

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

PRESENT: Cr J Standen (in the Chair)
Crs Crowley, Davies, Dutton, Henderson, Johnston (from 8.10 pm), Nutt,
Pasquire, D Standen
PC May and PCSO Wright (for Item 45/09)

41/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Crs Rogers and Yorston.

42/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

**43/09 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF PARISH COUNCIL, 26
FEBRUARY 2009**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 26 February 2009 were **APPROVED** and signed by the Chairman.

44/09 CLERK'S REPORT ON BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

- (a) **RADLEY COMMON:** No further information was available from the Land Registry.
- (b) **COPSE, CHURCH ROAD – AMENDMENT TO LEASE:** No further information had been received.
- (c) **MOTOCROSS, CULHAM:** Parish Councillors had been sent the list of events for 2009. The comments received from a number of residents who supported the motocross events were noted by the Parish Council.
- (d) **COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD:** It was noted that a notice board had been offered to the Parish Council and this was being followed up by the Clerk.
- (e) **PLAYING FIELD – FLYGT PUMP:** No further advice had been received from ITT Water and Wastewater UK Ltd, and the Clerk was pressing for this.
- (f) **GOODS VEHICLE OPERATORS LICENCE, CPL DISTRIBUTION, THRUPP LANE:** It was understand that conditions had been placed on the application from Southern Curtainsiders, and the Thrupp Lane Residents Association considered the Traffic Commissioner had indicated that their comments were “void”, possibly their comments were taken into account.

- (g) STREET LIGHTING: It was not known whether Cr Yorston had spoken to Mr and Mrs Ashton about this matter.
- (h) CHAIRMAN’S COMMUNITY AWARDS LUNCH – 7 MARCH 2009: The Parish Council noted the letter from Mr Gordon Hill, which thanked the Parish Council for nominating him for this event.
- (i) VEOLIA – THRUPP LANE: It was noted that West Oxfordshire DC would not use Thrupp Lane after October 2010 when the contracts operated on behalf of the Vale and West Oxfordshire terminated. West Oxfordshire DC was in the process of re-tendering its waste and recycling services and its plans did not include the use of Thrupp Lane as a depot or any other facility.
- (j) PLAY AREA:
 - (i) REPAIR/REPLACEMENT OF TUBE: The tube had now been replaced.
 - (ii) GATES: It was noted that the gate has been inspected by Mr Roger Davies, and the following report had been received from RoSPA Play Safety:

“Roger inspected both gates on Friday 27 February 2009 and found both to be in good working order, with a closing time of around 4 to 5 seconds. Whilst there is a trip hazard at the playing field gate (paving slab raised – ground needs reinstating) the operation of the gate is normal.

The gate is typical of a style and design very commonly found – particularly in children’s playgrounds – in the public arena and we are not aware of any specific issues with it.

It is likely that the incidents involved gates that rebounded and struck children as they went through. This is a fairly common occurrence, especially if children run through the gate one after another, pushing the gate out of the way as they run through.

A mechanism to retard the action of the gate could be considered, but it may not, in reality, be effective for very long.

The number of accidents and severity of injury may not justify the fitting of such a mechanism. This is a matter of choice for the Radley Parish Council.”

The Parish Council discussed the report fully and decided that no action should be taken in relation to the gates in view of the report from RoSPA Play Safety. The trip hazard at the playing field gate would be investigated.

45/09 POLICE MATTERS

PC May and PCSO Wright attended the meeting for this item.

