

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF RADLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE CHURCH ROOM, RADLEY, ON THURSDAY, 26 FEBRUARY
2009 AT 7.30 PM**

PRESENT: Cr J Standen (in the Chair)
Crs Crowley, Davies, Dutton, Henderson, Johnston (from 8 pm),
Pasquire, D Standen, Yorston (to 8 pm)
Three members of the public

25/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Crs Nutt and Rogers.

26/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

**27/09 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF PARISH COUNCIL, 22
JANUARY 2009**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 22 January 2009 were **APPROVED** and signed by the Chairman with the following minute:

Introduction: "Mrs Gillian Ashton" should read "Mrs Jillian Ashton".

Minute 14/09 (a) (ii) final paragraph, penultimate sentence should read: "... Turners Close..." not "...Turners Copse ..."

Minute 15/09, final paragraph, penultimate sentence should read: "Cr Crowley proposed that the Parish Council should in principle agree to provide between one and three additional lights between the existing lights in Radley and the speed limit, the actual position of the lights to be determined later. Having the lights up to the speed limit would make motorists coming from Kennington more aware of the speed limit."

Minute 18/09 should read: "... Had requested sight of the notes ..."

28/09 CLERK'S REPORT ON BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

- (a) **SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL PERSON:** The Primary School had indicated that no interest had been shown in this post.

- (b) LAND REGISTRY:
- (i) Radley Common: It was noted that Radley Common had not been registered in the name of Radley Parish Council. When this matter was under discussion in 1976 the Parish Council had withdrawn its application following discussions with villagers and the previous owner of the land which made it obvious that the Parish Council could not proceed. The Clerk was asked to ascertain if this land was registered with the Land Registry and, if not, the Parish Council **AGREED** that it should consider registering the land.
 - (ii) Ownership of Land: It was noted that should the Parish Council wish to find out owners of land in Radley, it would need to send the Land Registry individual maps for each piece of land in question, and each enquiry would cost £4.00.
 - (iii) Registration of Land, Sugworth Lane: An assurance had been received from the OCC that there is no cause for concern. Mr King had been informed that the areas of land he wished to register were highway land and therefore could not be registered. In addition, the footpath sign had been replaced.
- (c) COPSE, CHURCH ROAD – AMENDMENT TO LEASE: The Counterpart Lease had been received for signature. **IT WAS AGREED** that this should be signed by the Chairman and the Chairman of Finance and Administration.
- (d) NETWORK RAIL: Network Rail had brought the concerns of the Parish Council to the attention of the Territory Structures Engineer who had since reviewed the 2007/08 detailed examination report and the visual examination report of 2008/2009. Furthermore, after an additional inspection it had been decided that no works were required before the next visual examination report due in early 2010. The defects would be monitored by the Annual Visual Examination of the structure and as such the Territory Structures Engineer advised that there was no requirement for a Network Rail representative to meet the Parish Council Chairman on site. The Clerk was asked to retain this correspondence.
- (e) MOTOCROSS, CULHAM: It was understood that the season started on Saturday, 14 March 2009. The dates of the meetings would be passed to the Councillors.
- (f) COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD: The need for a community notice board had been included in the March edition of Radley News in case a local handyman was interested in making a suitable board.
- (g) FUTURE DEVELOPMENT IN THE VALE – CORE STRATEGY PREFERRED OPTIONS – WORKSHOP FOR TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS, 22 JANUARY 2009: Cr Johnston reported that there was no proposal to alter the Green Belt to the north-east of Abingdon.

