

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF RADLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT THE CHURCH ROOM, RADLEY, ON THURSDAY, 23 MARCH  
2006 AT 7.30 PM**

**PRESENT:** Cr B Mott (in the Chair)  
Crs Crowley, Henderson, Johnston, Nutt, Rogers, D Standen, J Standen,  
Wren, Wyatt  
One member of the public  
Mrs Jane Barker, ORCC, for Item 37/06

**31/06 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cr Wilson.

**32/06 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Cr Crowley declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest as set out in the Standards Board for England lobby group, dual-hatted members and the Code of Conduct, top paragraph, page 7 in relation to matters relating to Radley Lakes.

Cr Johnston did not participate on the discussion relating to Radley Lakes.

**33/06 MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL, 23  
FEBRUARY 2006**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 23 February 2006 were **APPROVED** and signed by the Chairman with the following amendments:

- (a) Minute 21/06(d) should read: “The Clerk had met an officer ...”
- (b) Minute 22/06 (f) should read: “ spoken to the residents who had complained, and ...”  
Penultimate paragraph of 22/06 should read: “One of the local residents in Radley attended and outlined concerns about problems experienced ...”
- (c) Minute 23/06 (c) (iii) should read: “Circulate the submission to Crs Henderson, Mott, D Standen, J Standen, and Wilson.”
- (d) Minute 26/06 should read: “Cr Johnston reported that there had been thirteen applications ...”

**34/06 BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

- (a) **SPORTS PAVILION/GOOSEACRE:**
  - (i) **OUTSTANDING WORK – SPORTS PAVILION/GOOSEACRE:** The following work had been completed:
    1. Repairs to the fencing and gate at the entrance by the side of the village hall;
    2. Repairs to roof, including replacing ceiling in the toilet;

3. Repairs to ceiling in the shower room.
4. Installation of metal covers to the airflow vents.
5. Putting vandal proof paint on the roof.
6. Repairs to fencing and gate, corner of village hall to and including the double gates

The following work would be done when the weather was suitable:

1. Repairs to fencing at the Norfolk Close end of the recreational field.
  2. Painting the sports pavilion.
  3. New ramp at sports pavilion
- (ii) PROVISION OF GATE BETWEEN GOOSEACRE AND THRUPP LANE PLAYING FIELDS: No clarification on responsibility for the boundary had been received from Radley College.
- (b) VILLAGE SEATS:
- (i) One of the residents at Pebble Hill had agreed to have her photograph taken sitting on the seat provided by the pupil from Radley College, and this was being arranged.
  - (ii) Two new seats had been put in the garden at the Spinneys Close garden. These had not been fixed, and the Clerk was asked to obtain a cost for doing this. One of the cast iron ended seats had been left on site as it was suitable for maintenance.
- (c) LITTER BIN, FOXBOROUGH ROAD: The new litter bin had not yet been provided.
- (d) FLY TIPPING – SHAW’S COPSE: The rubble had been removed.
- (e) STREET CLEANING:
- (i) EQUIPMENT – VILLAGE CLEANER: The Clerk had asked the DC for advice.
  - (ii) PROVISION OF DOG BINS: The dog bin had been provided at the Lower Radley turn. Councillors were disappointed that it was so near the seat and considered that it would be better on the land by the hedge. Councillors would review the position and discuss it at the next meeting.
- (f) STREET NAMES – NEW DEVELOPMENT, CHURCH ROAD: No reply had been received from the DC.
- (g) DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT – GREATER WESTERN FRANCHISE:
- (i) ACCESS TO LOWER RADLEY SIDE OF PLATFORM: This was being followed up with the OCC.

- (ii) **DRAFT TIMETABLE:** The Clerk was asked to clarify the new Sunday service.
- (iii) **CONDITION OF RAILWAY STATION:** The condition of the railway station had not improved, and the Clerk was asked to follow this up again with Network Rail.
- (h) **OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – RECEPTION, 15 MARCH 2006:** Crs D and J Standen reported that they had attended the OCC Reception and had made valuable contacts in relation to village shops and filling of the last Radley lakes.
- (i) **VALE OF WHITE HORSE DC – PPG 17 ASSESSMENT AND GREENSPACE STRATEGY:** Cr Crowley reported that he had looked at the questionnaire but had found it very difficult to complete.
- (j) **VALE OF WHITE HORSE – FREE BUS PASSES:** Cr Johnston reported that the final scheme had altered slightly from that he originally reported. It was now possible for the over 60s to travel from 9 am throughout the Vale, throughout Oxford City and also the Park and Ride, and for any single or return journey starting within the Vale going to Witney, Swindon and Didcot.

