

Radwinter Parish Council

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Minutes of **Radwinter Parish Council meeting** held on Tuesday 25th June 2024, at Radwinter Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Richardson, Cllr Halls, Cllr Gerhard, Cllr Duck, Cllr Boyden
DCllr Tayler
Luke Brown (Clerk)

0 member(s) of the public

Minutes

24/41 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Davidson, Cllr Rains, Cllr Foley

Resolution: Accept apologies of absence.

Proposed: Cllr Richardson **Seconded:** Cllr Halls

24/42 Public Forum

None present.

24/43 Members' Declarations of interest

None for this agenda.

24/44 Minutes

Resolution: Approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 28th May 2024 as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr Duck **Seconded:** Cllr Halls

24/45 District & County Councillors Reports (APPENDIX A)

DCllr Tayler gave their report to the council, noting that because of election purdah he was constrained in what he could say. He updated on the Local Plan progress, and on the issues with motor cycles racing at speed through neighbouring parishes – it was noted that this is also an issue that affects Radwinter.

24/46 Clerks Report

Cllr Richardson (acting Clerk) reported that the person who had put themselves forward as Clerk and who had been interviewed was no longer responding to emails or call, and seems to have withdrawn. Cllr Richardson had contacted a number of other candidates, but none seemed to want to move forward. Cllr Halls said that he had spoken to a possible Locum, but he was not interested in the role. Cllr Richardson was now searching for other Locums who might step in, but there were very few of these. In the meantime he has taken over as Acting Clerk and RFO, and will endeavour to provide a minimum level of service.

All agreed that the situation was very unsatisfactory and all Councillors will take steps to identify possible candidates.

24/47 Action Tracker

None tabled.

24/48 Finance

The Council thanked Mrs Richardson who has stepped in to maintain the books in the absence of a permanent Clerk. It was noted that there are issues with online banking in the absence of a Clerk: Cllr Richardson and Gerhard will attempt to deal with this in the coming weeks.

Resolution: Agree payments for this month.

Proposed: Cllr Halls **Seconded:** Cllr Gerhard

24/48.0 Budget

The budget was reviewed.

24/48.1 Grants

None received.

24/48.2 Insurance

The Clerk had been unable to renew the insurance before he left. The renewal is due by 16 July 2024. Cllr Richardson will endeavour to complete the formalities.

24/49 AGAR

The Council was presented with the following documents:

- Confirmation of the dates of the period for the exercise of public rights 2023-24
- AGAR Form 3, including the full AIAR
- Bank Reconciliation
- Explanation of variances
- Audit Contact Details

The Council also received the Internal Auditors report.

24/49.1 Annual Governance Return

The Council receive and authorised the Chairman to sign off the Annual Governance Return.

24/49.2 Annual Accountancy Return

The Council receive and authorised the Chairman to sign off the Annual Accountancy Return.

The Chairman to be authorised to communicate with the external auditor PKF to finalise the necessary procedures.

Proposed: Cllr Gerhard

Seconded: Cllr Halls

24/50 Planning

Consider new applications:

UTT/24/1469/LB Replace front garden wall with hedge and pedestrian gate with piers. Replace garage window with French Doors \ The Old Coach House, Church Hill, Radwinter.

Expiry Date 11 July 2024

No comment.

24/51 Recreation Ground & Pavilion

Cllr Duck reported that there were issues with the contract to cut the Recreation Ground, and that discussions were to be held with the contractor. Cllr Richardson suggested that it might be necessary to look again at the arrangements by which the Parish Council make a donation to help with grass cutting and consider whether this activity might be taken on directly by the Council.

Action: Cllr Richardson to discuss with Rec Committee.

24/52 Village Hall

Cllr Richardson reported that work was well advanced on the cupola restoration, and this was expected to be completed in the next month.

24/53 Highways and Footpaths

24/53.0 Footpath from Gillon Way to the School

Representations had been received from a Parishioner asking whether anything could be done to clear the overgrown footpath from Gillon Way to the School. It was noted that although the path is on Essex CC 'cutting list' the timetable is such that no cut is likely before September. It was proposed that instead of waiting for the Essex CC cut, a quote be obtained to do the work. It was resolved that Cllr Richardson be empowered to obtain the quote and if satisfactory, to authorise the work.

Proposed: Cllr Duck **Seconded:** Cllr Halls

24/53.1 Footpath 85

No update.

24/53.2 Parking

It was unclear whether the Clerk had been able to send the petition before he left. Cllr Richardson to follow up.

24/53.3 Speed Indicators

No update.

24/53.4 Traffic Calming

County Cllr Foley and District Cllr Taylor had visited the village on 14th June with Sarah Tomlin, Highway Liaison Officer with Essex highways. They reported that the traffic calming to the west of the village is in general quite poor condition which may lead to it being less effective than it should be - many of the signs are dirty and blocked by vegetation, the coloured road surface and painted roundels as well as the centre and give way lining is faded, and there is also a pothole on the southern side of the road which has been previously temporarily repaired but the repair is failing.

Ms Tomlin has reported the vegetation blocking signs under reference: 2925837, the faded markings under reference 2925840 and the pothole in the road at this point under reference 2925848. The reports

will result in an Inspector making an assessment of the site in accordance with the Highway Maintenance Strategy. She believes that some of the overgrown vegetation is likely to be the responsibility of the adjacent landowner, so it will probably require an enforcement letter to them; she noted that these matters can take some time to be actioned, we are in bird nesting season which will likely mean nothing can be done at present.