- (h) PLAYING FIELD – FLYGT PUMP: An acknowledgement had been received from ITT Water and Wastewater UK Ltd.
- (i) GOODS VEHICLE OPERATORS LICENCE, CPL DISTRIBUTION, THRUPP LANE: No further details had yet been obtained from Dr E Harris, MP, and the OALC. It was understood that the comments of the Thrupp Lane residents had not been accepted in relation to the application by Southern Curtainsiders as their property was not in the vicinity of the proposed operating centre.
- (j) PARKING AT RADLEY STATION: The Clerk reported that she had advised the person who had had problems with parking at Radley Station to contact the landlord of The Bowyer Arms.
- (k) STREET LIGHTING: The Clerk reported that she had had an email from Mr Stephen Ewens, expressing concerns that the additional street lighting along the Kennington Road had been turned down. The Clerk had answered his queries in line with the Parish Council minutes. In addition, a number of Councillors had received an email from Mrs Jillian Ashton. **IT WAS AGREED** that Cr Yorston should discuss the position with Mr and Mrs Ashton, and report back to the Parish Council.
- (l) ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY – FLOOD POLICY: A copy of the EA Consultation Document on the Oxford Flood Risk Management Strategy had been given to the Councillors. The consultation period would last for 12 weeks from Wednesday, 18 February until Tuesday, 12 May. The main exhibition would be held at the Oxford Town Hall on Saturday 28 March from 1000 to 1630, and local exhibitions, including Abingdon Guildhall on Thursday 19 March, South Hinksey on Thursday, 2 April and Sandford on Monday 6 April.

A drop in surgery hosted by the EA had been arranged for Thursday, 5 March 2009, 17.00 to 20.00 at the Abingdon Guild Hall, when Dr Evan Harris, MP, would be attending.
- (m) CHAIRMAN’S COMMUNITY AWARDS LUNCH – 7 MARCH 2009: The Parish Council’s nominees – Dick Crabb, Jeffrey Grimes and Gordon Hill - would be attending the lunch and would be receiving certificates from Cllr Rooke. The deadline had been missed in relation to the details for Hattie Dean. The DC had thanked the Parish Council for making nominations.
- (n) VEOLIA – THRUPP LANE: The concerns about the use of Thrupp Lane by West Oxfordshire DC had been passed to the Vale of White Horse DC. They could not give an assurance for West Oxfordshire DC and have passed the Parish Council concerns on to that authority.
- (o) DOG WALKING, RADLEY: The Clerk reported that she had discussed this matter with Mr Nick Frearson and he had indicated that he would speak to Mr Ball. In addition, the Clerk had sent Mr Ball a map of the footpaths in the Parish.

29/09 POLICE MATTERS

- (a) NAG SURVEY: It was noted that the only time that the Guides could help with the distribution was Thursday, 5 March 2009. **IT WAS AGREED** that the paperwork should be ready to allow the Guides to help and that the closing date for responses should be the 31 March 2009. The Clerk had confirmed that boxes could be left at the village shop, the post office, Pebble Hill Office, and with Cr Nutt.

The circular on the village hall and a flyer on the Parish Plan would be available for distribution at the same time.

- (b) DAMAGED TREES, WHITES LANE: The details of the damaged trees had been passed to PC May, but no further details were available in time for the meeting.
- (c) VANDALISM 14/15 FEBRUARY 2009: The problems experienced over this period were discussed, and the response and feedback from the police had been very much appreciated.
- (d) NAG MEETINGS, 19 February 2009 and 24 March 2009: Cr Davies reported that an Environmental Assessment of Radley would be undertaken.
- (e) THAMES VALLEY POLICE – COMMUNITY POLICING AWARDS 2009: Posters had been put on the Parish Council notice boards.

30/09 PLANNING MATTERS:

(a) New Applications:

- (i) RAD/7171/2 – Erection of a four bedroom chalet bungalow with detached double car port, Land adjacent to Park Farm Byre, Kennington Road: The Parish Council had no objection to this application provided the land was within the development envelope of the village, ie not in the Green Belt.
- (ii) RAD/20660/2 – Erection of a two storey side extension, incorporating existing garage, 26 Sugworth Lane: No objections.
- (iii) Radley Ash Disposal Site, Lower Radley – Permission pursuant to section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to continue the development authorised by planning permission SUT/RAD/5948/12-CM at Radley Ash Lagoons a revised restoration scheme: **IT WAS AGREED** that the following comments should be submitted by the Parish Council:

Comments on part (1): Newly worded condition removed requirement for biennial review. Subject to that being rectified, the Parish Council had no objection.

