

Radwinter Parish Council

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Minutes of **Radwinter Parish Council meeting** held on Monday 29th July 2024, at Radwinter Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Richardson, Cllr Halls, Cllr Gerhard, Cllr Duck, Cllr Boyden, Cllr Davidson, Cllr Rains
2 member(s) of the public

Minutes

24/61 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Tayler, Cllr Foley

Resolution: Accept apologies of absence.

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

24/62 Public Forum

One member of the public enquired who was responsible for the land between Gillon Way and the River Pant as they were concerned about a tree becoming dangerous. He was informed that the land had not been transferred to the Council as yet and so the responsibility still lies with Enterprise Residential Development Ltd. Contact details were provided after the meeting.

One member of the public said they were concerned by the high speed of traffic on Plough Hill, and what was the Council doing about it. It was explained that this was an Essex Highways issue; the Council has expressed concerns to the authorities on numerous occasions, with the support of Cllrs Tayler and Foley.

24/63 Members' Declarations of interest

None for this agenda.

24/64 Minutes

Resolution: Approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 25th June 2024 as a true record.

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

24/65 District & County Councillors Reports (APPENDIX A)

DCllr Tayler had sent a report to the Council, which was noted.

24/66 Clerks Report

Cllr Richardson (acting Clerk) reported that he had contacted EALC, but they had no suitable locums registered and could not help further. He had also contacted the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CAPALC) to see if they had any locums, and had been given one name; he would contact the person as soon as possible.

The Council had received an approach from a further person who was considering putting themselves forward. The Council welcomed this and asked Cllr Richardson to do what he could to facilitate the applicant. In the meantime Cllr Richardson will continue as Acting Clerk and RFO, and will endeavour to provide a minimum level of service.

24/67 **Action Tracker**

None tabled.

24/68 **Finance**

Cllr Richardson reported that all AGAR documentation had been submitted and he was dealing with a small number of queries.

No payments list was provided since it had not been possible to prepare one in time for the meeting. It was noted that a number of payments were outstanding, and a number of invoices expected within the next few weeks for wildflower seeds (approved at the last meeting) and for the Neighbourhood Plan expenses in relation to the recent exhibition.

24/68.1 **Budget 2024/25**

No budget was available for review

24/68.2 **Review any grant applications**

None received. Cllr Richardson was mandated to pay any urgent grants before the next meeting with a maximum limit of £200.

Proposed: Cllr Halls **Seconded:** Cllr Rains

24/68.3 **Granting permission for payments before the next Council meeting in September**

In view of the time which will elapse before the next Council meeting in September, it was proposed that Cllrs Richardson and Gerhard be mandated to make any necessary payments up to an individual payment limit of £300, and to present an account of these for approval at the next meeting.

Proposed: Cllr Halls **Seconded:** Cllr Rains

Cllr Gerhard noted that he had completed all paperwork to enable him to go on the Barclays bank mandate and hoped this would be in place in the near future. The Council approved any necessary further steps to put Cllr Gerhard on the bank mandate.

Proposed: Cllr Halls **Seconded:** Cllr Rains

Cllr Richardson had renewed the insurance (which was required by 16 July 2024) but the payment was now due. The Council approved the payment of the associated premium.

Proposed: Cllr Halls **Seconded:** Cllr Rains

24/69 New Planning Applications

UTT/24/1890/HHF | Replace front garden wall with hedge and pedestrian gate with piers. Replace garage window with french doors | The Old Coach House Church Hill Radwinter Saffron Walden Essex CB10 2SN (**Expiry date 29 August 2024**)

No comment

UTT/24/1712/PAQ3 | Prior Notification of change of use of agricultural building to 2 no. dwellings | Hall Farm Walden Road Radwinter Saffron Walden Essex CB10 2SW (**Expiry date 29 July 2024**)

No comment.

The Council established guidance for itself some time ago regarding whether it would comment on individual planning applications. After discussion, it was concluded that it was appropriate to review that guidance and in particular consider whether more emphasis should be placed on commenting on environmental concerns.

Action: Cllr Richardson to circulate existing guidance for discussion at the next meeting.

24/70 Recreation Ground & Pavilion

Cllr Duck reported that a new contractor had been appointed to cut the Recreation Ground. Cllr Richardson reported that he had not had time to discuss the current arrangements and the potential for changes with the Rec Committee, but would endeavour to do so before the next Council meeting in September.

Action: Cllr Richardson to discuss the current arrangements with the Rec Committee.

