

MINUTES OF THE RADLEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, 27th APRIL 2012, AT 7.30 PM IN THE CHURCH ROOM, RADLEY.

Those present: Parish Council Chairman J Standen (in the Chair)
Parish Councillors Crowley, Davies, Henderson, Johnston, Pasquire, D Standen, Tomlinson.
Six members of the public and the clerk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from County Councillor Fatemian, Alexis Pym, Mark Jewell, Dot Hewlett and Christine Wootton

2. MINUTES

The clerk read aloud the minutes of the 2011 Annual Parish Meeting.
The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES

FOOTPATH 8: Remedial works were not carried out as reported at the 2010 meeting, but it was hoped that they would be done shortly.

4. CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT ON THE WORK OF THE PARISH COUNCIL:

“First, may I welcome you to tonight’s meeting, and thank you for your interest in the work of your Parish Council. It is always surprising how quickly a year passes, but it is good to have this opportunity to appraise what has been achieved over a twelve-month period.

The Councillors have been involved in regular monthly meetings, plus numerous committees and working parties, to ensure things are kept moving, and I am sure you can imagine the vast amount of discussion that takes place.

Details of the work undertaken by the Parish Council during the last twelve months are given below:

1. Planning Applications:

The Parish Council gives a lot of thought to planning applications and over the twelve months from April 2011, it has responded on 23 planning applications, almost the same number as the year before.

I reported last year that Tuckwells submitted a second CLEUD (Certificate of Lawful and Existing Use and Development for their site. The CLEUD had still not been determined but in January 2012, Tuckwells submitted a planning application for their site, which was dependent, among other conditions on their withdrawing the CLEUD.

This application was approved last week with 21 conditions requested by the Parish Council and residents, and the CLEUD application was withdrawn on Tuesday of this week.

J Curtis and Sons submitted a CLEUD application in December 2010 to which the Council also sent objections, but this has still not been determined, as it is awaiting the Environmental Assessment report which is due for completion in September 2012.

I reported last year that the threat of gravel extraction from the Oxfordshire County Council Mineral Spatial strategy options had been lifted and was finalised this month when Oxfordshire County Council voted to adopt its plan.

2. Highway Matters:

Apart from reporting problems with road and pavement surfaces in the village, the Parish Council has been active in three areas:

School parents identified problems with the condition of the road and pavement on Church Road which they thought made parents reluctant to walk to school and lead to problem parking:

- Councillors have met Highways several times to point out that the pavement narrows too much for buggy and wheelchair users and the Council continues to monitor their plans to make sure that they completely resolve the problem.
- The school identified problems with parking in the bus layby which mean that the bus can't stop and Oxfordshire County Council is moving towards restricting parking. Councillor Howard and I will be meeting representatives of Oxfordshire County Council next month to discuss imposing restrictions on parking in these laybys.
- Radley College has cut back trees and shrubs on the north side of the road so cars have more space to pass without coming on to the pavement, and also improving visibility for pedestrians crossing from the school entrance. Bus drivers have said that they're very pleased with the improved visibility.

The road drains between Woodlands Mobile Home Park and the Sandford Lane bus stop had become blocked. Highways agreed that the huge puddle that formed was unacceptable and they re-laid the drain in the road and reinstated gullies. I am grateful to Councillor Howard for her work in pursuing this to a successful conclusion.

Residents report continual traffic jams and other problems with lorries using Thrupp Lane to get to the businesses and these are reported to Oxfordshire County Council.

We are of course disappointed that the Earth Trust is still unable to go ahead with their exciting plans for an Environmental Centre to replace the old Sandles building at

Thrupp Lake. They applied over a year ago for planning permission, but this was withheld pending evidence of safer access to the lake for pedestrians and cyclists. To this end, Oxfordshire County Council has set up a liaison group comprising all users, landowners and residents on Thrupp Lane to explore alternative access for large vehicles to their respective industries, avoiding residential areas and allowing safer use for pedestrians, cyclists and private cars. This discussion forum is proving to be very positive, with all parties wishing to make progress.

2. **Sports Pavilion, Playing Field and Play Area:**

The Playing Field is used by Radley Youth Football Club, the fete and some private parties. It continues to be well used for all sorts of casual uses and is kept in good condition by Radley College grounds staff.