Comments on part (2): The Parish Council had **no objection to the proposal in principle**. This was based upon assessment by the Parish Council and upon opinions received from Dr Peter Shaw, Senior Lecturer in Ecology Research at Roehampton University, who had practical experience of PFA restorations, and some local naturalists. However the proposal lacked sufficient detail to enable a full assessment and raises a number of concerns, which must be addressed before permission is given:

- Lack of proper description of proposal, nor any rationale or nor post-restoration expectations on how site would develop. The proposal should be accompanied by an ecological report setting out these points and the likely benefits to biodiversity.
- Details of land profile (condition 11d) were inadequate. Confusing contours on the plan, and no spot heights on sections A-A, B-B and C-C. Details of levels along southern edge of lake are important to know. A spot height should be given for the top of the bund in E-E.
- Omitted subsurface details from sections A-A, B-B and C-C.
- Available topsoil amounts are not stated, even though the amount of topsoil is presented as justification for the bare PFA dune proposal for Lake H.
- Details of fence construction were not given. It was important that inappropriate fencing did not visually intrude onto the landscape.
- Inadequate details were given of surface water drainage (required under condition 11e). According to the proposal, Lake I would drain north to south but there was no intercepting ditch (sections FF and BB). Details of how the Lake H lagoon would overspill into the adjacent land were omitted. New ditches along the inner edges of the bunds were shown on some of the sections (D-D, E-E, G-G), but their courses were not plotted on the plan. Consideration could be given to retaining the west to east drainage of the site, with a dedicated overspill channel, leading to the Thames, near the SE corner.
- Surface water drainage was a concern for the ecology of areas to the south which harbour colonies of Loddon Lily (*Leocojum aestivum*) and Water Violet (*Hottonia palustris*).
- Soil erosion would be an issue if surface water drainage was not properly addressed, due to retained steep slopes, and would also be an issue at the interface between the Lake I and Lake H restoration areas. The interface should be engineered to prevent this.
- Stability of bare PFA dunes against wind and water erosion was a concern, as was the possibility of dust from windblow. This could be addressed by using stabilising gels, which were also a means of seeding the PFA (see below).

- The 2001 planting schemes for the various compartments at the perimeter of the development area was retained. However this included a number of non-native species that would not now be considered acceptable, particularly for an ecologically-led restoration. These included *Populus x. canescens* and *Robinia pseudoacacia*. *Cornus sanguinea*, a native species, was also proposed. This was acceptable provided that the American species *Cornus alba* was not substituted. The tree planting scheme should therefore be reviewed and replaced with a more appropriate diverse list of species.
- No planting scheme was proposed for the PFA. The developer should explain this and indicate whether hydroseeding with stabilising gels had been considered.
- The developer should be asked to explain the biodiversity benefits. While there was some apparent controversy over benefits for biodiversity, based on the expert opinion of Dr Shaw, the Parish Council was satisfied that there would be a worthwhile long term benefit. However the process of natural restoration, as is being proposed, would be slow and could take many decades. This was certainly not a restoration that could be walked away from in the early years. Long term monitoring, over perhaps several decades, would be necessary, both to highlight the need for corrective action and to derive scientific value, and a monitoring protocol should be part of the aftercare plan.
- Protection of the site from damage by motorcyclists and ‘fly tipping’ of burnt out cars was paramount.
- The Parish Council would like to see an ecologically-led restoration plan for Lake I. This need only involve an appropriate wildflower seeding, in place of the unspecified grassland pasture seeding already proposed, and without use of fertilisers, and with appropriate aftercare management.
- Some areas immediately to the north seemed to have been overlooked by the plans. These include the “motorcycle track” immediately to the north, and to the east of the mound, and the area currently occupied by the mound. Was this not to have been excavated to make a new waterbody?

