

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF RADLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE CHURCH ROOM, RADLEY, ON THURSDAY, 24 NOVEMBER
2005 AT 7.30 PM**

PRESENT: Cr B Mott (in the Chair)
Crs Crowley, Henderson, Nutt, Rogers, D Standen, J Standen, Wilson,
Wren, Wyatt

168/05 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cr Johnston.

169/05 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 the Planning Application from RWEnPower, and the cheque to the Save Radley Lakes Group.

There were no other declarations of interest.

**170/05 MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL, 27
OCTOBER 2005**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 27 October 2005 were **APPROVED** and signed by the Chairman with the following amendments:

Minute 157/05 (a) – Heading should read: **STOLEN BURNT OUT CARS**

Minute 163/05 – second line of second paragraph should read: "... attractive area with tree planting."

Minute 165/05 (c) should read: "The Clerk was trying to find out..."

171/05 BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

- (a) **ADDITIONAL STREET LIGHTING, LOWER RADLEY:** The Chairman reported that he and the Clerk had met the OCC Street Lighting Officer on site and had agreed that the additional light should be put on an existing pole opposite 30 Lower Radley. The light provided would be hooded with the light directed more on to the road, and all the lighting in Lower Radley would be upgraded to this type of light in the near future.

- (b) **CAR PARK, CHURCH ROAD:** It was noted that a reply had been received from the OCC indicating that it had not been able to find any source of funding for the car park.
- (c) **GREAT WESTERN RAIL FRANCHISE – STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION DOCUMENT:** It was noted that the Department for Transport had indicated that it expected to make an announcement on the award of the franchise on 21 December 2005.
- (d) **TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS:** It was noted that the DC did not feel that the cherry trees by the allotments were suitable for Tree Preservation Orders.
- (e) **DEVELOPMENT, CHURCH ROAD:** It was noted that the DC Enforcement Monitoring Officer had checked the building in relation to the approved plans, and was satisfied that the work was being done in accordance with the plans.
- (f) **NOISE NUISANCE, CULHAM:** The Clerk reported that Mr Alex Natton, DC Environmental Officer, had contacted her regarding the motocross at Culham. He had indicated that the noise nuisance was very dependent on the weather, and that he would continue to review the events next season. He had asked the organisation to consider one day events so that events were held on either Saturday or Sunday. Councillors wondered whether a baffle of hayricks would help keep the noise level down.

The Clerk also reported that Mr Natton had asked to be informed of any motorcyclist nuisance in the Parish.

172/05 POLICE MATTERS

- (a) **DISTURBANCE FOLLOWING EVENT AT VILLAGE HALL:** Cr Wren reported that there had been no follow up by the police in relation to the burglary. It was noted that PC Broomfield was chasing up the attending officers for information.
- (b) **HOUSE TO HOUSE CALLERS:** The information and descriptions had been passed to patrolling officers and to the intelligence office. This sort of call was invaluable to the police as a source of information, but unfortunately it rarely produced a result that was seen by the public or the caller.
- (c) **PARKING ON PAVEMENT, 17 CHURCH ROAD:** PC Broomfield would be looking into this.
- (d) **STOLEN MOPED - POLICE SURGERY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2005:** The boys were in possession of a stolen moped. PC Broomfield arrested them, but they were not prosecuted. He is making further enquiries.
- (e) **VANDALISM TO SPORTS PAVILION:** It was noted that, although PC Wheble investigated this, speaking to several people to try to obtain proper

evidence, his investigation did not produce the required evidence to mount a prosecution. **IT WAS AGREED** that a letter should be sent to the police expressing dissatisfaction about this case and asking why the Parish Council had to press for information on the outcome.

- (f) **CHANGES IN POLICE STRUCTURES, ACCESS TO POLICE ASSISTANCE AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:** The Clerk reported that she had attended the Winter General Meeting of the OALC when a presentation had been given by Katherine Govier, Acting Assistant Chief Constable, Thames Valley Police. A pilot system to improve links with local communities was being tried throughout the country. In Oxfordshire, the pilot system was being tried in Carterton. The handout was noted by the Parish Council.