- (a) **FUTURE POLICING:** PC May reported that he would only be covering Radley Parish for the next two/three months, but would remain in post until a successor had started. PCSO Wright would continue to cover Radley Parish. There was a great deal of demands on the present staffing levels.
- (b) **NAG WEBSITE:** This would be linked to Parish Council websites.
- (c) **NAG SURVEY:** It was noted that the survey forms were distributed at the beginning of March, with a closing date of 31 March 2009, and the Clerk would collect the boxes on the 1 April 2009. The survey had been undertaken in Marcham when there had been an 11% return. NAG had indicated that the survey should be repeated in 2-3 years time. **IT WAS AGREED** that there should be feedback on the Radley survey through Radley News.
- (d) **DAMAGED TREES, WHITES LANE:** The Clerk reported that two members of the public had responded to her report in Radley News and sent her good photographs of the car and the damaged trees. She had also been in touch with the Enforcement Officer at Oxford City Council. The name of the taxi owner was now known to the Clerk and she would be following up the insurance claim.
- (e) **VANDALISM 14/15 FEBRUARY 2009:** The police were thanked for their rapid response and the thorough way they dealt with the incident. There was discussion on how to handle unsocial behaviour, including the use of village embarrassment being used to deal with this problem.
- (f) **SPEEDING – KENNINGTON ROAD:** The police speed checks had been delayed because of the snow and it was not known when they would be undertaken. The Parish Council pressed for these as a matter of urgency in the problem areas – Foxborough Road and Kennington Road. It was queried why the van undertaking speed checks at Pebble Hill could not be sited along the Kennington Road, but PC May indicated that this system of checking was under the OCC Speed Management Department and was different from the checks the police would be undertaking.

It was understood from the OCC Speed Management that the Safer Roads Partnership (which dealt with speed cameras and camera equipped vans) currently visited Kennington Road as one of their 'Community Concern' sites albeit those visits were fairly irregular. They had now asked if the site could be formalised, that meant designating a core speed site with more regular visits. This had been agreed and arrangements were being made for permanent camera signs to go up. As for the temporary VAS, there were only four of these per DC area, they were battery powered and needed a lot of attention, and currently the OCC could not deal with sites that needed that amount of attention. Also the

sign would only be in place for 7-10 days at a time and might not return for three months or so. It was hoped that the camera signs and drivers seeing the van parked up and enforcing would make a difference.

Oxfordshire Highways had been asked to advise whether the signing for the cycle track starting along the Kennington Road was correct. The police had also been made aware of the dangers of cyclists without lights using the pavement along Kennington Road.

- (g) **MOTORCYCLISTS BEHIND STONHOUSE CRESCENT:** PCSO Wright would be following this up with the landowner.

46/09 PLANNING MATTERS:

(a) New Applications:

- (i) RAD/15714/11-LB – Replace existing ‘crittal’ type windows in original cottage to match oak framed window in new extension, Spinneys, 51 Lower Radley: No objections
- (ii) RAD/237/109-LB – Internal and external alterations to F Social, Radley College, comprising of window replacement, modifications to existing windows, internal strip out and refurbishment, F Social, Radley College: No objections
- (iii) RAD.237/110-LB – Internal alterations plus replacement of existing mid-20th C neo-classical portico with new canopy plus construction of additional entrance canopy to D Social, Radley College: No objections
- (iv) RAD/20810 – Proposed extension at first floor level and a single storey extension, Christmas Cottage, 44 Lower Radley: No objections.

- (b) Certificate of Lawfulness (CLEUD), H Tuckwell and Sons Ltd:** The letter from Marrons to the OCC and the letter from the Parish Council to the Oxfordshire County Council regarding Enforcement Action were noted by the Parish Council.

- (c) Tarmac CLEUD:** Details of the construction work being undertaken on this site was possibly affecting the CLEUD placed on the site. Pictures were shown to the Councillors. **IT WAS AGREED** that a letter should be sent to the DC Enforcement Officer expressing strong concerns about the major developments taking place on this site, asking for the original terms of the CLEUD and asking for enforcement action to be taken as soon as possible.

Concern was expressed about the CLEUD regulations, especially as these overturned any planning permission terms. **IT WAS AGREED** that this matter should be raised with the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils to ascertain whether action could be taken to see if the CLEUD regulations could be changed.

(d) **Misc:**

- (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 Clerk was asked to clarify whether this site was in the Green Belt.