Subject to the above issues being addressed in a revised application, the Parish Council has no objection.

The responses from SRL and Oxford Green Belt Network were received.

- (b) **CERTIFICATE OF LAWFULNESS (CLEUD)** for the Application for Certificate of Lawful Existing use and Development for the retention of the aggregate washing and sand classifying plants including ancillary conveyors, pumps, storage bins, storage areas, silt lagoons, equipment stores, buildings and facilities and their continued lawful use for the washing and processing of imported aggregates at H Tuckwell and Sons Ltd, Thrupp Lane

It was reported that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chairman of Finance and Administration Committee, with the Clerk, had met representatives from Marrons Solicitors, Leicester, and had discussed the need for a solicitor's letter to back up the Parish Council's concerns on this application. The Council noted the letter which had been prepared by Marrons, although it was appreciated that this might be altered following a review of additional papers submitted to the solicitors. The solicitors were also being asked to comment on the letter to the Chief Executive of the Oxfordshire County Council.

This additional paperwork would increase the solicitors' cost although this should be within the limit set by the Parish Council. It was proposed by Cr Pasquire, seconded by Chris Henderson and **AGREED** that the amount allowed for the legal advice be increased from £500 to £750 to ensure sufficient funds had been agreed to cover the solicitors' costs. Cr Johnston abstained from the discussion and voting on this item.

(c) Permission Given:

- (i) Details Pursuant to Condition 7 of planning permission RAD/5948/24-CM of Planning Permission, Radley Ash Disposal Site.

(d) Withdrawn:

- (i) RAD/6149/4 – Proposed rear extension, 18 Sugworth Lane

31/09 APPLICATION FOR TOWN GREEN STATUS – THRUPP AND BULLFIELD LAKES, RADLEY

- (a) The notes of the Judicial Review Working Party held on the 13 January 2009 were accepted.
- (b) It was noted that Mr Alastair Wallace had reported that the OCC, RWE and Mr Curtis were in agreement to the adjournment of the Judicial Review and that the Court has taken the Judicial Review out of the list for 26-27 February. The terms of the order were that the Parish Council had a stay of three months and that it then had to report to the Court at that time on progress (or lack of).
- (c) A letter received from Mr Wallace dated 26 February 2009, which set out a suggested form of agreement was considered by the Parish Council. Some changes were discussed and these would be put to Mr Wallace.
- (d) The Chairman reported that she and Cr Crowley, together with Roger Thomas and the Clerk had met representatives of Abingdon Town Council to discuss the position regarding the future management of the lakes and the funding from the Town Council towards the cost of the Judicial Review. Abingdon Town Council representatives were hoping to meet with Mr Rainford to discuss the position, and their thinking was very much in line with that of the Parish Council.

- (e) Mr Rainford had agreed that the notes of the Radley Liaison Committee should be put on the web, but had asked for further amendments to the notes of the 19 August 2008 and 7 January 2009 meetings. The amendments had been incorporated in the notes, and the Parish Council accepted these.
- (f) A further meeting of the Radley Local Liaison Committee was taking place on Monday, 2 March 2009, at 7.30 pm. The meeting had been arranged at the request of the Power Station who have been working on the specification for their partnership with a third party wildlife group to become involved at Thrupp Lake, and who would now like to discuss their thoughts with the Liaison Committee.
- (g) It was noted that Npower had been tidying up in the area of Sandles/Thrupp Lake and had created a viewing stage and put up some fencing. There was concern that barbed wire fencing had been erected, and **IT WAS AGREED** that this should be raised with the Power Station.