The Play Area continues to be well used by young children and by older children in the school holidays. Unfortunately, people have been using the litter bin to dump noxious items like paint tins and to dispose of nappies and this is something the Council will have to address.

4. **Police Matters**

- PCSO Adi Wright has attended Parish Council meetings. The Police have held several Have Your Say meetings at the Bowyer Arms and at the station.
- The Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) is very active and has been meeting regularly. Eric Davies has been attending as Parish representative and reports back to the Parish Council about points of interest to the village.
- Speeding continues to be a concern and the police do regular speed checks in the area, particularly in Kennington Road which has been designated a static site so you should see the police van there regularly.
- The Parish Council commissioned a traffic survey for Kennington Road and the box was placed on the brow of the hill outside Pebble Hill for a week in early February and preliminary analysis of the results has been carried out by Councillors Howard and Henderson.
- The Parish Council has passed on complaints about cars parking on bends close to junctions around the station. Both are illegal and PCSO Adi Wright has been asked to speak to the offending drivers. Meanwhile, First Great Western and Network Rail are currently drawing up plans for up to 30 further parking spaces at Radley Station, which we hope will alleviate the problem.

5. Conservation

- The Parish Council is very pleased with the excellent work done by Mr. John Rogerson in helping with litter collection throughout the village. His work is of great benefit to Radley village.
- The Annual Front Garden Competition is continuing for its sixteenth year and is being held on Saturday, 7th July. This has become a very successful event, and is looked forward to each year.

6. Website:

Joyce and John Huddleston have recently retired from the key roles they took in establishing and maintaining the website and the clerk has appealed in Radley News for help with running and hosting the website. The Council is most grateful to Mr & Mrs Huddleston for all the time they gave to the website.

7. Other Matters:

- The Village Shop will shortly celebrate its fifth birthday. Parish Council appreciates the work done by the Management Team and volunteers in maintaining this essential resource for the village.
- The Parish Council's contractor did an excellent job cleaning all the village seats last summer and it should be noted that after the one at Pebble Hill was vandalised it was beautifully repaired by Denis Standen.
- At the end of last year the Parish Council was very pleased to receive the final copy of the Parish Plan, the result of nearly two years' work by the Parish Plan Steering Committee. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Steering Committee, and particularly Councillors Davies and Tomlinson for their dedicated work.
- The Parish Council objected to the review of Parliamentary constituencies which would move Radley to the Henley constituency. The Parliamentary Boundary Commission will report later this year. Local Government boundaries are now also being reviewed, and your Parish Council will follow this carefully to safeguard Radley's interests.
- The Parish Council was pleased to nominate Dot Hewlett and Chris Gasson for High Sherriff's awards giving recognition to people in Oxfordshire who have contributed to the life and well-being of their local communities - the "unsung heroes". The nominations were unsuccessful but the High Sheriff congratulated them on the outstanding contribution they both make to village life.

It has been another busy year and as well as full council and council committee meetings, councillors have attended:

Thrupp Lane liaison meetings

Neighbourhood Action Group meetings

Didcot Power Station liaison meetings

Village Hall Committee meetings

Meetings of the Earth Trust

Oxfordshire County Council and Vale of White Horse planning meetings.

And other meetings concerned with

Electoral review

Neighbourhood Planning

The Parish Council has had the opportunity to comment on numerous reports (more often than not for Councillors to refer to the web to see the details) and the following are a few examples:

Rail Strategy for Oxfordshire

Vale Interim Housing Supply Policy

Oxfordshire Equality Policy

Defra consultation on village greens

Library consultation

OCC waste plan

OCC residential parking policy

I have tried to ensure that Councillors are given the time to discuss matters of importance to the Parish and yet ensure meetings are completed by 9.30 pm. But as you can imagine this is a very difficult task, especially when there are so many matters the Councillors wish to comment on.

Finally, I hope you will join me in thanking all our Parish Councillors for the time and effort they give to Radley, and on behalf of my fellow councillors, I would like to give a heartfelt thank-you to our clerk, Jane, who does far more than I can to keep us all in order!"

It was noted that the J Curtis CLEUD application had been determined and refused. Cr Crowley told the meeting that the threat of gravel extraction had not gone away. A Renewal of Old Planning Permission was in place and this affected Nyett's Field on the edge of the parish. Under new legislation the ROMP would expire if not used, but it was affecting other items.