### **35/06 POLICE MATTERS**

The Parish Council noted:

- (a) The arrangements for Neighbourhood Policing as set out in the letter from the Thames Valley Police dated 3 March 2006.
- (b) The action taken in relation to the vandalism at the Sports Pavilion during August 2004.
- (c) Round Table with Police, representatives of Radley Village Hall Management Committee and the Parish Council: The police did not feel it was appropriate to hold a public meeting at this stage although considered that this could be arranged in the future should the Parish Council feel it was still necessary. The Radley VHMC was considering tomorrow night whether they would participate in the meeting. Cr Wren agreed to attend the meeting as the Parish Council representative.

### **36/06 PLANNING MATTERS**

- (a) **RWE Npower – new bunded ash lagoon in existing “Lake E” gravel pit,** including: construction of new ash lagoon, including working clay from the bottom of the existing lake to form an impermeable lining to the sides of the new lagoon; filling the new lagoon with pulverised fuel ash, restoration to nature conservation, deposit of silt and slurry from Lake E to Lake G and pipe and drainage work:

The Clerk reported that the OCC had refused to extend the deadline for comments for the public beyond the 17 March 2006, but had agreed to give the Parish Council a few days extra to allow an extraordinary meeting to take place.

The documents had been circulated as agreed, and an extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Monday, 27 March 2006, at 7.30 pm. Cr Johnston gave his apologies.

Cr Crowley indicated that he had prepared a briefing paper on behalf of Safe Radley Lakes for the Parish Council, and it was **AGREED** that a copy of this should be circulated to all Councillors before Monday's meeting. In addition, the response from the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust would be circulated.

The Parish Council would need to determine its spokesperson at the OCC Committee meeting, and this would be discussed at the meeting on Monday.

### **37/06 FUTURE OF VILLAGE SHOP**

Jane Barker, the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council Village Shops Development Officer, attended for this item. The booklet "How2 Create a Community Shop and Post Office", a handbook from the ORCC, had been circulated to all Councillors.

The Parish Council outlined the action taken, and Jane Barker indicated that there were two options:

- (a) Attract an individual retailer to run the shop, and
- (b) Establish a community shop

The Parish Council indicated that it had been trying without success to attract an individual retailer. There was discussion on grants, different ways of running a community shop, sites for the shop and costs of running a community shop. Jane Barker agreed to get some figures together on costs, and amend the recommended questionnaire. There was some discussion on suitable sites for a community shop, and the Parish Council **AGREED** that it would obtain details of leasing the shop in the new development in Church Road.

It was **AGREED** that the following action should be taken to ascertain the interest in running and supporting a community shop:

- (a) A questionnaire would be given to each household in the Parish to determine the interest;
- (b) A public meeting would be held to discuss the results of the questionnaire. Jane Barker indicated that she was willing to attend such a meeting.

### 38/06 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)	British Gas – Sports Pavilion:	£234.61
(ii)	Southern Electric – Sports Pavilion:	£147.14
(iii)	Copycat Services - Photocopying:	£15.58
(iv)	Miss S E Raven:	£877.51
	1. Salary, March 2006:	£368.32
	2. Expenses, quarter ended 31 March 2006:	£432.19
	Expenses:	£25.00
	Telephone:	£21.74
	Mileage:	£139.38
	Postage:	£24.15
	Stationery:	£142.68
	Padlock/Keys:	£30.72
	Repair to Notice Board:	£48.52
	3. Payment to Village Cleaner, April 2006:	£77.00
(v)	Mrs K Sharp, Cleaner/Caretaker:	£139.33
(vi)	Berinsfield Community Business – Copse, Church Road:	£381.88
(vii)	Mr H Pointer – Seats for Spinneys Close Garden:	£230.00
(viii)	Radley PCC:	£42.00
(ix)	Mr D A Thomas – Electrical work, Sports Pavilion:	£340.75
(x)	Midas Mechanical Services – Call out for Gas Fire:	£70.50
(xi)	MRH Services:	£2,133.19
	1. Repair to fencing, corner of village hall:	£523.66
	2. Replace two seats, Spinneys Close:	£73.53
	3. Repair to water damaged ceiling, sports pavilion:	£410.00
	4. Repair to roof, provide vent covers, etc:	£1,126.00
(xii)	Oxfordshire Rural Community Council – Best Kept Village: (Cheque dated 1 April 2006)	£20.00