173/05 PLANNING MATTERS

- (i) New Applications:
- (a) RAD/17587/2 – Erection of building ancillary to the house, 91 Foxborough Road; The Parish Council objected to this application on the grounds that it was back land development and overdevelopment of the site. Clerk to ascertain whether people in New Road had been consulted.
- (b) RAD/11540/3 – Proposed conversion of building to a dwelling, The Old Forge, Lower Radley: The Parish Council agreed to the change of use, but objected to any increase in the size of the building.
- (ii) Permission Given:
- (a) RAD/7347/2 – Proposed single storey and first floor rear extensions, 55 Foxborough Road.
- (b) RAD/1802/2 – Demolition of existing garage, entrance area and carport. Erection of two storey side extension and single storey extension to front, side and rear. Erection of a detached pool house, 38 Sugworth Lane.
- (c) RAD/14959/4
- (d) RAD/14959/5-LB – Extensions and alterations, bakers Close, 104 Lower Radley The Parish Council noted that the thatched roof to be removed was the conical addition and was not part of the listed building thatched roof. The Clerk reported that the Planning Officer considered that the changes being made would much improve the appearance of the premises.
- (e) RAD/18594/1 – Erection of a conservatory and carport, 19 St James Road

(iii) **RWE NPOWER PLANNING APPLICATION**

A motion was put forward by Cr Crowley, and the following wording was **AGREED:**

The Parish Council notes that the planning application by RWE npower to fill the Radley Lakes (aka Lakes E & F) with pulverised fuel ash has been put into abeyance while the applicant considers its response to technical objections. The Council is also aware of intense local opposition to this proposal and of the very strong arguments that have been raised against the application.

This Council therefore deplores RWE npower's failure to withdraw the application in the face of strong public opposition, and feels that they should take more notice of the high value attributed to these lakes by local people and take immediate steps to implement alternative, less harmful, plans for the disposal of the fuel ash.

The Council believes that RWE npower have such alternative means at their disposal, and that their implementation now, while possibly more inconvenient and costly in the short term, would cost the Company much less dearly in terms of its public reputation and green credentials.

The Council also once believed that RWE Npower put a high value on its relations with its community neighbours and would like that belief restored.

A petition asking RWE npower to desist and to allow the continued enjoyment of the lakes by the indigenous wildlife and by the community has already collected in excess of 7,000 signatures. This Council sincerely believes that RWE Npower should accede to this request.

IT WAS AGREED that the motion should be sent to the Oxfordshire County Council's Planning Department and that it should be issued as a press release, although the Clerk indicated that the minutes of the Parish Council minutes were sent to the press.

[After the meeting Cr Crowley circulated to all Councillors the amendments made to the motion. Because some concerns were expressed these would be discussed fully at the next meeting.]

174/05 FUTURE OF VILLAGE SHOP

The Chairman indicated that he had nothing further to report on this matter.

175/05 FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

It was proposed by Cr Wilson, seconded by Cr Henderson and **AGREED** that the following payments should be made:

(i)	Miss S E Raven:		£423.10
	1. Salary, November 2005:	£368.10	
	2. Payment to Village Cleaner, December 2005:	£55.00	
(ii)	Mr D A Thomas – Electrical Report, Sports Pavilion:		£223.25
(iii)	TDH Promotions Warehouse – Banner for Web Site:		£66.98

(b) REPORT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE, 10 NOVEMBER 2005

Cr Crowley presented the report on the meeting:

- (a) **REVIEW OF CLERK'S TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE:** It was noted that a short meeting had been held but further consideration needed to be given to this matter.
- (b) **STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL INSTRUCTIONS:** This matter would be followed up.
- (c) **SPORTS PAVILION:** It was noted that Mr Stuart Sharp had attended for this item, when the following matters were discussed:
 - (i) **Gas Servicing/Repairs:** Gas Servicing/Repairs was required urgently. The Clerk reported that the servicing had been undertaken this week, although one of the burners needed to be repaired.
 - (ii) **Electricity – Periodic Inspection Report and PAT Test:** The report had now been received and would be discussed at the next meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee.
 - (iii) **Repairs to roof of sports pavilion and painting flat roof with sticky paint:** The Clerk would ascertain from MRH Services when the work would be undertaken.
 - (iv) **Repairs to plaster and outside painting:** Cr Nutt reported that the loose metal mesh for the bell moulding had been cut off for safety reasons. The Clerk would ascertain from MRH Services when the work would be undertaken.

