

Radwinter Parish Council

MINUTES of the Meeting Held on Monday 27th February 2006 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Present:

Cllrs J Hardisty (Ch); M Halls; A Jarvis; Mrs G Simmonds; D Smith with the Clerk, R A Jones, in attendance and J Briggs, L Simmonds and Mrs Joan Simpson.

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllrs K Moore and H Brown.

2. Minutes of previous Meeting:

held on 16th January, having been previously circulated were taken as read, adopted and signed by the Chairman

3. Reports from County & District Councillors:

None.

4. Continued items:

A) Traffic, transport & related items:

The Clerk reported an email enquiry from Cllr Brown relating to continued problems with grain lorries in Wimbish Green Lane; this referred to the weight limit on the bridge at Princes Well. ECC Highways have given an assurance that the bridge has been approved for heavy vehicles.

A letter has been received from Mrs Sarah Brignal relating to traffic in Sampford Road; this has been referred to ECC Highways for comment. It was noted that the 'Walkers in Road' sign from by 'The Plough' has disappeared.

The Clerk also reported that he has enquired of ECC Highways regarding availability of flashing speed monitoring signs.

Cllr Smith mentioned the failure of a repair to a pot-hole in Ashdon Road/Mill End between Purkis & Cut Bush Farm on East side of road.

Cllr Jarvis mentioned a pothole in Princes Well near Senyab.

The Chairman has received a communication from John Whitehead referring to the smooth and slippery blue tar macadam surface of Wimbish Green Lane between The Grange and Warners Farm.

Concern was expressed about the surface of Walden Road by Radwinter Manor.

Cllr Halls noted that the brambles obstructing the gate by the entrance to footpath 67 have still not been cleared.

The Clerk will raise all these matters with ECC Highways.

The overgrown tree by 11 East View Close was still awaiting attention; it was agreed that this would be done by the Cllr Halls.

Cllr Smith raised the matter of the abolition of the Saffron Walden Road Safety Committee without any prior warning. The Chairman stated that this matter had already been raised by several at the North Area Liaison Meeting; he would check what was going to be done at the meeting on the following day.

B) Village improvement:

The Clerk reported receipt of emails stating that the village website is now operational; it is www.Radwinter.org. Thanks were formally recorded for the work of Graham Schneider, Dave Smith and Helen Brown.

Cllr Halls stated that the dates of the Boot Sales this year were 30 April, 28 May, 2 July and 27 August with the fete. The Clerk would inform UDC Environmental Services so that they could arrange provision of bulk waste skips. It was noted that there is still rubbish being left by the glass waste skips; Mr Rust was thanked for clearing it.

It was agreed that we should enter for this year's 'Best Kept Village' competition.

It was noted that the application for a Rock Concert by Mr Neil Radcliffe had been rejected by UDC Licensing officer as being incomplete, and that he would need to re-apply.

C) Low Cost Housing:

The Clerk reported that he and the Chairman had met Mr Henry Turtill and a colleague and representatives of UDC at the Council Offices on 17th January and had a useful discussion. Bidwells would be drawing up a schema. The Clerk has also been in touch with Mrs Raiment who has said that her requirements are modest; she would provide a drawing of what she had in mind.

D) Parish Plan:

Cllr Smith reported that they had all the required information and would be preparing an interim Village Appraisal for approval by the Parish Council in the next few weeks. They would then be circulated to all who had been involved. A final Parish Plan will be printed probably early next year. The Clerk stated that UDC would assist with this.

Cllr Smith apologised on behalf of the Plan Committee for the spurious document which Bidwells had obtained; he was at a loss to understand why such a document had been disseminated. The Chairman said that he and the Clerk had been much discomforted at a meeting with Bidwells and UDC that such a document had been produced, and sincerely hoped that steps would be taken to prevent a repetition.

E) Recreation Ground:

Cllr Halls reported that a number of members of the committee were considering retiring and that its continued existence was in doubt. The Chairman reminded all that in such a case the duties would revert to the Council which would cause considerable problems. He asked that this be given careful thought. It was agreed that a joint meeting of the Council and Committee would be helpful.

The Clerk reported that he had been in discussion with Brian Hyett of the Bowls Club regarding the construction of a path to the play area and that they now seemed lukewarm; he was instructed to remind them that funds are available.

The Clerk has received an email from Mark Fanthorpe regarding our funding of projects for the Ground.

It was confirmed that we would fund the provision of a shelter for the play area; the part cost of a path to the Bowls Club and play area; provision of plastic doors to the toilet block; refurbishment of the car-park; part cost of repairs to the cricket pavilion roof. The other items on his list were to be discussed at the joint meeting.

Cllr Jarvis passed to the Clerk a copy of the original lease dated 14th November 1953.