Fundamentally, Ms Tomlin considers that the correct advance warning and signs at the feature itself are present and correct, however the poor condition of the signage, surfacing and lining here could lead to poor speed compliance at this traffic calming feature.

Ms Tomlin also reported the faded centre line hatching at the crossroads with Water Lane under 925844.

Cllrs commented that the pothole at the traffic calming has been repaired on numerous occasions, but keeps coming back - this seems to be a very common issue around the village where we have a considerable number of potholes, many of which have been repaired time and again, but very badly, leading to repeated failures. The recent repairs in Water Lane (2923981) and Maple Lane (2907780) are examples of this. Cllrs questioned whether such repeated temporary repairs such as these are good value for money as compared to proper long term repairs.

24/54 Stocking Green update

Cllr Gerhard gave a brief update.

24/55 Land at the Rear of Gillon Way

No update. Cllr Taylor requested that he be given full particulars so that he could take up the issue with UDC Enforcement. **Action:** Cllr Richardson

24/37 Neighbourhood Plan Update

Cllr Richardson reported that planning was well advanced for the NHP Exhibition in the Village Hall on 29 June, and in the Pavilion Drinks on 30 June. This Exhibition would set out the feedback from the recent Survey, and invite further comment on the emerging areas which are to be covered by the NHP. The next phase will be the development of draft policies based on the feedback received. Cllr Richardson noted that there were likely to be some expenses from the Exhibition, which would be charged against the reserves set aside for this activity.

24/38 Matters to be Raised by Members for the Next Agenda

HR Committee.

24/39 Date of the Next Meeting

Monday 29th July

24/40 Meeting Close @ 8:20 PM

Signed.....

Dated.....

APPENDIX A – UDC and Essex CC Reports

For me the most important issues at UDC with which I have been involved this month have included licensing training, and continued involvement in the local plan.

Last week there were two meetings of the Local Plan Panel -one workshop, one open public meeting. At the closed workshop, final chapters of the plan were discussed including how rural areas will be affected , and how policy S7 (building in the countryside will be replaced). There was much discussion of the water and housing policies, and also chalk streams. Principally, because of the overriding effect of the general election, and purdah, there has been a short delay with the final presentation of the local plan to full council (Reg 19). This should now occur on 30th July, which still means that the time table is on track.(or possibly a two week delay in the presentation of the plan I hope that through the diligence of the officers and local plan panel, the Plan will be agreed by full Council, which will finally mean that the dominant developer lead planning will cease and we can begin, with the hopeful adoption of a New local Plan, to have order created, with appropriate infrastructure and the development of services and housing which will meet the needs of our communities. This should include adequate affordable housing. Within our ward it should mean that the risk of inappropriate housing development will be reduced, but I also hope that the local community will have the opportunity to shape what housing and services are most appropriate for its residents. This may be through Neighbourhood Plans.

Councillors and residents may find this interesting and apposite(A note from Cllr John Evans (Stebbing Ward) Colleagues in the rural areas will have encountered frequently issues connected with “packs” of motorcyclists travelling dangerously and at high speed, in breach of speed limits upon our rural roads The stretch of road from Great Dunmow, via Bran End (Stebbing), Great Bardfield and to Finchingfield is known as the “Bardfield Bends” and is even publicised often in Motor Cycle News as providing thrilling ride conditions, as the road meanders and twists its way along (with 40 mph in Bran End and approaching Bardfield etc) This incident happened earlier this month and it is gratifying that the individual was convicted, fined and his machine confiscated. This reference by the Police Officer to the following programme might be useful to be brought to the attention of residents. The problem is that the rear number plate of these machines is very often obscured/deliberately

Extra Eyes Help us reduce road collisions and casualties in Essex and make our roads even safer. Report instances of poor and dangerous driving through Safer Essex Roads Partnership's Extra Eyes initiative. More than ever, irresponsible, dangerous and illegal road behaviour is being recorded by road users. Through Extra Eyes this footage can be sent to, and reviewed by, an investigator within Road Policing at Essex Police. Find out how by visiting Safer Essex Roads Partnership website

Mike Tayler (UDC)

APPENDIX B
June Payments

June 2024 Payments

Date	Supplier	Description	Invoice	FPO/DD	Min Ref	Rec	Credit	Debit	VAT	Net	
Opening Balance							49,932.71				
01/06/2024	Employee	Salary - May	N/A	BACS				382.50		382.50	
01/06/2024	Employee	Expenses - May	N/A	BACS				74.80		74.80	
01/06/2024	HMRC	TAX	N/A	BACS				6.20		6.20	
01/06/2024	Jack Roberts	Grass Cutting	1477/1502	BACS				201.85		201.85	
01/06/2024	Hundred Parish Society	Membership fee	N/A	BACS				10.00		10.00	
	SSE	Electricity		DD				2.35	0.11	2.24	
	BT Group	Internet		DD				47.10	7.85	39.25	
	A&J Lighting	Lighting	38344	DD				48.38	8.06	40.32	
	Jack Roberts	Grass Cutting	1526	BACS				95.70		95.70	
	CW Low	Verge Trimming	N/A	BACS				579.60	96.60	483.00	
Totals							49,932.71	1,448.48	112.62	1,335.86	
											48,484.23