- (v) Vent covers – Sports Pavilion: The Clerk would ascertain from MRH Services when the work would be undertaken.
 - (vi) Inside decoration: Mr Sharp indicated that the Radley Youth FC were willing to undertake the decorating provided the Parish Council provided the paint. The Parish Council **AGREED** with this approach, subject to the price of paint.
 - (vii) STEP/RAMP: It was noted that Mr Sharp had reported that at least three accidents had happening on the step/ramp by children and adults tripping on the brick edges. **IT WAS AGREED** that the split step ramp should be removed as soon as possible and a ramp with curved edges was provided. The Clerk was following this up with MRH Services.
 - (viii) APPOINTMENT OF CARETAKER AND CLEANER: It was noted that Mr Sharp indicated that he was willing to be the caretaker, and he knew of a lady who would be willing to act as cleaner. The Parish Council **AGREED** this subject to agreeing the cost and contractual arrangements with the people involved. The Clerk reported that she had written to Mr Sharp asking if he could meet the Chairman and Playing Field Co-ordinator to discuss this.
 - (ix) PROVISION OF CCTV SECURITY SYSTEM: It was noted that the Clerk was still obtaining estimates for this work.
 - (x) KEYS FOR SPORTS PAVILION: It was noted that Mr Sharp reported that the Radley Youth FC only had two keys, and a third one was required. Three keys had been issued to the FC, one had been lost, and the Club was willing to pay for the replacement key.
 - (xi) VANDALISM: A group of 4-5 young boys were spending a lot of time on the sports pavilion veranda and were causing problems by holding BBQs and drinking. Broken glass on the playing field was of great concern. Mr Sharp indicated that he would give the names of the offenders to the Clerk.
- (d) GOOSEACRE PLAYING FIELD:
- (i) DAMAGE THROUGH TREE CUTTING ACTIVITY: It was noted that the ruts in the grass had levelled out with the help of Radley College grounds men.
 - (ii) CONSIDERATION TO ESTIMATES FOR GRASS CUTTING/MAINTENANCE OF RECREATIONAL FIELD: The Committee considered the costs put forward by Berinsfield Community Business, J V Strong, and Radley Youth FC. The

Parish Council **AGREED** that it should accept the estimate from the Berinsfield Community Business which would reduce the cost of this service.

- (iii) **REPAIR TO FENCE AT NORFOLK CLOSE END OF PLAYING FIELD:** The Clerk would ask MRH Services to undertake this work when the ground was hard to avoid further damage to the pitch.
- (iv) **PROVISION OF GATE BETWEEN GOOSEACRE AND THRUPP LANE PLAYING FIELDS:** The Clerk reported that the lease indicated that the Parish Council was responsible for the maintenance of all hedges around the field, but clarify was being sought from the Bursar at Radley College.
- (e) **SALE OF TRINKET BOXES:** It was noted that Mr Paul Gamble had put the details of the Trinket Boxes on to the email system at Radley College, but there had been no requests to date. The trinket boxes would be on display at Radley Christmas Bazaar. Cr Crowley indicated that the Save Radley Lakes Group would be willing to try to sell some during their fund raising activities, provided the Group could be given a percentage of the cost of boxes sold. The Parish Council **AGREED** that Cr Crowley's offer be accepted, and that the Save Radley Group be given £1.00 for every box sold.
- (f) **PLAY AREA:**
 - (i) **RoSPA REPORT ON PLAY AREA**
 - (ii) **REPORT FROM MRH SERVICES**

Both reports outlined repair work which was necessary, including an extension to the flag stones, repairs to fencing, repairs to gate, bolt covers, cutting back growth to expose Parish Council notice on the wall of the village hall. The Clerk would obtain estimates for the work. An estimate had been received for the repair of the fencing, and the Clerk would ascertain when the work could be undertaken.

