

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF RADLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE CHURCH ROOM, RADLEY, ON THURSDAY, 28 FEBRUARY
2008 AT 7.30 PM**

PRESENT: Cr J Standen (in the Chair)
Crs Crowley, Henderson, Johnston, Nutt, D Standen, Yorston
Nine members of the public

The following comments were made by the public in relation to the application for Town Green Status for Thrupp and Bullfield Lakes:

- (a) Mrs Jo Cartmell thanked Radley Parish Council and the people of Radley for their support on the matter of the Judicial Review. She confirmed that Save Radley Lakes would continue to support the Council and continue to fund raise.
- (b) Mr Peter Harbour indicated that five other local councils were supporting this action.
- (c) Mr David Buckle spoke to letters he and Mr Brian Mott had sent, expressing unhappiness at the wording of the letter used for the public consultation and the risk the Parish Council was taking with the reserves it held.
- (d) Mr Roger Thomas indicated that the decision to take local action was a significant one. The announcement by RWE Npower last week could be a ruse to put people off their guard and if further action were not taken it could leave the lakes unprotected. He recommended opening discussions with RWE Npower to see if there was any possibility of getting a firm reassurance that the lakes would not be filled.

Mr Mike Wilson thanked the Parish Council for its support in relation to opposing the planning application from Tuckwell & Sons. There had also been support from a number of organisations such as Sustrans, The Ramblers, Abingdon Runners, Abingdon Town Council and the Vale of White Horse DC.

18/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Crs Davies, Rogers and Wilson.

19/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cr Crowley declared a personal and prejudicial interest in activities, finances and the legal position of Save Radley Lakes.

Cr Johnston declared a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to Village Hall matters as he was Secretary to the Radley Village Hall Management Committee.

20/08 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF PARISH COUNCIL, 24 JANUARY 2008

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 24 January 2008 were **APPROVED** and signed by the Chairman with the following amendments:

Minute 2/08 - the first paragraph should read: “Cr Crowley declared a personal and prejudicial interest in activities, finances and the legal position of Save Radley Lakes.”

Minute 7/08 – paragraph 3 on page 129 should read: “...the appeal could be against the applicant rather than the OCC.”

Minute 8/08 - the second sentence should read: “...undertaken, who was willing ...”

Minute 12/08 – paragraph (ii) should read: “This land was part of the highway and the Parish Council should”

Minute 14/08 – paragraph (i) should read: “ Abingdon Herald, it had been awarded to ...”

21/08 MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF PARISH COUNCIL, 29 JANUARY 2008

The Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 29 January 2008 were **APPROVED** and signed by the Chairman with the following amendments:

Minute 18/08 - should read: “Cr Crowley declared a personal and prejudicial interest in activities, finances and the legal position of Save Radley Lakes. Cr Crowley did not participate in the voting on resolutions made under Minute 19/08 paragraphs 1 to 6.”

Minute 19/08 – second paragraph should read: “ but it was important to agree fees in advance ...”.

22/08 BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

The Clerk reported:

- (a) **PLAY AREA:** Playdale had not reported back on the required work in relation to the damaged surface.

- (b) **SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL PERSON:** This had been followed up with the Deputy Head Teacher, who would try to get an answer from the OCC.
- (c) **ADOPTION OF RADLEY STATION:** An update on completion of work undertaken at Radley Station was being obtained before the meeting was arranged with people interested in the Adoption of the Station. Cr D Standen reported that the new bridge had been put in place, work was taking place on the car park causing cars to be displaced temporarily, and problems had been found with the content of the landfill found during excavations.
- (d) **APPLICATION FROM H TUCKWELL & SONS LTD –** The development of land without complying with condition 25 of the planning permission (RAD/3963 for the extraction of sand and gravel, erection of plant) and the variation of that condition to extend development for 5 years, Thrupp Lane: It was reported that, following a meeting with Mr Rob Dance, OCC, detailed objections had been submitted to the OCC. The planning application would be considered on either the 19 May or 21 July, and the Clerk was asked to ascertain nearer the time the actual date for consideration.
- (e) **LAND REGISTRY:** The Clerk was still following up the various issues raised by the Parish Council.

23/08 POLICE MATTERS

- (a) **REPRESENTATIVE ON NAG FOLLOWING RESIGNATION OF MR MARK WREN:** Cr Ian Yorston **AGREED** to be the Parish Council representative on NAG. It was noted that, although the date of the next meeting had been given as Wednesday, 17 March, there was a mistake about this as Wednesday was the 19 March.
- (b) **MOTORCYCLISTS BEHIND STONHOUSE CRESCENT:** It was reported that there was still a problem with motorcyclists using this area.

24/08 PLANNING MATTERS:

(i) New Applications

- (a) **RAD/5948/24–CM: RWE Npower – Details Pursuant to Condition 7 of RAD/5948-CM, Radley Ash Disposal Site:** The Parish Council was very concerned about various aspects of the proposals:
 - (i) Use of fertilisers and weed killers
 - (ii) Plans did not cover drainage ditch to south of site
 - (iii) Unable to assess water flow, and a cross section of water levels was required to show that water would flow as suggested.

There was discussion on whether the Parish Council should employ an ecologist to look at the planning application. It was understood that Dr Eeles, the ecologist for Save Radley Lakes had prepared a detailed report, and **IT WAS AGREED** that Cr Johnston should look at this report to see if this gave sufficient information.

- (b) RAD/15745/2-T – Temporary change of use from single dwelling to accommodate security and site supervision personnel until 31 March 2009, Sandles, Thrupp Lane: The Clerk reported that the following comments had been sent to the DC:
 - (i) Parish Council was not happy that this dwelling had ever had planning permission.
 - (ii) The question of the level of occupancy should be reviewed. The house was designed to accommodate the equivalent of a single family (approx 5 people) and much more than this at one time would overstrain the services.
 - (iii) The Parish Council queried whether the property was fit for habitation. No repairs seem to have been carried out since the occupation at the beginning of 2007, and currently the property had the appearance of dereliction and disrepair.
 - (iv) The Parish Council requested that a condition that no temporary structures, portacabins, etc should be constructed within the cartilage of the site without further permission.

The Clerk was asked to query whether this was still needed as a matter of security in view of RWE Npower's recent decision not to fill the lake in the near future.

- (c) RAD/20431 – Dining room and porch extension, 20 Ferny Close: No objections
- (d) H Tuckwell & Sons Ltd: Details Pursuant to Condition 2 of Planning Permission P/369/71. Location: Barton Lane Quarry, Barton Lane, Abingdon: This work appeared to have been a retrospective application as the work had been done. However, the Parish Council would like an assurance that there would be no additional tree planning and fertilisers and weed killers would not be used.
 - (ii) **Permission Given**
- (a) RAD/20373 – Erection of single storey extension and replacement of existing flat roofs with pitched, 6 New Road

(iii) Permission Refused

- (a) RAD/8051/1 – Erection of new 4 bedroom two storey dwelling with linked double garage (Land adjoining 1 Gooseacre)
- (b) RAD/11540/5 – Conversion of existing building to single 2-bed dwelling involving raising of ridge by 300mm and insertion of 3 no. dormer windows (amendment to Planning Permission RAD/11540/3), The Old Forge, Lower Radley.

25/08 THRUPP AND BULLFIELD LAKES, RADLEY

The following matters were discussed:

- (a) **PUBLIC CONSULTATION:** It was reported that there had been just over a 20% response to the questionnaire, with an overwhelming vote in agreement with the Parish Council’s action. The detailed figures were:

In agreement with Questions 1 and 2:	165
In agreement with Question 1/Against Question 2:	15
In agreement with Question 1/Question 2 unanswered:	3
Against both Questions:	24

The Chairman thanked those who had helped with the distribution of the questionnaire.

- (b) **ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL:** It was noted that Abingdon Town Council had decided not to take the lead or act in partnership with Radley Parish Council, but had agreed to set aside a sum of £5,000 to support action taken by the Parish Council, subject to receipt of the Counsel’s opinion.
- (c) **RWE Npower:** The letter from Mr Rainford was noted. **IT WAS AGREED** that the Parish Council should request a meeting of the Radley Local Liaison Committee to explore the position, following the announcement that the lake would not be filled with ash in the foreseeable future.

26/08 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- (a) **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:** It was proposed by Cr Henderson, seconded by Cr D Standen and **AGREED** that the following accounts should be paid:

(i) Miss S E Raven:		£475.53
Salary, February 2008:	£379.28	
Village Cleaner, March 2008:	£96.25	

(ii)	Mrs K Sharp – Salary, February 2008	£139.33
(iii)	Lockwood Plumbing Heating and Gas Services Ltd:	£519.35
(iv)	Temple Bookbinders – Binding of Minutes:	£181.50
(v)	Thames Water – Sports Pavilion:	£52.50
(vi)	Thames Water – Allotments:	£7.22
(vii)	MRH Services – Service Inspections, Play Area, October 2007 and January 2008:	£60.00
(viii)	CH Insulation Products Ltd – Village Hall:	£10,598.50
(ix)	Radley PCC:	
	(i) Hire of Hall:	£80.00
	(ii) Grant for Radley News:	£300.00
(x)	Oxfordshire Conservative Group – Photocopying:	£60.00

Cr Johnston did not vote on the accounts in view of his interest in (viii).

(b) RADLEY VILLAGE HALL:

- (i) It was noted that the DC were unable to increase the grant for the soundproofing work.
- (ii) Cr Johnston reported that the firm undertaking the soundproofing had been asked to do some soundproofing between the doors and the main hall and the fire doors. The doors needed re-hanging and Cr Johnston reported that he was looking into this and the Radley VHMC would pay for this work.
- (iii) The DC would be reviewing the Entertainment and Alcohol Licences, which was much earlier than expected.

(c) RADLEY SWIMMING CLUB: The letter and accounts from Radley Swimming Club were considered by the Parish Council. It was proposed by Cr Johnston, seconded by Cr Henderson and **AGREED** that the Swimming Club should be asked for details of its recovery plan and what action they would be taking to complete this. It noted that there was not an immediate financial problem, and the Parish Council indicated how much it appreciated the contribution of the club to the Parish.

(d) RADLEY PCC – GRANT FOR RADLEY NEWS: It was noted that detailed accounts had been received, and **IT WAS AGREED** that the grant of £300 should be released.

- (e) **COPSE – CHURCH ROAD:** It was proposed by Cr Johnston, seconded by Cr Crowley and **AGREED** that the Parish Council should appoint a solicitor to deal with the amendment to the lease. Cr Henderson abstained from the vote. Cr Johnston recommended a solicitor in Abingdon who had been used by Kennington Parish Council. This was acceptable to the Parish Council, and the Clerk would approach the Clerk of Kennington Parish Council for details.
- (f) **APOINTMENT OF AUDITORS:**
 - (i) **Appointment of Internal Auditor:** The Parish Council **AGREED** to the appointment of RJS (IA) Ltd to undertake the internal audit for the Parish Council. The fee structure had been revised from 1 April 2008 and would be £27.50 per hour and car mileage would be charged at the NALC rate at date of invoice.
 - (ii) **Appointment of External Auditor:** It was noted that the Audit Commission proposed to appoint BDO Stoy Hayward LLP as auditor to Radley Parish Council. The Appointment would be for a five year period, commencing with the 2007/2008 accounts. The Parish Council had no comments on this appointment.
 - (iii) **Parish Council Cleansing Grant Bid 2008/2009:** The Clerk reported that an application had been made for a Cleansing Grant for 2008/2009.
 - (iv) **Society of Local Council Clerks Conference:** It was noted that a refund of £50 had been received following complaints about the standard of the hotel delegates used
 - (v) **MRH Services – Play Area Inspections:** It was noted that from 1 April 2008 the cost of service inspections would increase from £30 to £32.50 per service inspection. This was **AGREED** by the Parish Council.

27/08 CONSERVATION

- (a) **ACTION ON “ENVIROCRIMES” – POWERS FOR PARISH COUNCILS:** It was noted that it was not possible for the DC Environment Wardens to attend an evening meeting, but they were willing to meet Councillors during the day time. The Clerk would arrange a date and notify the Councillors.
- (b) **CONSERVATION WORKING PARTY:** It was reported that the Bursar at Radley College had been unable to find a person to represent Radley College on this Working Party. Cr Yorston would have a word with his colleagues to see if he could find a member of staff interested in participating, and the Clerk would go ahead and arrange a date for the first meeting of the Working Party.

- (c) **PLACES FOR PEOPLE – FOOTPATH 8:** The Clerk reported that she had heard today that TOE had given a grant of £10,000 to this project. Two questions had been asked:
- (i) Could the surface of the path be in keeping with the rural setting, i.e. not tarmac?
 - (ii) Had the Parish Council approached the gravel extraction company whose lorries use the road to see if they could provide any funding or materials towards the project?

The current path had a tarmac surface, and the Parish Council did not feel it could approach the gravel extraction company in view of its response on a recent planning application. The Clerk was asked to reply accordingly.

- (d) **DESIGNATION OF LOWER RADLEY AS CONSERVATION AREA:** The letter from Mr Grant Audley-Miller was reported to the Parish Council. It was noted that the Parish Council could consider undertaking a preliminary appraisal to help justify the case for designation, and this work should be based upon the English Heritage’s publication “Guidance on Conservation Area Appraisals”. He indicated that he was happy to explore this further with the Council. The Clerk was asked to put this on the agenda of the next meeting with a copy of the English Heritage document.
- (e) **VILLAGE POND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:** It was noted that the Radley Primary School had nominated Mrs Inga Doherty as its representative. It was noted that the fencing needed to be moved temporarily for building work,, and the Parish Council requested more information on this.

28/08 HIGHWAY MATTERS:

- (a) **SPEED LIMIT – RADLEY/SUNNINGWELL TURNS, OLD A34:** It was noted that Mr Law who lived at the extreme edge of the parish had been asking for the speed limits to be reviewed at the Radley/Sunningwell Turns for some time, but had recently been told that the review had been shelved. The Parish Council **AGREED** to write to OCC Highways to press for this work to be done. A similar review was still outstanding in relation to Sugworth Lane.
- (b) **TREE – FOXBOROUGH ROAD:** The Clerk had been informed that a date for this work would be decided this week.
- (c) **PEDESTRIAN SIGNS – RAILWAY BRIDGE, LOWER RADLEY:** It was noted that the signs might not be erected until the next financial year.
- (d) **CONDITION OF ROAD BY 35/36 STONHOUSE CRESCENT:** The position regarding repairs to this stretch of road was not known.

- (e) **PROVISION OF BUS SHELTER:** It was noted that the bus shelter at Sugworth Crescent had been installed, and the one at Pebble Hill should be installed this week.

29//08 AWARDS TO LOCAL PEOPLE

The Parish Council considered the report prepared by the Parish Council. Several suggestions were made and it was **AGREED** that the Chairman and Clerk should look at this in more detail and finalise the arrangements.

30/08 PARISH WEBSITE

No report was made.

31/08 REPORT OF DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cr Johnston reported that the Vale of White Horse DC's Council Tax would be 4.9%, which would mean an increase of £5 a year for Band D properties. The OCC Council Tax would be 3.8%, an increase of £44 a year for Band D properties.

32/08 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) FOR ACTION

(a) Vale of White Horse DC:

- (i) Information Sheet No. 1 – For Action:**
 - Parish Representatives wanted for the Standards Committee: Noted by the Parish Council.
 - Predisposition, Predetermination or Bias and the Code: A copy of this document would be circulated to Parish Councillors
- (ii) Overview of Policy for Trees:** This document would be made available to the Tree Planting Working Group.
- (iii) Application for a Certificate of Lawful Use, Pebble Hill Mobile Home Park:** The Parish Council **AGREED** that it could confirm that Pebble Hill had been a Mobile Home Park for more than ten years.
- (iv) Fell one Oak tree at 11 Bigwood Park: **AGREED****

(b) Oxfordshire County Council:

- (i) Abingdon ITS:** It was noted that Councillor Ian Hudspeth wished to update all Parish Councils in the area surrounding Abingdon on the current situation with the traffic system in the town centre, and hear the views on the scheme so far. The Clerk was asked to notify the Parish Councillors when a meeting date had been arranged.

- (ii) Draft Report of Childcare Market Assessment: The Parish Council did not wish to comment on this draft report.
- (c) Oxfordshire Rural Community Council - Review of Primary School provision: It was **AGREED** to arrange a meeting with the Head Teacher of the Primary School to discuss this.
- (d) Sport Relief – The White Horse Gallop, 16 March 2008, Tilsley Park: noted.
- (e) Donations: Requests for donations have been received from:
 - (i) Root and Branch, Westmill Farm
 - (ii) Ryder-Cheshire Volunteers

These requests would be considered by the Finance and Administration Committee.

- (f) Oxfordshire Training Partnership for Local Councils – 2008 Training Programme for Local Councils – Courses: The Parish Council noted the following courses:
 - 9 April 2008: Local Government and Local Councils: An introduction for Councillors and Clerks
 - 4 June 2008: Getting to Grip with Finance
 - 2 July 2008: How to be a better Councillor
 - 1 October 2008: Chairmanship – What every Chairman should know
 - 15 October 2008: How Local Councils fit into the Planning System and Effective Responses to Planning Applications

The Clerk was asked to book a place for Cr Yorston on the course “How to be a better Councillor”.

- (g) Archway Foundation, a befriending serviced, due to set up in Abingdon in 2008 – Details requested on local “movers and shakers”: The Clerk confirmed that she had given some details to Archway Foundation.
- (h) ORCC News Bulletin March 2008 – Calor Oxfordshire Villages of the Year Competition 2008: The Parish Council **AGREED** that it would enter the competition, and the Clerk was asked to get the necessary paperwork.

(ii) FOR INFORMATION

- (a) Vale of White Horse DC:
 - (i) Standards Committee, 4 February 2008
 - (ii) Flood Protection Fair, 7 February 2008 – various leaflets were obtained
- (b) Oxfordshire Public Transport Guide
- (c) Letters of thanks for donations:
 - Letters have been received from Radley History Club and Save Radley Lakes

- (d) Rail Future, Newsletter January 2008
- (e) ITT Flygt – now trading under the name ITT Water & Wastewater
- (f) Enjoy England – Celebrate St George’s Day, 23 April 2008
- (g) SLCC – 2008 Programme of Regional Conferences
- (h) Oxfordshire ClimateXchange update 29 – January 2008

33/08 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION FOR PRESS RELEASE

This item would be considered under the Confidential Session.

34/08 NOTIFIED BUSINESS

NIL

Date:
Chairman

CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE, 28 FEBRUARY 2008

The Chairman formally moved that the public and press be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that if they were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information relating to legal and financial affairs.

35/07 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF PARISH COUNCIL, 24 JANUARY 2008

The Confidential Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 24 January 2008 were **APPROVED** and signed by the Chairman with the following amendment:

Minute 17/08 – the first three paragraphs of the confidential minute should be transferred to the end of Minute 7/08.

36/07 BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

- (a) **RADLEY COLLEGE:** Details of a recent meeting with the Bursar were reported.

Cr Crowley left the meeting.

37/07 APPLICATION FOR TOWN GREEN STATUS – THRUPP AND BULLFIELD LAKES, RADLEY

- (a) The Parish Council considered the documents circulated and the result of the Public Consultation. It was proposed by Cr Johnston, seconded by Cr Henderson and **AGREED** that the Parish Council should proceed with a Judicial Review along the lines set out by Mr Alastair Wallace.

- (b) The following press release was **AGREED:**

“Radley Parish Council is pleased to see the recent press statement by RWE Npower but, in line with its earlier resolution and as a result of the recent public consultation, which showed overwhelming support for saving the Radley Lakes from being filled by RWE Npower, Radley Parish Council has today decided to proceed with the Judicial Review of Oxfordshire County Council’s decision not to register land around Thrupp and Bullfield Lakes as a town green.”

- (c) **FUNDING:** It was noted that Abingdon Town Council had offered financial support, and the Clerk was asked to write to the District Council, Oxford City Council, Kennington Parish Council, Sunningwell Parish Council and the Open Spaces Society to see if they would be willing to give financial support.

- (d) **WORKING PARTY: IT WAS AGREED** that the management of day to day legal matters would be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman, and that a Working Party would be set up to assist the Clerk. The membership would consist of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, one other Parish Councillor and Mr Roger Thomas of Save Radley Lakes. The group would not be able to take action but all Parish Councillors would be consulted by email on any action needed in between meetings. All financial matters would need to be considered at Parish Council meetings, through an appropriate item on the agenda.

The Parish Council membership of the Working Party would be decided at the next Parish Council meeting.

Date:
Chairman