47/09 APPLICATION FOR TOWN GREEN STATUS – THRUPP AND BULLFIELD LAKES, RADLEY

- (a) The draft notes of the Radley Local Liaison Committee dated 2 March 2009. These would be sent to the Power Station for comments and the final version of the notes would be circulated to the Parish Council.
- (b) The letters from Mr Simon Wells, the RWE Npower Solicitor to Mr Alastair Wallace dated 27 February 2009, regarding RWE Npower’s intentions with regard to the future of Thrupp Lake, and the letter from Mr Alastair Wallace regarding the adjournment of the Judicial Review were received by the Parish Council. The Clerk was asked to ascertain the legal definition of the phrase “Without Prejudice” which had been put at the top of Mr Wells’ letter.
- (c) The letter to Mr Alastair Wallace dated 5 March 2009 was read out to the Parish Council.

It was proposed by Cr Johnston, seconded by Cr Davies, and **AGREED** that a letter should be sent to Mr Rainford along the lines of the letter to Mr Wallace, asking for an early meeting of the Radley Local Liaison Group. **IT WAS AGREED** that Cr Davies should attend if Cr Nutt was unable to be present.

The Power Station should be asked for the final copy of the Expression of Interest so that this could be put on the website.

48/09 FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

(i)	Miss S E Raven:		£1,316.93
	Salary, March 2009:	£525.99	
	Expenses, 1 January to 31 March 2009:	£790.94	
	1. Expenses:	£25.00	
	2. Telephone:	£21.74	
	3. Mileage:	£171.40	
	4. Postage:	£58.61	
	5. Stationery:	£165.83	
	6. Photocopying:	£348.36	
(ii)	Mrs K Sharp – Salary, March 2009:		£146.26
(iii)	Southern Electricity - Sports Pavilion:		£48.21

- (iv) Mr G Rogers – Mileage, Leicester: £94.51
 - (v) Oxford Green Belt Network – Subscription: £15.00
 - (vi) Playdale Playgrounds Ltd – New Tube and Installation: £1,488.22
- (b) PEAR TECHNOLOGY – DIGITAL MAPPING SYSTEM: The report from Cr Yorston was noted. **IT WAS AGREED** that a report should be prepared for the next meeting setting out the reasons why the purchase of such a system would be of value to the Parish Council, together with details of the initial costs and the long term costs of such a system.

49/09 CONSERVATION

(a) LITTER:

1. Links with District Council: It was noted that Mr Colin Marshall, DC, had reported back:
 - (i) Sandford Lane: He had visited and placed numerous signs in the locations and since the spring clean down there, the area had remained a lot cleaner. He would regularly monitor the area to assess the situation and anyone caught littering down there, would be fined £75.
 - (ii) Whites Road/Kennington Road: He considered that these roads were too dangerous for voluntary litter pick groups and should be dealt with by DC contractors and they had been made aware of the problem.
 - (iii) Thrupp Lane: He had cleaned up all the rubbish in the lay-by and had placed numerous signs warning on the consequences of littering. The fly tipping near Gooseacre Farm was on private land and the land owner would need to clear up the rubbish. He indicated that Veolia, the Vale's waste contractor, used the lane daily as their depot was down there, so he thought they would clear up any rubbish along the lane.
 - (iv) He has emailed the head teacher at Radley and hoped to get a response soon.
2. Clearance of Litter by Radley College pupils: The Director of Rowing, Radley College had spoken to the Warden but they felt that it would be difficult for them to pick up litter on their way to and from the river as a regular thing. However, they had offered to choose specific days during a month where they could do a litter pick-up on this route, and the Clerk indicated that she had responded saying this would be very acceptable. He had also indicated that he would stress to the boys the importance of not littering and would encourage them to pick up any litter they see.

3. Additional Dog Litter Bin: The DC felt that the best places for them to go were Whites Road/Foxborough Road, at the entrance to the field by the footbridge, and the entrance to the field off the Parish Council Car Park.

If Dog Litter Bins were installed, the one at Whites Lane/Foxborough Road would be free but Parish Council would have to pay for the one in the car park and its installation. However, if a litter bin were installed in the car park (which could be used for dog litter) instead of a dog bin there would only be an installation cost for the litter bin on Parish Council land and no emptying cost. The Clerk was ascertaining the installation cost.

