

Radwinter Parish Council

www.radwinter.net
radwinterparishcouncil@gmail.com
Tel: 01440 731964 / 07766 112536

The Clerk, Herkstead Green Bungalow, Cornish Hall End
Braintree, Essex CM7 4HH

Minutes of **Radwinter Parish Council** held on Monday 26th October 2020, via Zoom

Present Cllr Richardson
Cllr Davidson
Cllr Duck
Cllr Williams
Cllr Halls
Cllr Boyden

DC Lee
Cathryn Carlisle (Clerk)

20/159 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Rains
CC Walsh

20/160 Members of the public are welcome to attend the Parish Council meeting. Those wishing to speak or raise any issue are requested to do so at.

There were none present

20/161 Members' Declarations of interest

Cllr Duck Recreation Ground and VHMC
Cllr Richardson VHMC

20/162 Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 28th September 2020, were approved as a true record of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Halls Second Cllr Williams

20/163 Clerks Report

The Clerk reported she had had the External Audit back and was given a clear audit opinion. The Council congratulated the Clerk on this improvement over prior years.

20/164 District Councils Report

The PC were saddened to hear about the death of DC Storah, the Clerk had sent the Council's condolences to the District Council.

DC Lees has offered to look after Radwinter until an election can take place (expected to be in 2021).

- DC are still heavily engaged with the Covid 19 situation
- DC Council had inherited a £3.3m short fall, but with good investments has managed to get the money back, enabling a £1.0m budget to tackle climate change issues, and also a reinstatement of the DC 'Ward Initiative' grant, which is £2,000 per ward. DC Lees invited applications for Radwinter's share of this.

20/165 County Councillors

CC Report was sent out earlier in the month.

20/166 Recreation Ground Update

20/166 Refurbishment of the old toilet block and tree work

The Recreation Ground Committee (RRGC) had written to the Council to request assistance in (i) reducing the size of the hedge on the north side of the Rec and (ii) refurbishing the toilet block.

The Council noted that the lease between the Council and RRGC requires that the Committee be responsible for all refurbishments (other than the car park) (Cl 2.2) and the maintenance of hedges (Cl 2.3), as well as maintaining the existing facilities in good condition (Cl 2.4).

The RRGC have not provided any estimates or quotes for the work that needs to take place. This will be necessary as part of any application to the Council for a grant, per the Council's Policies.

The Council noted that the RRGC have been selected for a National Lottery grant, although the value is not yet known. The Council considered that the RRGC might apply for other grants such as the Emergency CIF Grant, the DC Ward Initiative grant and certain CC grants.

The Clerk suggested that RRGC might have grounds for saying that the toilet refurbishment is required due to Covid 19 (as Rec users cannot go into the pavilions to use the toilets).

The Clerk and Chairman were requested to draft a letter to the RRGC setting out these points and explaining the Council's Policy on grant awards.

20/167 Finance:

To agree the following payments:

20/167.1		Cathryn Carlisle –	salary Oct	BACS
20/167.2	£121.71	SSE	Electricity	d/d
20/167.3	£14.40	Cathryn Carlisle	Clerk Expenses Oct	Bacs
20/167.4	£48.38	A & J Lighting	Maintenance	D/D
20/167.5	£56.68	BT	Telephone	D/D
20/167.6	£147.00	Outdoor Jack	Grass Cutting	Bacs
20/167.10	£10.00	100 Parishes	Subs	Bacs
20/167.11	£360.00	PKF Little John	Audit	Bacs

Payments were approved by all members of the council present.

20/167.7 Monthly Budget and Bank Reconciliation

Theses were sent out prior to the meeting

20/167.8 Budget Working Sheet

The Council have the 2021/22 budget sheet to review before the next meeting.

20/167.9 Bank Account update

The Clerk was please to inform the Council that the new bank account was now open. The Clerk can now do online banking which will help due to the council not being able to meet in person. The Council congratulated the Clerk on a successful conclusion to this process.

