

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

PRESENT: Cr B Mott (in the Chair)
Crs Crowley, Henderson, Johnston, Nutt, Rogers, D Standen, J Standen,
Wren, Wyatt
Mr Peter Harbour attended for Agenda Item 153/06(iii) (a)

148/06 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cr Johnston.

149/06 DECLARATIONS 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 the Radley Lakes.

There were no other Declarations of Interest.

**150/06 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF PARISH COUNCIL, 26
OCTOBER 2006**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 26 October 2006 were **APPROVED** and signed by the Chairman, with the following amendments:

Minute 138/06 (iii) (a) second sentence of second paragraph should read: "... following receipt of Counsel's opinion that suggested there were ..."

Minute 139/06 tenth line of first paragraph should read: "... either by way of donations or by"

151/06 BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

- (a) **DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT – GREATER WESTERN FRANCHISE - DRAFT TIMETABLE:** The Clerk reported that the Oxfordshire County Council had confirmed the train times for the Sunday service from 10 December. **IT WAS AGREED** that the details should be circulated to Parish Councillors.
- (b) **GOOSEACRE RECREATIONAL FIELD – BOUNDARY RESPONSIBILITY:** No information had been received from the Bursar, and the Clerk continued to chase for a reply.

- (c) LAND REGISTRY – VOLUNTARY REGISTRATION: Further information was awaited from the Land Registry.
- (d) PLAY AREA – REPAIRS: These were being followed up.
- (e) RELOCATION OF DOG BIN: It was noted that the dog bin had been relocated.
- (f) INFORMATION BOOKLET FOR RADLEY HOUSEHOLDS: Cr Mott would follow this up.
- (g) DRAINAGE, SPORTS PAVILION: The Clerk reported that the DC had referred her to Thames Water, who had undertaken the necessary work to free the blockage.

152/06 POLICE MATTERS

It was reported that a new Area Beat Officer should be joining the Radley team before Christmas.

The Clerk reported that she had telephoned the police following a complaint from a Gooseacre resident that motorcyclists were on the playing field. When the same resident telephoned again, she was advised to ring the police direct. However, it was noted that the police had only received one telephone call and, as the message was referred to the Radley team, details were not received until 3 or 4 days after the event.

Radley Parish Council had not been represented at the meeting held on the 22 November 2006 regarding Neighbourhood Policing.

153/06 PLANNING MATTERS

(i) New Applications

- (a) RAD/6332/1 – Erection of a rear conservatory, 16 Selwyn Crescent: No objections

(ii) Permission Given

NIL

(iii) Misc:

- (a) RWEnPOWER – filling of gravel pits: Mr Peter Harbour attended the meeting and the meeting agreed with the Chairman's suggestion that he should speak for five minutes on the open letter he had sent to the local press, which had been circulated with the agenda. Mr Harbour outlined the points he had made in his letter, stressing that he felt that Radley Parish Council should take immediate

action to ensure that once the legal opinion had been obtained the support of other Councils, such as the Vale of White Horse DC and Abingdon Town Council, was available. He also felt that the Oxfordshire County Council and RWEnPower should be asked if they would change their minds over the decision to fill the remaining Radley Lakes. Following general discussion with Mr Harbour, the Chairman indicated that the five minutes had elapsed for this item was up and that he would move on to the next agenda item. The Councillors did not feel they had had sufficient time to consider the points being raised and, when the Chairman insisted that the Parish Council moved to the next item, great concern was expressed by the Councillors, with talk about suspension of the Chairman, and Cr Henderson proposed a vote of no confidence in the Chairman. This was seconded by Cr Wilson and **AGREED**. The Chairman asked the meeting what they wanted, and the Councillors indicated they would like him to stand down from the Chair for this item and not participate in any further discussion. The Chairman agreed, and the Vice-Chairman took over for the remainder of this item.

Mr Harbour was allowed to talk further to his letter, and reiterated the points he had made that the Parish Council should meet with the Vale of White Horse DC and Abingdon Town Council,, and that the OCC and RWE Npower should be asked if they would reconsider the decision to fill the remaining Radley Lakes, taking into account that 11,000 had signed a petition against the planning application.

Mr Harbour left the meeting.

The position was then discussed fully. The PC decided that it had already made contact with both the Vale of White Horse DC and Abingdon Town Council, and both Councils were fully in the picture. It was proposed by Cr J Standen, seconded by Cr Henderson and **AGREED** that letters should be sent to both the OCC and RWEnPower asking them to change their minds and not fill Radley Lakes. Cr Mott voted against this motion.

It was queried why the legal advice was taking so long, and Cr Crowley indicated that the solicitors were awaiting the written details of the planning permission. The Parish Council asked him to press for a legal opinion and **AGREED** that if this arrived in between meetings, a special meeting would be called so there was no delay in considering it.