- (b) ESTIMATE – REPAIRS TO ELECTRIC FANS IN SHOWER ROOM, SPORTS PAVILION: It was noted that both fans had burnt out, and an estimate of £230 plus VAT had been received from D A Thomas. **IT WAS AGREED** that as the showers were not used, the water for this facility should be turned off and the fans should not be repaired until the showers were required.
- (c) GRATUITIES AND THE NEW TAXATION REGIME FOR PENSION SCHEMES AFTER 6 APRIL 2006: The Parish Council considered the advice given by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils and a letter from the HM Revenue and Customs about the tax treatment of Local Government (Discretionary Payments) Regulations 1996 Gratuity Payments made on or after

6 April 2006. It was noted that approval should be sought from HM Revenue & Customs to approve the scheme before 5 April 2006, so that the scheme became a registered pension scheme by virtue of paragraph 1 of Schedule 36 of the Finance Act 2004, and that for members retiring on or after 6 April 2006, the scheme might pay the following benefits:

- (i) A tax-free lump sum of 100% in respect of the member's service up to 5 April 2006;
- (ii) A tax-free sum of 25% in respect of the member's rights accrued for service from 6 April 2006 to the date of retirement.
- (iii) A pension in respect of the residual 75% of the member's rights accrued for service from April 2006 to the date of retirement.

It was proposed by Cr Johnston, seconded by Cr Henderson, and **AGREED** that the Parish Council should take such action as necessary to protect the gratuity entitlement of the Parish Council Clerk.

The Clerk reported that, in order to meet the deadline of 5 April 2006, the HM Revenue & Customs had agreed to accept a letter from the Chairman, followed by a signed copy of the Minutes following the April meeting of the Parish Council. The Parish Council **AGREED** that this action be taken.

### **39/06 CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **(i) ACTION REQUIRED:**

- (a) Vale of White Horse DC:
  - (i) Meeting of North East Area Forum, 29 March 2006, 7-9 pm, WI Hall, North Hinksey Lane, Botley: "Young and Old Together": It was not possible for the Parish Council to be represented.
  - (ii) Is your community interested in a renewable energy project?: For Radley News
  - (iii) Free Bus Passes from 1 April 2006: For Radley News
  - (iv) Planning for the Future of the Vale: Consultation on Statement of Community Involvement Submission Document: Comments required by 21 April 2006: Cr Crowley **AGREED** to look at this for discussion at the Extraordinary meeting on the 27 March 2006.
- (b) NALC: Local Council Review: It was noted that this would now be purchased from NALC rather than through the OALC
- (c) Oxfordshire County Council – Premium Bus Routes: It was noted that the OCC had no immediate plan to make alterations to bus stops in Radley as there was less money now available for Premium Routes work. Priorities with bus operators and others was currently under discussion with a view to producing a firm programme for 2006/2007 and outline programmes for the following four years.

- (d) The Association of Small Historic Towns and Villages of the UK: It was agreed that ASHTAV could use the website to prepare a short profile on Radley.
- (e) Motocross Meeting at Culham, 18 & 19 March 2006: Councillors indicated that no noise had been heard from the eventing.

**(ii) FOR INFORMATION**

- (a) Oxfordshire County Council:
  - (i) News, March 2006
  - (ii) Oxfordshire Services – Your Guide to Oxfordshire County Council
  - (iii) Home2School, Spring 2006
  - (iv) Transport Consultation Summit Notes
- (b) Vale of White Horse DC:
  - (i) The Oxfordshire Market Towns of Abingdon, Faringdon and Wantage – Visitors Guide
  - (ii) Standards Committee – Parish or Town Councillor required
- (c) Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – Garden Boundary High Hedges: the information collected on the national picture was noted. The Clerk was asked to ascertain what action the Executive Committee would be taking.
- (d) South East and South West Oxfordshire Primary Care Trusts: Public Board Meeting, 23 March 2006, 9.30 am to 1 pm, Council Offices, SODC, Crowmarsh
- (e) Clerks and Councils Direct, March 2006
- (f) Abingdon and District Twin Towns Society (ADITS) Newsletter, February 2006
- (g) The Play Services – details of service provided
- (h) Network Rail – Repair of footbridge: It was noted that the current bridge was temporary to allow the footbridge to be repaired and painted.
- (i) Abingdon and District CAB: The letter of thanks for the donation was noted.
- (j) Euromarket 2006 – visit to Sint Niklass 28 – 30 July 2006: noted
- (k) The Local Channel – “Free for Life” Council Website.