24/71 Village Hall

Cllr Halls reported that work on the cupola restoration was almost complete and that the scaffolding would come down in the next few weeks.

24/72 Highways and Footpaths

24/72.1 Footpath 85

No update on Footpath 85.

24/72.2 Footpath from Gillon Way to the School

Cllr Richardson had obtained a quote and sanctioned the work on the Gillon Way footpath as agreed at the last Council meeting. This had now been completed.

24/72.3 Parking petition

The Clerk had not been able to do the petition before he left. Cllr Boyden reported that she would endeavour to complete the work as soon as possible; Cllr Richardson offered to help if necessary.

Action: Cllr Boyden to complete parking petition and submit as soon as possible.

24/72.4 Speed Indicator Project

Cllrs Davidson and Gerhard were seeking quotes for the new speed signs – the first company contacted had gone out of business and so they were looking at other options. There was some discussion on the use of the existing posts, and Cllrs Davidson and Gerhard were asked to progress with the proposal as rapidly as possible.

Action: Cllr Davidson and Gerhard to progress the speed indicator project.

24/72.5 Traffic Calming

It was noted that despite the reporting of various defects by Ms Tomlin of Essex Highways, no remedial action had yet been undertaken.

24/73 Stocking Green update

Cllrs Davidson and Gerhard gave a brief update.

24/74 Land at the Rear of Gillon Way

Cllr Richardson has again chased Peter Stocking of Enterprise. There was some concern that Enterprise may have gone into liquidation. Cllr Richardson would pass the information for Cllr Tayler for follow up with UDC Planning Enforcement.

Action: Cllr Richardson to establish whether Enterprise were still active and if not to identify who was responsible, and to pass details to Cllr Tayler.

24/75 Neighbourhood Plan Update

Cllr Richardson reported that the NHP Exhibition in the Village Hall and Pavilion on 29-30 June had happened and been a success, with over 60 people viewing the exhibition, and considerable feedback generated. The next phase will be the development of draft policies which were expected to be ready by the autumn, for further consultation, and then submission to UDC in late 2024 / early 2025.

Cllr Richardson also reported that Sir Jonathan Parker is actively engaged on trying to promote a collaborative plan involving a number of agencies, the aim of which is to reduce the flood risk to the village caused by the speed of the flow of water in the stretch of the River Pant on his property, while at the same time increasing the ecological environment of that stretch of the river as an amenity for the benefit of the village. The Council expressed its full support for the scheme.

24/76 Matters to be Raised by Members for the Next Agenda

Membership of Sub-Committees
Internal planning guidance review

24/77 Date of the Next Meeting

Monday 30th September 2024

24/78 Meeting Close @ 8:20 PM

Signed.....

Dated.....

APPENDIX A – UDC and Essex CC Reports

Essex CC – no report

UDC: Full Council meeting 16/7/2023

Two motions were particularly relevant to Radwinter.

- The Adoption of the Waste Strategy for Essex. Residents should be informed how this will effect them.
- Constitutional Amendments to Probity in Planning, Public Attendance at Planning Committee, and Delegations.

The amendments arise from the recommendations of the Planning Peer Review team following their assessment of the Council’s Development Management (DM) function in June 2023 and January 2024. This was focused on the quality of decision making on major planning applications. The amendments also formalise planning appeal procedures following the Stansted Airport legal challenge as well as a general review of planning-related good practice. The Council’s DM function is currently ‘designated’ by government.

It was hoped that the adoption of these changes would help the planning functions of the Council return to normal.

I hope that following further reading of these changes I will be able to discuss how they affect both my role as District Councillor and that of the Parish Council when considering planning matters.

Local Plan Panel

At the meeting of the local plan panel on 15/7/2024, we voted that Reg 19 be presented to Cabinet and subsequently to the Full Council on 30/7/2024.

If accepted by members, there will then be an 8 week consultation during which interested parties, which of course includes the Parish Council, comment on the soundness of the plan, before it is presented for inspection, hopefully in January 2024.

This is extremely important, as the Plan would be adopted before changes in the planning system and NPPF might occur, as proposed by the new government.

Community Grant for Community Buildings

As part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Community Grant for Buildings it is possible to apply for up to £10,000 to repair, upgrade and /or address accessibility issues in community buildings such as:

- Village halls
- Community centres
- Church Halls
- Places of worship

Guidance and applications can be made via the UDC website.

The closing date for applications is midday on Thursday 5 September 2024