- (g) **VILLAGE SEATS:**
 - (i) **SEAT OUTSIDE RADLEY COLLEGE:** Radley College had repaired this seat, and the Parish Council **AGREED** that it should take over its future maintenance in line with the seat for Pebble Hill.
 - (ii) **INSTALLATION OF SEAT AT PEBBLE HILL:** The Clerk would ascertain when the seat would be installed.
 - (iii) **PROVISION OF SEATS, CENTENARY GARDEN, SPINNEYS CLOSE:** The Clerk would obtain estimates for the removal of the

two old seats and the provision of two new seats. She would also contact the Vale Housing Association regarding the third seat on site.

- (h) **GARDENING THROUGHOUT PARISH:** The Committee considered the costs put forward by Berinsfield Community Business and J V Strong. The Parish Council **AGREED** that it should accept the estimate from the Berinsfield Community Business which would reduce the cost of this service.
- (i) **PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF REQUESTS FOR DONATIONS:** Further consideration to the donations would be given at the next meeting. The Parish Council **AGREED** that up to £20 be spent on the Christmas Hamper this year.
- (j) **ACCOUNTS 2004/2005 – REPORT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR:** The notes put forward by the Internal Auditor were considered. Action was needed on:
 - a) Village Cleaner: An Inland Revenue form needed to be completed.
 - (b) Fidelity Guarantee Insurance should be reviewed. The Clerk would complete an application form for the insurance company.
- (k) **PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF ESTIMATES 2006/2007:** There was some discussion on the estimates for 2006/2007, and revised estimates for 2005/2006 and estimates for 2006/2007 would be prepared for the next meeting.

It was confirmed that £75.00 was included annually in the estimates for hedge cutting at the car park/cemetery.
- (l) **RADLEY GARDEN COMPETITION – SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE:** It was noted that the expenditure for the Garden Competition was lower than the donations received. The Clerk was asked if it was possible to show this in the accounts.
- (m) **PARISH PLAN – APPLICATION FOR GRANT:** There was discussion on whether the Parish Council should apply for a grant towards the preparation of a Parish Plan, or whether it was possible to update the current plan without a grant.
- (n) **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:** The following payments had been made:
 - (i) Ringrose Tree Surgery: £822.50
 - (ii) Thames Water – Allotments: £15.58
 - (iii) Thames Water – Sports Pavilion: £50.28
 - (iv) MRH Services: £140.00

1. Inspection of Play Area: £30.00
 2. Maintenance of village seats: £110.00
- (o) ALLOTMENT HOLDER – OUTSTANDING DEBT: It was noted that one of the allotment holders owed £14.10. The allotment licence had been withdrawn, and the allotment re-let. The Parish Council **AGREED** that the debt be written off.
- (p) PROJECTS:
- (i) Play Area for Older Children: The Clerk was collecting brochures. Cr Nutt would look through these, and recommendations would be made to the Parish Council.
 - (ii) Car Park – Surfacing: The Clerk would obtain up-to-date estimates for the 2006/2007 estimates. Discussions were taking place with the Bursar regarding the new footway through the copse.
 - (c) Bus Shelter: Provision of a further bus shelter should remain in the estimates.

176/05 OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – AbITS: FINAL REPORT OF ABINGDON VILLAGE STUDY

The Councillors discussed the details of the report and considered that the issues in Radley had been covered well. **IT WAS AGREED** to review matters regularly to ensure action was taken, and this matter should be put on the agenda in six months time.

177/05 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) ACTION REQUIRED:

- (a) Oxfordshire County Council:
- (i) Transaction: Moving Forward: What do you think of our plans for transport? Cr D Standen reported that he had recently been to a transport meeting when there had been discussions on premium routes, where there would be electronic timetable boards, more bus shelters. The humps in Kennington will need to be modified to pads before the premium route can be introduced from Oxford to Abingdon. It was noted that four District Councils (not Oxford) were represented at the meeting.

IT WAS AGREED that the Parish Council should ask for a local exhibition in the village.

- (ii) Proposed Village Gateways: It was noted that the OCC had agreed to move the gateway to the Sandford Lane end of the Parish. The Councillors queried the speed limit between Sugworth Lane and Park Farm and whether this should be reduced to 30 mph.
 - (iii) Draft Oxfordshire Children & Youth People's Plan is now available for public consultation: It was noted that comments were required by the 20 January 2006, and that the document was available on www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeoplesplan
Councillors **AGREED** to look the report up and see whether any comments were required.
- (b) Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – Winter General Meeting 2005, Monday, 21 November 2005, Stratfield Brake Pavilion, Kidlington, at 7.30 pm: The Clerk reported that she had attended this meeting and that it had been agreed that the subscription for the next financial year would not be increased.
 - (c) Association of Small Historic Towns and Villages of the UK, News 2005. Parish Council to consider subscribing to this Association: It was proposed by Cr J Standen, seconded by Cr Nutt and **AGREED** that the Parish Council should subscribe to this Association at a cost of £25 per annum.
 - (d) Mr D A Thomas – Periodic Inspection Report, Appliance Test Results and estimate for remedial work as a result of the Inspection Report: This would be considered by the Finance and Administration Committee.

(ii) FOR INFORMATION

- (a) Oxfordshire County Council:
 - (i) News, November 2005
 - (ii) CAG Project (Waste/Recycling Group), News November 2005
- (b) Vale of White Horse DC – Funding and community grants:
 - (i) Funding and community grants
 - (ii) Local Recycling or Composting Collections in the Vale of White Horse
 - (iii) Standards Committee, 9 November 2005
- (c) South East and South West Oxfordshire Primary Care Trusts – Public Board Meeting, 24 November 2005, 9.30 – 1 pm, Council Offices, SODC, Crowmarsh.
- (d) Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment Ltd – Annual Meeting, 9 December 2005, 2 pm at the Ardley with Fewcott Village Hall
- (e) Village Fete: This was planned for 1 July 2006
- (f) Clerks and Councils Direct, November 2005
- (g) ORCC – Mr John Hardwicke's retirement

178/05 LEASE WITH RADLEY COLLEGE – CAR PARK/VILLAGE POND

The Chairman and Clerk would be meeting the Bursar at the beginning of December.

179/05 CONSERVATION MATTERS

- (a) “NEIGHBOURLY” HEDGES: It was noted that the Secretary to the OALC had indicated that the Parish Council had raised an interesting point, which had not been picked up from other sources. He would put this on the agenda of the next meeting of the Executive Committee on 30 January 2006, to get the view of this Committee on taking the matter to NALC.
- (b) FOOTPATH 9 - STOLEN BURNT OUT CARS: As far as could be ascertained, all the stolen cars had been removed. The Clerk reported that she was finalising the arrangements for a site meeting with the OCC Field Path Officer, DC and police representatives. All Councillors would be circulated once the date had been finalised.

180/05 HIGHWAY MATTERS

- (a) ROAD CONDITIONS – POTHOLES, FERNY CLOSE: Repair work would not be undertaken this financial year.
- (b) ROAD/FOOTWAY REPAIRS: Details of footway repairs in Church Road and Stonhouse Crescent had been received.
- (c) CHURCH ROAD – TREE MANAGEMENT: It was noted that the OCC were arranging for the trees which were a danger to the public to be cut back. This work would be undertaken shortly.
- (d) HEDGE/TREE, 15A CHURCH ROAD: No further information was available on the pruning of this hedge.
- (e) CONDITION OF THRUPP LANE: No reply had been received from the OCC on the condition of Thrupp Lane.
- (f) WILLOW TREES, GOOSEACRE: It was noted that the branches had been cut back.

181/05 PARISH WEBSITE

The Clerk reported that a reply had been received from The Roman Group regarding the photographs which had infringed the copyright, and that an offer of £100 compensation had been made without prejudice. **IT WAS AGREED** that, subject to the agreement of the owners of the photographs, that this offer should

be accepted. Cr Wilson agreed to discuss this with members of the Web Site group, and let the Parish Council know the decision.

Cr Wilson reported that the banner had been received. **IT WAS AGREED** that this should be put on the railings by the play area for the Christmas Bazaar. **IT WAS AGREED** that the Parish Council should meet the cost of the Christmas Bazaar table, which would be £8.00.

It was reported that there had been 5000 visits to the website in October.

182/05 REPORT OF DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR

There was no report from the District and County Councillor.

Date:
Chairman