The Parish Council had supported the recent planning application by Tuckwells as it was thought that it provided the best chance of reducing traffic in Thrupp Lane.

5. FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND REPORT

Cr Crowley, as Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee reported on this item. (Appended to the minutes)

The meeting asked why the Council had thought it necessary to increase its budget for the coming year. The clerk explained that this had been due to an increase in the donations budget, some items being carried over from the previous year and increases anticipated in running costs, as well as £3600 for repairs to Footpath 8.

Cr Tomlinson noted her gratitude for the new litter bin which had been installed in Foxborough Road.

6. REPORTS FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS:

Radley Guides: A report by Wendy Faulkner is appended to the minutes)

Mrs Standen stated that the Parish Council is pleased to be able to support the Guides and the excellent job the guiders do. Parish Council members had attended meetings and found them a very uplifting experience.

Radley Parish Plan:

Cr Standen noted the large amount of work that had gone into preparing the plan by the steering committee and people who helped with the questionnaires.

Cr Davies thanked the village as a whole for their interest and for taking time to answer the questionnaire.

Radley Village Hall – Report received from Graham Collett, Chairman

“We have had another reasonably good year with bookings up on last year, and so continue to keep our heads above water. The fortnightly bingo gives us much needed funds for our refurbishment programme which has enabled us to go ahead with upgrading the ladies and gents toilets this month.

Our committee continue to work hard to safeguard the future of the hall and collectively we hope this is appreciated by all.

Other works on the horizon if money allows is the painting of the outside of hall, an overhaul of our heating system and a repaint in the kitchen.

We value the support of all the groups that use our facilities and hope to provide you all with a community hall to be proud of.”

It was noted that the Youth Club had new leaders and was doing very well.

Friends of Radley Station – Report by Denis Standen (Hon Chairman)

Cr Standen reported that the Friends were concerned at parking deficiencies and hoped that they would be addressed shortly.

He requested a volunteer for the position of Parish Transport Representative, who needn't come from the Parish Council, to attend 4 times yearly meetings and pass on comments from the parish.

Cr Standen thanked all the people who had donated flowers: John Homewood provided wall flowers and one of the regular Garden Competition judges often donated plants, as did Radley College.

Radley Village Shop - Mrs Joyce Huddleston reported on behalf of Bob Earl, Chairman of the Radley Village Shop Association

“The past year at Radley Village Shop has been one of consolidation following the purchase of the lease in spring 2011 and the move to an electronic point-of-sale till in November 2010.

One of the highlights was the news in January that the shop had been highly commended in the community-owned shops category of the Oxfordshire Village Shop of the Year 2011 organised by Oxfordshire Rural Community Council. The competition, which celebrates the best in rural retailing in Oxfordshire, is held every two years and is exclusively for village shops and post offices. The judges noted the strong support in the community for Radley Village Shop and acknowledged its role as ‘the hub of the village’. They also praised the good range of products on sale and its ability to achieve so much in such a small space. The shop is one of 18 community shops in Oxfordshire and has made the shortlist each time it has entered the Village Shop of the Year competition.

February saw our second routine food safety visit from one of the Vale’s inspectors. Following her visit the shop was rated ‘good’ under the national Food Hygiene Rating Scheme and we have extended our record-keeping yet again to meet her requirements.

Mike Sadler stood down as chairman of the management committee at the AGM in May 2011 after two years in the role including overseeing the purchase of lease. The new chairman is Bob Earl, who was already well acquainted with the shop having acted as maintenance manager since overseeing the fitting out of the shop back in 2007. One of the outcomes of a review of responsibilities following the election of a new committee was the setting up of a marketing group whose work can be seen in the posters in the shop window and on the advertising boards outside promoting our range of products.

Our community notice boards continue to be well used and the charity box now supports 11 local groups on a monthly rotation. The community spirit was illustrated by the success of the home-grown fruit and vegetable scheme last summer supported by 27 different growers from around the village. A major innovation was the display stall outside the shop, which attracted considerable attention leading to estimated takings totalling some £500. During the winter the stall turned into a unit for promotional displays inside the shop.