The Clerk gave Cllr Halls details of a drainage contractor.

F) Village Hall Complex:

The Clerk reported that the Mr & Mrs Bowles had terminated their lease of Hall Cottage w.e.f. 12th February; they had not given the requisite notice, nor had their possessions been cleared. On discussion with FDPM it was agreed to give Mrs Bowles until 26th on payment of appropriate rent to clear her property after which we would remove them; this is still not done. Quotations have been obtained for the refurbishment of the bathrooms in both Hall and Walden Road Cottages, within the next 3 weeks; these were:-

Hall Cottage – TIAMCO £1595; H W Bartlett £193.59

Walden Road Cottage – TIAMCO £1350; H W Bartlett £1868.59

The contract was given to David Potts t/a TIAMCO who commenced work on 27th February.

On investigation it was found that the water supply to Hall Cottage had no stop-cock, and it was agreed that this should be fitted; the polystyrene ceiling tiles in the bathroom also had to be removed and the ceiling made good. Rob Anderson has been engaged to repair a leaded light window in the living room.

The Clerk reported that Mr James Cox had been interviewed and accepted as tenant w.e.f. 15th March. We have foregone a month's rent on the understanding that Mr Cox will redecorate the property and lay new carpets.

A quote has been obtained for the provision of new blinds in the Village Hall of £595 from Saffron Blinds; a second quote was requested and Cllr Simmonds will obtain one.

G) Neighbourhood Watch:

No further 'ringmaster' reports have been received. The Steering Group is being more powers and will issue an information pack. Their next meeting is on 8th April.

5. Finance:

A) Statement:

The RFO reported funds of £15913 current, £43944 reserve, giving £59857 in total.

B) Approval of current expenditure:

The following accounts were awaiting settlement:-

AON £1646.22 (Village Hall insurance); BT £51.54 (PO phone); UVB £5 (m'ship); ECC £2 (statement of

footpath routes); J Hardisty £33.06 (Ch expenses); R A Jones £74.11 (Clerk's expenses). In addition a letter was read proposing a donation of £200 to the Saffron Screen in return for tickets for a draw for residents. This and the other payments were approved.

C) Verge Cutting:

The quotation of £28/mile from D Low was accepted.

D) Other projects:

The following action has been taken so far:

Car Park: A quotation of £920 for the repair of car-park and entrance was accepted.

Village sign: Michael Southgate has been asked to obtain details and quotes.

Bus Shelter: Planning consent is not required

Footpath Guide: ECC have sent a copy of the definitive statement relating to Radwinter footpaths, which will provide a basis for the guide; copies given to Chairman & Cllrs Halls & Brown.

Street Light at Bridgefoot: details have been sent to ECC Highways for approval.

Chiropodist visit: Di Redfern has expressed strong support and will obtain names of practitioners.

Youth Club: no contact has been made with Lorraine.

St Mary's Church has accepted our offer of payment for the maintenance of the clock up to £180.

An offer of membership of the Open Spaces Society for £30 was declined

6. Planning:

applications, decisions and related matters:

A) Approvals:

UTT/1905/05/FUL – 3 Church Hill: 1 storey rear extn – J Goodfellow

UTT/1919/05/FUL – 4 Church Hill: 1 storey rear extn – R Steenkamp

B) Circulated:

UTT/0058/06/FUL – Bank House Sampford Road: rear extn – O'Brien & Robertson – no objection

UTT/0064/06/FUL – 8 East View Close: rear extn – S Hassell – no objection

UTT/0081/06/FUL – The Cliff Radwinter End: rear & side 2 storey extn – G Pitt – no objection

UTT/0160/06/FUL & 0161/06/LB – Hockhams Sampford Road: 1 storey rear extn – B Brignal

7. Correspondence

A) Meetings

07 Mar – UDC Parish Liaison Mtg – UDC SW 7.30

16 Mar – EERA – end of consultation on E of E plan (EALC have commented)

18 Mar – SLCC AGM & trg day – Danbury 09.30

22 Mar – NHS Mental Health Trusts – mtg UDC SW 7.00 (details in circ pack)

22 Mar – end of consultation on Ambulance trusts (details in circ. pack)

24 Mar – BAA Stansted – end consultation on future development (disc in circ. pack)
– UALC have commented)

A pack feb06/1 of non-priority items was handed to Cllr Simmonds for circulation.

B) Other business and reports:

The Chairman reported on his attendance at West Area Forum. The Chairman also reported that he has been elected Chairman of UALC; he is also temporarily acting as Secretary.

8. Next Meeting:

Already arranged for 10th April – Annual Parish Meeting at which all Councillors will give reports.

Cllr Simmonds tendered her apologies.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm