

Minutes of the Radwinter Annual Parish Meeting Held on Monday 19th May 2014 commencing 7:30pm in Radwinter Village Hall

Those Present:

Parish Councillors Mark Halls (Chairman), Stephen Graves (Vice-Chairman), Rob Rains, Jill Mary, Eileen Duck and Vicky Boyden. Parish Clerk Marisa Baltrock, District Councillor Simon Howell and five members of the public.

Apologies for absence:

County Councillor Simon Walsh.

The Chairman Mark Halls

welcomed all present and reported on the activities of the Council as a whole over the previous year. This included the negotiations over the new housing development at East View Close which was expanded on by Cllr Graves (see below). The Chairman acknowledged the work of the Recreation Ground committee, the Village Hall Charity, all individuals in the village who organise community events, the members of the Parish Council and the Clerk.

District Councillor Simon Howell

presented a written report on his activities over the past year and invited questions on it. The report included news on Council Tax rates, recycling statistics, the Local Development Plan, and the ongoing maintenance and further provision of Council owned housing.

Cllr Stephen Graves

reported on his experiences with the Planning Committee and Officers at Uttlesford District Council. He had attended a previous Meeting at which a controversial application in Saffron Walden was being decided, which prepared him to speak at a Meeting in February for the maximum two minutes allowed about the development at East View Close, and the benefits this could bring in terms of extra land for the Recreation Ground and school, and road improvements. A Section 106 Agreement was signed in March and he is awaiting a letter which formally sets out the monies due to all parties including the Parish Council and a timetable of proceedings. The Recreation Ground and school will receive their land before the first house is sold. The first lump sum of money will be received by the Parish Council this year and must be looked after until the transfer of the land on which it is to be spent. A particularly successful outcome was the allocation of the planned affordable houses, which after much negotiation the District Council have agreed to allocate priority to Radwinter residents all twelve houses rather than a small proportion. Cllr Graves emphasised that anyone with an interest in these should have their name on the housing list before they become available.

Julie Plisner-Haines

reported that the Recreation Ground Committee continues to maintain the ground, and a sub-group is working on the new pavilion. The lease on the Recreation Ground has now expired and they are looking at changes that could be made to the new one including rights to the use of the car park.

Parish Clerk Marisa Baltrock

summarised the Parish Council accounts for the year ended 31st March 2014, saying that there had been an income of £23,662 and an expenditure of £23,704. Approximately half the income came from the Precept, a small amount from interest on investments, and the remainder from Grants from the District and County Councils. Approximately half the expenditure had been on the Recreation Ground, including £8,000 for which a Grant had been received, about a quarter on fixed costs such as staff, audit and insurance costs, and the remainder mostly on provision of street lighting and the green skip.

Ros Hyde reported on the Stocking Green Land Committee

which was started in September 2012 to address the neglect of the land. Working parties have cleared the pond and planted new trees, their efforts were hampered by Network Power's attack on the trees, and the stream now needs clearing to avoid future flooding. Responsibility for this and other waterways was discussed and the Clerk will contact the Environment Agency to find out who should do the work.

James Briggs, Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator,

spoke on the purpose of the scheme and the role of the Radwinter Observer in alerting residents to where they should be vigilant. This is circulated by email and printed copies made available to those who do not receive emails. He reported that following major thefts close to Christmas some stolen goods had now been returned, and encouraged people to mark their valuables with their postcodes to increase the likelihood of this happening.

The Chairman thanked everyone present and the Meeting was closed.