The end-of-year profits for 2011 were down on those for 2010 but by less than the interest now being paid on the mortgage taken out to buy the lease. Even so the committee will be recommending to next month’s AGM that £1000 should be distributed by the end of 2012 to social and charitable projects within the community served by the shop. If approved by the members at the AGM this will be the first time this has happened.

None of this would be possible without our shop manager and our dedicated team of volunteers who either serve in the shop or work behind the scenes (or indeed do both). A

number of new people have joined the team over the past year (more are always welcome), though others have left for various reasons. Sadly January saw the death of one of our original volunteers, Maureen Hill.

Radley Village Shop celebrates its fifth birthday in May. We've come a long way in five years and hope to be here for many more serving both those living in Radley and those coming to Radley for whatever reason."

It was commented that the shop is very much appreciated by the village.

Friends of Radley Lakes – Report from Ms Lynda Pasquire

Friends of Radley Lakes have been quiet of late awaiting the Radley Wetland Centre planning application, waiting to see what there will be to fundraise for.

There would be Open Gardens in May and September.

It was a concern that Alexis Pym was leaving the Earth Trust on 30th May and this would be a great loss.

Earth Trust: A written report was received from Alexis Pym and read by Ms Lynda Pasquire and is appended to the minutes.

There had been some reports of vandalism, particularly to the Lily Shelter, and this was reported to the Earth Trust and repairs carried out as soon as possible.

Radley News – Report by Ann Blake.

"Radley News is a monthly publication costing a mere 50p. We use Copycat for printing, being a very helpful and accommodating business. We print 360 copies each month with anything from 28 to 40 pages. There are 3 editors to spread the local and this has worked well to date.

We keep ourselves afloat by advertising and also, this year, by a donation of £250 from Radley Parish Council for which many thanks and we hope you will consider this an annual event. There has been a smallish loss (under £100) and we have increased the advertising costs by a small amount. We hope to be able to have the occasional coloured front page if costs will allow. It will all help to sell in our outlets – the Bowyer Arms, Village Shop, Post Office and Martins at Peachcroft.

Margaret Lovell has been responsible for the initial distribution of Radley News to a team of further distributors in and around Radley. Margaret is moving away from the village in the near future and will be very much missed by us not only for her organisational skills but for keeping a tight ship with regard to wastage. So we will need to look for another distributor who will be backed up by me, Ann Blake one of the editors, the other two are Elizabeth Handscomb and Judy Harris. "

Cr Standen commented that the Parish Council was pleased to make a donation to the Radley News.

In answer to a question from the floor, Mrs Blake reported that sales were fairly static. Mrs Lowell was keen not to have any over and most months they are sold out at the Post Office and shop.

There was some discussion on whether the publication would reach more people if it were free, but this would mean that there would have to be more advertising and costs would have to be increased.

Mrs Tomlinson stated that the Parish Plan had highlighted that the Radley News was key to communications in the community.

Radley History Club - Report by Mrs Christine Wootton, read by Mrs Ann Blake:

“The highlight of the past year was the exhibition held in Radley Village Hall in July with a theme of Farms and Families from 1600 to the present day. The hall was filled with a wonderful exhibition of farming implements and memorabilia and it also included displays of information about many Radley families. The attendance over the weekend was very high and the club received many very complimentary comments. A pleasing number of members contributed to the book of the same title as the exhibition, which was launched that weekend, and sales were brisk, resulting in a reprint soon afterwards.

The club’s publications continue to sell well mainly through our presence at Radley events but also through the village shop and on the Internet.

Our membership now stands at over 80 and most meetings are very well attended. We have had some excellent speakers and the programme for next year looks just as interesting.

The project sub-committee of the club is planning to extend the number of ‘A tale to tell’ audio recordings of local people now that new equipment has been purchased. It is also planning to begin a project in the autumn about the industries in Radley and occupations of its people other than agricultural.

The club could not function as well as it does without the hard-working committee and the support of its members and I would like to express my appreciation to all of them.”

Radley Retirement Group Report – Report from Mrs Maureen Varju.