4. Big Tidy Up, March 2009: It was not known whether any Oxfordshire groups took part in this initiative.

- (b) NOTES OF CONSERVATION WORKING PARTY (NATURE), 3 FEBRUARY 2009: The Parish Council accepted the notes and **AGREED** that the NERC declaration provided by ONCF should be used by the Parish Council in future. It noted that byelaws could be used to protect wildlife, and that Mr Colin Marshall, DC, had been asked to advise on the dog fouling problem along the Sustrans Cycle Path.
- (c) VILLAGE POND: The Parish Council noted the Pond Conservation Organisation Million Ponds Project.

50/09 VILLAGE HALL PROVISION

- (a) VILLAGE HALL WORKING PARTY: Two visits had been made to other village halls and a detailed report would be made when the visits had been completed.
- (b) CIRCULAR TO PARISH HOUSEHOLDERS: The circular to Parish households had been distributed, and the Clerk reported that she had had a number of responses, some totally for the Radley College proposals and some totally against them. One response indicated that this type of approach had been appreciated and it was hoped that this way of communicating could continue.
- (c) ENTERTAINMENTS LICENCE: It was noted that the Entertainments Licence had been approved.

51/09 HIGHWAY MATTERS:

- (a) SPEEDING – KENNINGTON ROAD: This is reported under Minute 45/09.
- (b) SPEED LIMIT – A4183: No further information had been received from the Oxfordshire County Council, and the Clerk was pressing for a response.
- (c) POTHOLES THROUGHOUT THE VILLAGE: The Clerk reported that she had heard nothing about the repair of potholes, although the bad one opposite

the farm cottages on the Kennington Road had been repaired very quickly. Councillors were really concerned about the state of the roads throughout Radley Parish and listed a number of very bad potholes.

- (d) **SUGWORTH LANE:** No response had been received from the OCC about the condition of the road and the re-siting of the speed limit signs, but it was understood that the OCC would be putting signs at both ends of the lane indicating that it was unsuitable for larger vehicles.
- (e) **ROAD SWEEPING, BIGWOOD PARK:** It was understood that, as this was a privately owned site, the responsibility for cleaning was that of the owner, not the DC. The position was the same for the Lower Radley Caravan Site, although New Road was part of the DC contract with Veolia.
- (f) **CYCLEWAY C5 – HAZARDS:** No further information had been received from Oxfordshire Highways.
- (g) **BAD REPAIR – 46/48 FOXBOROUGH ROAD:** This had been reported to Oxfordshire Highways.
- (h) **SPEED LIMIT – SUGWORTH LANE TO RADLEY:** The request for a 30 mph speed limit along this stretch of road was discussed. It was proposed by Cr Pasquire, seconded by Cr Davies, and **AGREED** that no further action should be taken in relation to this. Cr Henderson abstained from the voting.

52/09 PARISH PLAN

It was noted that the residents had been invited to a further meeting on Monday, 30 March 2009. The Councillors **AGREED** that it was worth another attempt to see if a group could be formed to look at the possibility of preparing a Parish Plan.

53/09 PARISH WEBSITE

Cr Crowley reported that he had updated the Parish Council part of the website and that the notes of the Radley Local Liaison Committee were now available on the website. Some of the other information needed updating and Joyce Huddleston would be liaising with the Clerk.

The statistics on usage of the website should be sent on to all Parish Councillors.

54/09 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, FRIDAY, 8 MAY 2009

IT WAS AGREED that the agenda should be sent to local organisations, repeating the invitation to participate at the meeting. The invitation would indicate that coffee/biscuits would be available from 7 pm, with the meeting starting at 7.30 pm.

55/09 REPORT OF DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cr Johnston reported that:

- (a) Vale of White Horse DC: New plans were being put in place for rubbish collection. There would be a weekly collection of food waste and a two weekly collection for household rubbish and recycling. The brown bin collection would continue.
- (b) Oxfordshire County Council: There were concerns about the Oxfordshire Highways budget which had been used before the end of the financial year. £600,000 had been spent on salting during the cold weather, and the estimate for the repair work needed was awaited, but there were no firm proposals on how this was going to be funded. It was noted that surrounding Counties had much more generous budgets for highways.