32/09 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- (a) ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: It was proposed by Cr Johnston, seconded by Cr Henderson and **AGREED** that the following accounts should be paid:
 - (i) Thames Water – Sports Pavilion: £99.90
 - (ii) Miss S E Raven: £928.95
 - Salary, February 2009 and back pay: £836.27
 - Village Cleaner, March 2009: £92.68
 - (iii) Mrs K Sharp – Salary, February 2009 plus back pay: £181.26
 - (iv) MRH Services – Play Area Inspection: £32.50
 - (v) Radley PCC: £415.00
 - Hire of Hall July 2008 to March 2009: £200.00
 - Grass Cutting – One-third of cost for 2006, 2007, 2008: £215.00
 - (This related to an agreement between Mr Alan Clark and the Parish Council, which Mr Handscomb was only recently aware of)
 - (vi) WithyKing, Solicitors – Radley College £868.50
 - Legal costs for change of lease, Village Pond & Car Park:
 - (vii) Radley College: £564.66
 - Village Pond & Car Park: £64.66
 - Gooseacre Playing Field: £500.00
- (b) PLAY AREA – REPAIR/REPLACEMENT OF TUBE: The Clerk reported that the material mentioned by Cr Nutt had not worked. Mr Roger Davies thought it should be possible to get lower estimates for the cost of welding the tube, and the

Clerk had left a message for MRH Services. Concern was expressed about welding the tube because of the use of the equipment by children, and Councillors reconsidered the decision made at the last meeting. It was proposed by Cr J Standen, seconded by Cr Johnston and **AGREED** that the tube should be replaced at a cost of £1,294.10 plus VAT. Cr Henderson abstained from voting. The Clerk was asked to clarify whether the seam could be put at the bottom or side of the tube.

It was noted that a play area inspection had been undertaken by MRH Services and all was in order except the tube.

- (c) **PEAR TECHNOLOGY – DIGITAL MAPPING SYSTEM:** Crs Standen and Crowley reported that they had met a representative of Pear Technology who had demonstrated their system. Cr Crowley outlined the reasons why a Digital Mapping System would be useful to the Parish Council and indicated that the Conservation Working Party (Nature) had recommended that the £1000 included in the 2008/2009 budget for conservation should be used in this way. It was proposed by Cr Davies, seconded by Cr Henderson and **AGREED** that it was desirable for the Parish Council to have a mapping system and Cr Yorston should explore the possibilities and prices for such a system. This matter would be considered further at the March meeting of the Parish Council.

33/09 CONSERVATION

- (a) **LITTER:** The following matters were reported:
- (i) John Rogerson has come back since the last meeting indicating that the car park, bus stop by post office and village hall car park were areas where there was always a lot of litter.
 - (ii) Colin Marshall, DC, had agreed to look at the areas of concern to the Parish Council and see what could be done to deter these problems.
 - (iii) With reference to the Bowyer Arms site, Colin Marshall felt the first approach should be to the OCC to get the landlord to clear the brambles and once this had been done, the Parish Council should send a follow-up letter to the landlord asking if the area could be kept clear of litter. The Clerk indicated that in view of this she had not written to Greene King.
 - (iv) No response had been received about Radley College pupils helping with litter collection through Lower Radley.
 - (v) **Additional Dog Litter Bin:** The Clerk had received the following suggested sites following an appeal in Radley News:
 - (a) Junction of Whites Lane and Foxborough Road
 - (b) By the Church (Kennington Road/Whites Lane junction)

As both areas were on public land, there would be no charge to the Parish Council if it was decided to put bins in these areas. If the Parish Council wished to pursue this, the DC would look into the possibility of bins for the areas suggested and report back on whether the areas were suitable for dog litter bins.

- (vi) Big Tidy Up, March 2009: The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership OWP had approached the Parish Council indicating that following the successes of last September's Big Tidy Up and OxClean Spring Clean 2008, OWP was coordinating another litter tidy up this March. The month long campaign to spring clean Oxfordshire would kick-off with OxClean Spring Clean 2009 on the 6th and 7th of March, when Oxford Civic Society would be coordinating litter picks across Oxford City.

Throughout March, all schools, businesses and community groups across the county were invited to take part and help clean up their local area (or even raise money through sponsorship of the event). All groups who took part would be entered into a draw with the chance to win £250!

The Clerk reported that she had forwarded this message with the relevant paperwork to the Primary School, Radley College and village organisations (but not to any businesses – except the shop) in the hope that they would wish to participate.

- (b) NOTES OF CONSERVATION WORKING PARTY (NATURE), 3 FEBRUARY 2009: This was deferred until the next meeting
- (c) NOTES OF VILLAGE POND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, 29 JANUARY 2009: The Parish Council received the notes and noted the action being taken in relation to the pond. **IT WAS AGREED** that the fence line should be changed permanently to the line of the temporary fencing to allow better access to the school.
- (d) GARDEN COMPETITION: The Clerk reported that she had:
- (i) Arranged for an outline notice would go in the March or April edition of Radley News
 - (ii) Approached the regular judges to see if they were willing to help, and 8 out of the 12 required had agreed to assist.
 - (iii) Approached people who were guides last year, but she needed to know if any Councillors were willing to help.
 - (iv) Been in touch with Spareacre Hire and they have a minibus available if we require it. She would write and confirm this with them.
 - (v) booked the Church Room for the 4 July 2009, and had asked if the Village Hall was available for the presentations on the 18 July 2009.

A meeting of the Garden Competition Working Party would be held to go through the paperwork and review outstanding work.

34/09 VILLAGE HALL PROVISION

(a) **VILLAGE HALL WORKING PARTY:**

- (i) It was noted that the Bursar, Radley College, had agreed that the confidential label on the earlier Working Party meetings could be lifted, and the Clerk had released these to Mr Kashti.
- (ii) The notes of the Village Hall Working Party dated 19 February 2009 were received.

(b) **DRAFT CIRCULAR TO PARISH HOUSEHOLDERS:** The draft circular was considered and minor amendments were made.

35/09 HIGHWAY MATTERS:

(a) **SPEEDING – KENNINGTON ROAD:** The Clerk reported that PC May had been asked to advise when the speed checks were likely to start. She had also pointed out that residents in the area were concerned about cyclists using the footway along Kennington Road (before the cycle track starts) and causing problems for pedestrians (especially at night when a lot of the cycles did not have lights).

The OCC Highways had reported back that this stretch of road was regarded as a safe road when taking into account the accident rate, and traffic calming features would have a very low priority. The Clerk had indicated that the residents' view was that traffic was travelling far too fast along this stretch of road and it had been agreed that a request would be made for a traffic recorder to be installed for a short time. The Smiley SID did not record data, and details of the vehicle activated signs were reported to the meeting. The Parish Council asked if it would be possible to have a temporary version of the VAS at regular intervals.

(b) **SPEED LIMIT – A4183:** No further information was available regarding safety measures along the A4183.

(c) **POTHoles THROUGHOUT THE VILLAGE:** The Clerk reported that she had written to Oxfordshire Highways about a number of bad potholes along Kennington Road, Church Road, Sugworth Lane, Lower Radley, Thrupp Lane.

(d) **SUGWORTH LANE:**

- (i) The condition of Sugworth Lane continued to be of concern and this again had been drawn to the attention of Oxfordshire Highways.
- (ii) No response had been received regarding the siting of the speed limit signs, particularly at the Bigwood Park end of the road.
- (iii) Trading Standards had responded regarding the size of vehicles using the road, but very little could be done. Oxfordshire Highways had been asked if notices could be put up indicating that the road was not suitable for large vehicles.

- (e) PROVISION OF BUS SHELTERS: The Clerk was pursuing this for the next Finance and Administration Committee.
- (f) ROAD SWEEPERS: This matter was being pursued.
- (g) CYCLEWAY C5 – HAZARDS: The area had been inspected by the OCC Footpath Officer, who had referred the matter to Oxfordshire Highways.
- (h) BAD REPAIR – 46/48 FOXBOROUGH ROAD: Concern was expressed about the bad repair in this area. The Clerk was asked to inform Oxfordshire Highways.
- (i) SPEED LIMIT – SUGWORTH LANE TO RADLEY: It was suggested that this stretch of road should have a speed limit of 30 mph. **IT WAS AGREED** that this should be put on the agenda of the next meeting.

36/09 DATES OF MEETINGS

It was noted that the April Meeting would be held on Thursday, 23 April 2009, not 24 April 2009 as stated on the list circulated to Councillors in 2007.

37/09 PARISH WEBSITE

The Clerk reported that Martin Wilson was currently abroad but had indicated he would contact her on his return.

38/09 REPORT OF DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cr Johnston reported that:

- (a) Vale of White Horse DC: The full shared management team was now in place, and this will save each Council £375,000 in perpetuity. The Vale has now agreed its budget for the next financial year and this will mean an increase in Council Tax of 4.5% - £5 increase per annum for a Band D property.
- (b) Oxfordshire County Council: The OCC had agreed an increase in Council Tax of 3.75%, which works out at a £41 per annum increase on a Band D property. There were, however, still problems in relation to a number of budgets such as children and young persons and highways.

39/09 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) FOR ACTION

- (a) Oxfordshire County Council – Campaign against Domestic Abuse 2008/2009: Notices had been put on the Parish Council notice boards
- (b) Vale of White Horse DC:
 - (i) Work to Trees – Bigwood Park: **IT WAS AGREED** that the work on reducing and felling trees was necessary.
 - (ii) Earlier Use of Bus Passes: Detailed reasons why an earlier time could not be introduced for the use of bus passes had been received.
 - (iii) Licensing Act 2003 – Applications under consultation: Radley Village Hall: Cr Johnston did not participate in the discussion. The Parish Council did not wish to make any comments on this application.
- (c) Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils - Update for Members January and February 2009: noted
- (d) Oxford Bus Company – Reason for double-decker buses through village: It was noted that these vehicles had been purchased a few years ago to convert the whole of the 35 service to low floor access in response to comments from Kennington and Radley elderly residents who found the high step access buses too difficult to board. The double-deckers were also fully wheelchair accessible and it was known that there were regular passengers through Kennington and Radley who used a wheelchair. The bus company felt that benefits of low floor access outweighed any size issues, and they had run double deck vehicles on this route for many years prior to the single deck high step vehicles being used. The Bus Company regularly send their Inspector to the Radley area with their speed gun to ensure no vehicles used excess speed through the village and had shared the results with the primary school. At weekends when there were single deck low floor vehicles available, they were allocated to the 35; they were unable to do this all week due to the increased requirement for capacity (the children travelling through to Didcot and workers to Milton Park) meant that a single deck vehicle simply would not cope with the loadings.
- (e) UKAEA – Guided tour of the fusion experimental facilities, Culham Science Centre, 22 April 2009, at 18.30 pm: Six Parish Councillors had expressed an interest in this tour, and their names would be submitted.
- (f) Guide Event – Baden Powell Challenge Presentation Evening, 26 February 2009, at 8 pm: Apologies had been given as the presentation evening had fallen on the same evening as the Parish Council meeting

(g) GATE FROM PLAY AREA TO GOOSEACRE PLAYING FIELD: An email had been received via Stuart Sharp from Tammy Silvester, 18 Lane Close, Kidlington, about the damage caused to her son through being knocked by the gate. The Clerk reported that she had asked Mr Roger Davis, OPFA, and MRH Services to advise on this and the suitability of the gate.

(ii) FOR INFORMATION

- (a) Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association Newsletter, Winter 2008-2009
- (b) Farmoor Pontoon Project newsletter 2009
- (c) ONCF Environmental Bulletins 22 and 29 January 2009 and 4, 11 and 18 February 2009
- (d) Letter of Thanks for Donations
- (e) Public Law Solicitors – Increase in Charging Rate: The hourly rate had increased from £140 to £147 from 23 January 2009.
- (f) Abingdon Town Council – Town Crier Newsletter Spring 2009.

40/08 NOTIFIED BUSINESS

NIL

Date:
Chairman