**40/06 ALLOTMENTS**

The Clerk reported that the Vale of White Horse DC Environmental Department had been in touch with her following complaints of rats on the allotments. It was essential that the DC took action on this matter, and the cost would be in the region of £100. The Clerk had been asked to write to the allotment holders to inform them of this problem.

#### **41/06 CONSERVATION MATTERS**

- (a) FOOTPATH 9: The Clerk had been in touch with the OCC Rights of Way Field Officer about a TRO for this footpath, and had been informed that the OCC would be the “applicants” for any TRO and would only consider it if it was essential to the safety of other users and not because illegal traffic was being a nuisance. The Rights of Way Field Officer did not feel this was the case as much of the byway was heavily used by cyclists and walkers with no reports of near misses or other health and safety issues. The TRO would not prevent illegal users; the TRO would not automatically mean that the barriers would remain; illegal use, as it was at the present, was something the police would have to take action on.

The Rights of Way Field Officer reiterated the advice about obtaining sufficient evidence to prove the byway was wrongly recorded on the Definitive Map. Cr J Standen mentioned that on a recent walk along the footpath by members of the Radley History Club had mentioned that at the time the information was gathered for the Definitive Map the footpath was used by farm vehicles, but this was no longer the case. The Clerk was asked to report this to the Rights of Way Field Officer.

- (b) FOOTPATHS 2 AND 10: The OCC Rights of Way Field Officer reported that both footpaths had been reinstated. A letter had been sent to all landowners on the OCC data-base reminding them of their responsibilities to reinstate the line of a right of way through standing crops, the deadline for this work being Easter.
- (c) TREE PLANTING:
- (i) COPSE, CHURCH ROAD: The Clerk reported that, although the Tree Council were happy to allow container trees to be planted provided the additional cost was met by the Parish Council, its advice was to wait until the next planting season as a dry summer was forecast. The Parish Council accepted the advice from the Tree Council.
- (ii) GOOSEACRE RECREATION FIELD: It was not known whether Radley College had planted the trees.

#### **42/06 VILLAGE POND**

The Parish Council accepted the report from the Village Pond Management Committee. The Parish Council did not agree that a digger should be used to clear the pond, and the Clerk was asked to obtain advice on the best way to undertake this work.

#### **43/06 HIGHWAY MATTERS**

- (a) ROAD/FOOTWAY REPAIRS: Cr Mott reported that he had met Mr John Beaumont, Oxfordshire Highways, because of a number of complaints about the work in Radley.

- (b) **CONDITION OF THRUPP LANE:** To be raised at the meeting with Oxfordshire Highways.
- (c) **TRAFFIC CALMING – KENNINGTON ROAD BETWEEN SANDFORD LANE AND SUGWORTH LANE:** No reply had been received from the OCC.
- (d) **JUNCTION AT WHITES LANE/FOXBOROUGH ROAD:** A meeting was being arranged.
- (e) **PEDESTRIAN CROSSING, SANDFORD LANE:** The Clerk was asked to refer this request to the Oxfordshire Highways.
- (f) **AbITS VILLAGE TREATMENT – ROUNDAL MODIFICATIONS:** noted
- (g) **OXFORDSHIRE HIGHWAYS – CHANGE OF TELEPHONE NUMBER:** It was noted that the telephone number was now 0845 310 11 11.

**44/06 PARISH WEBSITE**

No report was made.

**45/06 REPORT OF DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Cr Johnston reported:

- (i) The Vale of White Horse DC had accepted the Inspector’s report on the Local Plan 2011, which confirmed that the Green Belt around Radley was safe until 2013.
- (ii) Oxfordshire County Council: reductions in the highways maintenance budget had been confirmed. It was also noted that the shortage of satisfactory contractors was a problem.

Date: .....  
.....  
Chairman