56/09 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) FOR ACTION

(a) Oxfordshire County Council:

- (i) 35A Premium Route consultation: The Clerk was asked to make the following comments:

- The RTI was totally at odds with the printed timetable available at bus stops – buses were going early and not waiting until the time given
- Double-decker buses did not have sufficient seats on the lower deck and this caused problems for elderly passengers. Parish Council considered that single-decker buses were better for the population of Radley, although it was appreciated that there was a slightly lower capacity.

- (ii) Proposed Changes to Shelter Grants Scheme: The Parish Council accepted the new arrangements for the Shelter Grants Scheme. The Clerk was asked to get applications in as soon as possible.

- (iii) Local Primary School Review – view of stakeholders: The Parish Council were unable to be represented at the meeting planned for Tuesday, 28 April 2009.
 - (iv) Street Lighting – Radley Parish: Details should be put in Radley News and on the website asking for comments on the OCC proposals. It was noted that the lights at the all weather pitch at Radley College were sometimes on at 3.30 am in the morning, and this should be drawn to the attention of the Bursar.
 - (v) Primary Capital Programme: – update on progress and next steps: noted
 - (vi) Services for children need promoting at a local level: The Clerk would obtain more details to publicise the services.
- (b) Vale of White Horse DC:
- (i) Core Strategy Preferred Options Evidence Base: The Parish Council did not wish to make any comments.
 - (ii) Help to Get on the Housing Ladder – Homebuyers’ Day at Wantage Civic Hall on Wednesday, 22 April: noted
 - (iv) Information Sheet, 22 March 2009: received
- (c) Environment Agency – Oxford Flood Strategy: The dates of exhibitions were noted.
- (d) Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils:
- (i) Being a Better Councillor booklet: received
 - (ii) Training Days - Law and Administration, 2 April 2009 and Getting to grips with Finance, 3 July 2009: noted
- (e) Spinal Injuries Association – The Great British Fish & Chips Supper, Friday, 15 May 2009: noted
- (f) Came and Company – Parish Council Insurance: To be considered by the Finance and Administrative Committee.
- (g) Office for National Statistics –Quarterly Vacancies Inquiry: The Clerk reported that she had responded to this inquiry.
- (h) River Thames Alliance – To consider joining: The Parish Council **AGREED** not to join this organisation.
- (i) Oxfordshire PCT – Pandemic Flu Workshop, 27 April 2009: noted.
- (j) OALC – Update for Members – March 2009

- (i) 2008/2009 National Final Salary Award for Local Council Clerks: The Parish Council noted that the final award was 2.75%.
 - (ii) Village of the Year Competition 2009. The Closing date for entering this competition was 30 May 2009, with Judging Late June/Early July.
- (k) FLOOD LIGHTING, GOOSEACRE: It was reported that a request had been received from Radley Youth Football Club to install four floodlights around the Gooseacre field, the cost of installation and electricity to be met by the Football Club. The Clerk was asked to raise this with Radley College and the DC planners.
- (ii) FOR INFORMATION**
- (a) Vale of White Horse DC – UnValed, A Spring in Your Step, Issue 1, Spring 2009:
 - (b) The Standards Board for England – Town and Parish Standard, February 2009, Issue 4.
 - (c) ONCF Environmental Bulletins 5, 12 and 19 March 2009
 - (d) Letter of Thanks for Donations
 - (e) Open Spaces Society – new website – www.oss.org.uk.
Open Space, Spring 2009, Volume 29, No. 4
 - (f) Clerks and Councils Direct, March 2009
 - (g) Local Council Review, March 2009
 - (h) Health News, Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust, Spring 2009
 - (i) RailWatch, April 2009
 - (j) ASHTAV:
 - (i) News 2009
 - (ii) The Future of Conservation Areas, 25 April 2009

57/08 NOTIFIED BUSINESS

NIL

Date:

Chairman