20/168 Recent Planning Applications:

UTT/20/2378/FUL | Erection of 2 no. new dwellings with new single access from Hempstead Road | Land At Plough Ridge Walden Road Radwinter Essex

The Council noted that this application followed a number of previous unsuccessful applications, as noted in the 'Design and Access Statement'. This document suggests that previous issues have been resolved, however, the Council felt that many of their previous concerns were still not satisfied. The following points were noted:

1. The Parish Council continue to believe that 'ribbon development' on agricultural land outside the village envelope should be resisted. The location of 'Plough Ridge' is outside the village envelope, on agricultural land.
2. The proposed access to the highway is dangerous, given the volume of traffic, especially considering the nearness of the Plough Inn (which makes the junction very busy). In particular, the 'Block Plan' does not show the traffic calming layout, and that the proposed vision splay would interfere with this.

3. The development will be extremely prominent as it sits on a ridge of land, and the proposed houses are two storeys (rather than the single storey bungalows previously proposed). As such they will dominate the surrounding properties.
4. The site appears to be being deliberately neglected in recent years, (as noted in the 'Updated Ecological Report 2019') in an attempt to remove the LoWS designation - currently a barrier to development - since the site does not (now) meet the new site selection criteria. The Ecological Report (2017) notes that some plants are uncommon, that the grassland is 'notable', and that 'ecologically valuable habitats' exist on the site.
5. The village already has a significant number of large 5 bedroom houses as proposed in this development. There is no provision for low cost housing and both properties will be unaffordable by younger couples and families.

In view of these issues, the Council objects to this planning application.

20/1168.1 Planning Results

UTT/20/1853/FUL Change of use of existing domestic ancillary outbuilding, use-class C3 to retail village shop, use-class A1 Coules Barn Walden Road **withdrawn**

UTT/19/3104/FUL Land At 2 Mill End Cottages Ashdon Road Erection of 1 no. detached dwelling with associated landscaping works and new vehicular access
Appeal

UTT/20/1481/FUL Proposed erection of 1 no. dwelling and cartlodge 9 Princes Well Radwinter

20/169 Highways and Footpaths

20/169.1 temporarily closure of Footpath 85, Radwinter from its junction with Princes Wells, north east for approximately 170 metres to its junction with Footpath 84, Radwinter.

The Footpath will be closed for 6 months, as it has been collapsing due to erosion of the riverbank. The Council will watch this closure very carefully as they believe there is a danger that the closure may become permanent if County thinks it too costly to repair.

20/169.2 The footpath at Bridgefoot needs widening due to motorise scooters and wheelchair users not having enough room.

The Clerk to complete a LHP Form to see if this can be done.

20/170 Stocking Green update Cllr Davidson to Report

Cllr Davidson remarked that the letter from the Parish Council to James Briggs was very much appreciated.

20/171 Reports from Councillors with matters affecting the village

We are waiting for the old Recreation Ground Jubilee gates to be collected and refurbished. Cllr Richardson to chase.

20/172 Neighbourhood Plan Update

Cllr Richardson reported that the steering group had met, and the group has decided that they need to do some more surveys, ie school and businesses to widen the evidence base. They are hoping to do an exhibition in the spring next year Covid 19 permitting. The Clerk has names of people who The Salings use to do consultations etc if the group need them.

20/173 Consultations

20/174 Land at the Rear of Gillon Way

The Clerk has written to the Solicitors asking that the grass be cut before the council take over this land. The Council agree that the area should be handed over in good order not as it is now. It was noted that one of the residents has planted on one corner of the land, and the Clerk was asked to make it clear to the developer that the boundary should be properly delineated before the Council assume responsibility.

200/175 Matters to be raised by members for the next agenda

20/176 Date of the next Meeting will be on 30th Nov 2020

20/177 Meeting Closed at 8.47pm

Signed.....

Dated.....