sp); Viking £62.09 (196 - office). The payment of all accounts was approved and the cheques signed. The Direct Debit acct for PO phone of £64.26 has been paid.

### **(C) Other financial matters:**

D/Cllr Howells has £333 available for use by the PC from the 'New Homes Bonus' fund; it was agreed that it could be used towards the Jubilee activities.

Cllr Duck said that a 'hog roast' has been ordered for the Jubilee celebrations at a cost of £750, and Annie the clown at £170.

The VHC have raised a query regarding the installation of Broadband for use in the PO and V Hall; this and the telephone to be discussed with them.

David Low's quote of verge cutting at £35/mile (previous £34) was accepted. ECC Hways have confirmed our contract at the previous year rate.

St Mary's PCC have requested help with the cost of the maintenance of the village clock. A quotation has been requested.

A letter of thanks for our donation has been received from the Radwinter Friendship group.

## **7. Community development plan:**

Andrew Taylor held a mtg on 20 January with Bidwells and the P/Clerk. It cleared outstanding environment requirements and gave a forward schedule. All section 106 needs must be included in the Outline Plan when submitted. The Clerk stated that the land on offer for the rec. was not likely to be wide enough (58 x 158m), and that the land on offer to the school may not all be required if funding can be obtained for

a pre-school. It was confirmed that the affordable housing will have priority for applicants with local connections and not be in the UDC pool. It was agreed that a Housing Needs Survey will be carried out, and that it should precede the exhibition being held in the Village and arranged by Bidwells with PC help. It was mooted that 28 days notice will be required.

The Clerk has discussed the HN survey with Moira Grobertz of RCCE. She will send 500 copies of the survey form with a covering letter and reply-paid envelope; the cost would be £60/sheet, i.e. £240. The letter has now been agreed and copies of the form circulated. Arrangements need to be made for the distribution.

The Chairman, Cllr Halls and Clerk held a site meeting on the Rec. on 2 March and agreed that a different entrance should be examined, together with a relocation of the pavilion. After discussion with Andrew Jarvis it was agreed that a single football pitch should be located on the extra land, although Stephen Hargreaves has requested two, but the viability of this was questioned. Space should be found on the existing site for a tarmac court for use for tennis and netball. The Clerk has consulted Clare Jenkin of Hways who require a drawing of any proposed entrance which will require plg consent. The Clerk has prepared a sketch of a possible new layout, which was examined.

## **8. Review of Action Schedule:**

We have been informed that May Gurney is being replaced by Ringway Jacobs as main contractors, who will have a county wide remit.

The Clerk attended a meeting of the UDC Hways consultative panel on 30 January and raised the matter of pothole repairs. Another meeting of the panel is being held on Tuesday 13th and thereafter bimonthly . Although the panel is only advisory, they are responsible for the work of the 'Highway Rangers' who can undertake small jobs without reference to Hways.

The Action Plan was discussed briefly with Chris Stoneham; the signs have been done; the kerb in EVC has not. The introduction of a speed limit in Maple Lane was discussed and will be investigated. There is no likelihood of getting a roundabout at the church crossroads. Another restructuring is imminent.

Defective street lights have been reported in EVC (9008) and at Bridgefoot (9013). The Clerk was thanked by Mrs Halls for the speedy repair. That at Bridgefoot has not been repaired despite being billed.

Car-park: Mr Shepherd of Camline has requested a new date for the white-lining. This is to be deferred since on inspection by the Chairman and Clerk concern was felt at the general condition of the tarmac on the older section. Cllr Halls agreed to contact Knight's of Thaxted to resurface the entire area.

## **9. Other matter for review:**

### **(A) Jubilee:**

St Mary's PCC have expressed a wish to co-operate with the PC on any activities; they are planning to plant a tree on Saturday 2 June. They suggest a circular parish letter to inform residents of the activities. Cllr Duck has ordered a hog roast and sundries for Tuesday 5th June, and Anny the clown for 2 - 4pm in the village hall that

day. Plow 2 will attend to the drinks. The obtaining of commemorative coins was raised.

**(B) Garden Waste:**

UDC have confirmed that we will receive a fortnightly collection service, commencing on Sunday 22 April at 10am until 11am; thereafter fortnightly. Hempstead PC have been informed.

**(C) Recreation Ground:**

The committee are holding a site meeting on Saturday 10 March to discuss maintenance. A requests by the Clerk for a copy of the minutes has been countered by a statement that it already goes to our Chairman.

## 10. Planning

**(A) Approved:**

UTT/2460/11/FUL - Cowlass Hall Farm - change of use from Agricultural to mixed - Mrs C Cowell -

**(B) Action withdrawn**

UTT/2396/11/FUL) - Potash Farm, Hempstead Road: 2 storey side extn -

UTT/2397/11/LB ) - P Spencer (ag R Moses)

UTT/1701/10/FUL - The Plough PH - Appeal by Nick Lowden withdrawn

**(C) Refused**

UTT/2270/11/FUL - 7 Maple Lane - ground, 1st/2nd floor extn - J Gribbin

**(D) Circulated:**

UTT/0341/12/TCP - The Old Brewery: fell Ash Tree - A Pardoe Closing 10 March

UTT/0256/12/FUL - Lower House Farm, Water Lane: change of use from agricultural to stables - Lady M Belen-Parker - closing 23 March 2012

UTT/0307/12/FUL - The Grainstore, Jenkinhog Farm: installation of solar panels - Lord Walker - closing 23 March 12

**(E) Appeal**

UTT/1507/11/FUL - Bramleys Meadow, Ashdon Road; new dwelling & gge - Appeal v refusal

**(F) Other:**

Andrew Taylor is holding a Local Plan mtg with Parish Councils Monday 12 March

A letter has been sent to Plg giving support to Wimbish PC for inclusion of the mushroom farm as a site for housing.

## 11. Correspondence:

**(A) Code of Conduct:**

Michael Perry UDC has written on 7 Feb informing us that under the Localism Bill a new Code of Conduct for local Councils is required. A draft has been forwarded. It will be adopted by UDC on 17 April, and adoption by Radwinter is recommended to

follow. It confirms the requirement for all complaints to be in writing. It also requires that the Register of Interests of Councillors must be published on the Web. However he points out that this can be achieved by having a public link to the DC website. The Clerk has discussed this with Michael Perry and accepted this.

(B) An email of 1 March has been received from Stan Broom of BC&ECCA informing us of a cycle race which is being held on a.m. Sunday 6 May and which will pass through Radwinter and other villages. Reports from other PCs suggest it can create a traffic problem and also leaves litter.

**(C) Welcome pack:**

James Briggs has circulated a draft 'welcome pack' for new residents. The Clerk has sent suggested modifications. It was approved by the Council.

It has been agreed that small notices of events in adjoining parishes of likely interest to residents could be included in the RT.

(D) The Clerk has joined the PSMA scheme of the Ordnance Survey, permitting the use of maps, etc. free.

(E) Forms have been received for entry in the 'best kept churchyard' and 'best kept village' competitions run by RCCE. We will not participate this year.

**(D) Meetings:**

Thurs 15 Mar: EALC law & procedures course - Gt Dunmow 9.30am (£60)

Thurs 22 Mar: Radwinter Society AGM - VH 7.30pm

Wens 28 Mar: EALC finance course - Gt Dunmow 9.30am (£60)

EALC have informed us that short (2 hour) courses in situ can be organised from May.

**12. Other Matters:**

The VHC have informed us that they do not wish to have the same date for their AGM as the PC.

Cllr Duck has received a letter from Arian Knowles of EECOS regarding a wildlife meadow on land by the church. Clerk to write suggesting Stocking Green as an alternative.

**13. Next Meeting:**

Parish Meeting Monday 16th April at 7pm, to allow time for the reports.

**The meeting closed at 10.30pm**

**ADDENDUM:**

Subsequent to the Meeting at the request of the Cllrs the Clerk approached Stephen Graves and asked him to reconsider; Stephen agreed to finish his year of office

The Clerk is handing in his resignation.