“2011 was a busy year for the hundred plus members of Radley Retirement Group. We had a full programme of interesting and varied speakers at our monthly meetings as well as numerous successful outings including a tour of the sites for the London Olympics and a Christmas shopping trip to Clark’s Village. We had a day by the sea at Weston-Super-Mare and evening trips to the Greyhound racing at Oxford and horse racing at Newbury. We also enjoyed our anniversary lunch, summer and Christmas parties and our holidays on Jersey – including the bonus of flying from Oxford Airport- and our pre-Christmas break at the excellent Palace Hotel in Paignton. We have supported local village activities such as the Fete and the Christmas Bazaar. Our average attendance at our monthly meetings is around seventy and we hope this success will continue long into the future. “

Radley Lunch Club Report 2012- A written report was received from Mrs Dot Hewlett

“Radley Lunch Club continues to be run by volunteers providing a cooked lunch for people who might be on their own and would welcome the opportunity to have a social meal. It has

proved very successful with members meeting and making new friends. It is not now restricted to single people; we do have some married couples.

Inevitably due to the age of the members we have lost some members but we have also gained some. We now have 24 members and could accommodate more but it is restricted to people who live in Radley.

Meals are provided by Long Furlong School except for August when it is the school holidays and we catered ourselves. We are restricted by Health and Safety rules to be able to do more than this.

We had our usual stall at Radley Christmas Bazaar to enable us to pay our rent.”

Radley Village Website Working Group - Report by Basil Crowley

The main point for report during the year is the loss of Joyce and John Huddleston who retired from the group so it is now short-handed and seeking help with looking after the website and posting articles, etc. and for professional help with hosting.

The website often has contacts from people doing genealogy, natural history enquiries and people looking for the surname Radley, as well as village hall bookings.

Dr Crowley thanked Joyce and John for all their work in setting up and maintaining the website.

OTHER REPORTS:

Radley Village Primary School: A written report was received from Mr Mark Jewell, Chair of the Governing Body.

“The Primary School continues to go from strength to strength with Mrs Rachel Fleming succeeding Mrs Frances Barlett over Easter 2012 as Headteacher.

Its popularity amongst parents in the community is shown by being heavily oversubscribed for entry at Year 1 and the Foundation Stage Unit. The school pupil population is at a record high and pressing against our capacity, despite extensive rebuilding and refurbishment over the last 18 months which has seen the creation of a wonderful Foundation Stage Unit Garden and improved staffroom and School Hall facilities.

The Friends of Radley School raised over £3000 towards its target of £4500 for new outdoor playground equipment through various events open to the community, e.g. the Christmas Fair, the play ‘Bouncers’ and sale of apple juice pressed by the pupils. The school also raised money to send donated equipment to Sasenyi Primary School in Kenya.

We had our best ever academic results in the National Curriculum exams: our Year 6 pupils were ranked 4th in the County for percentage of pupils attaining expected levels at English and Maths at Key Stage 2 and 2nd for progress in Maths from Key Stage 1 to 2. The school is well on target to achieve an Ofsted judgment of ‘outstanding’ by the next Inspection.

Sport flourished with participation and interschool success in Cross country, Football, Tag Rugby, Netball, Hockey, Kwik Cricket, Athletics, Tennis and Tri-Golf. School plays this year

included the Nativity play, 'Romeo and Juliet' and 'The Selfish Giant'. Leon Herring won The Ten-for-Ten National poetry competition about the Armed Services in Afganistan.

The children have also worked with The Earth Trust at the Thrupp Lake Visitor's Centre producing a tapestry based on the lakes, which was displayed at the Ashmolean Museum in January 2012 and will be on show at the Olympics site."

It was reported that parents of village children who had not been given places at the school were meeting Nicola Blackwood MP and there was some discussion of the possible reasons for increases in numbers and why this hadn't been predicted by the County Council.

Jubilee Committee: Mr Denis Standen reported that the committee was led by Mr Graham Collett. 200 hundred commemorative mugs had been ordered, of which 100 would be presented to children attending the village primary school and pre-school by the Clerk to the Green Cloth. The rest would be sold to recoup some of the cost.

The Chairman thanked all the groups which provided a report. It was good to hear that the village was so busy and that people are involved in so many different activities.

7. ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

PLANNING QUERY: The Parish Council was asked to find out what the position was on a new front door which had appeared on the road side of cottages in Lower Radley.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.25pm. The Parish Council Chairman thanked members of the public for attending the Annual Parish Meeting.

Date:
Chairman