Cr Mott took back the Chairmanship of the meeting for the remainder of the meeting.

154/06 THRUPP AND BULLFIELD LAKES, RADLEY – APPLICATION TO REGISTER AS A TOWN GREEN

The Parish Council considered the letter from Jo Cartmell, together with advice from the Open Spaces Society. It was noted that the Open Spaces Society would be unable to give help unless the Parish Council was a member of the Society, and it was proposed by Cr Crowley, seconded by Cr Wilson and **AGREED** that the Parish Council should join the Society at a cost of £40.00.

The Parish Council indicated it was willing to help and support the work taking place to obtain evidence to put in an application to register this area as a Town Green. The Clerk was asked to write to Abingdon Town Council to inform it of this action in the hope it would also support the work.

There was talk of an Old Drovers Road across the area, and Cr Wilson undertook to look into this.

155/06 FUTURE OF VILLAGE SHOP

Cr Wyatt reported that work was proceeding satisfactorily, and the Village Shop Management Committee was pressing for the For Sale notice to be taken down from the building. It was reported that the Chairman and Clerk had signed a letter to the Bank indicating that the Parish Council was supporting the work of this group.

156/06 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- (a) REPORT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE, 9 NOVEMBER 2006
 - (i) REVISED ESTIMATES ON BUDGET FOR 2006/2007/ESTIMATED BUDGET FOR 2007/2008

The following points were made:

1. Insurance: Advice was awaited from the Insurance Company.
2. Administration: 3% salary increase had been allowed.
3. Donations: The Parish Council **AGREED** it would decide what donations should be given.
4. Playing Field: **IT WAS AGREED** that the Caretaker/Cleaner should be employed under the National Agreement of the National Joint Council for Local Government Service, with the variation that the Parish Council determined the salary.

IT IS AGREED that the Parish Council should review the salary annually

5. Play Area: The report from Play Safety Ltd recommended that a second sign should be provided on the entrance by the village hall. **IT WAS AGREED** that the growth should be cut back from the existing notice.
6. Village Cleaner: **IT WAS AGREED** that the Caretaker/Cleaner should be employed under the National Agreement of the National Joint Council for Local Government Service, with the variation that the Parish Council determined the salary.
7. Bus Shelters: **IT WAS AGREED** that the following sites should be considered for bus shelters:
 - Entrance to Pebble Hill
 - Radley College – both sides of the road
 - Opposite Bowyer Arms – further along the lay-by to correspond with the place where the bus actually stops, not by the bus stop. This needed to be clarified with the OCC.**IT WAS AGREED** that local residents should be consulted when bus stops were near houses.
8. Car Park: It was noted that an estimate from Gordon Hill indicated that the cost of the path from the car park to the school was in the region of £4,000. The Committee considered that further funds should be sought from the church, the school and the OCC before any decision was made to go ahead with this work.
9. General Maintenance:
 - (a) An estimate was being obtained for repair work to manholes and the provision of locking manhole covers.
 - (b) CCTV: No response had been received from the Radley VHMC. The Clerk was asked to ensure that the total cost was included in the 2007/2008 budget figures.
 - (c) Decoration: There was a small amount outstanding for painting of window and door frames (125). This had been allowed in the 2006/2007 budget.
 - (d) Estimates were being obtained for repair work to the blue fencing around the play area and the original gate by the village hall entrance.
10. Parish Plan: Cr Wyatt agreed to “key in” electronically the existing plan, so that the Parish Council could look at it with a review to forming a Parish Plan.
11. Village Pond: Concern was expressed about the current fence bordering the road.

12. Garden Competition: The Clerk was asked to include the cost of providing new cups with engraving.
13. Radley Lakes: The Parish Council had not yet decided what action to take, and no provision was included in the budget.
14. Car Park: Concern was expressed about lorries parking in the car park, and the possibility of a height restriction bar, with a padlocked bar, was discussed. This had been followed up with the firm concerned, and an apology had been received with an assurance that their lorries would not be parking in the car park in future.
15. There was discussion on ways of rewarding people who undertook voluntary work in the community over a period of years – such as the leaders of the Guides, Brownies and Youth Club. The Committee considered that the possibility of a buffet supper when medals or certificates with prizes valued £50/£100, to be used by the organization were presented should be discussed further by the Parish Council.
16. Funding of Police Community Support Officers: The Parish Council considered the request from Thames Valley for funding towards the cost of Police Community Support Officers, to give more support in the Parish, but **AGREED** that no funding should be allocated for these appointments.

(ii) ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENTS

It was noted that the following accounts had been paid by the Finance and Administration Committee:

(a)	RJS (IA) Ltd – Internal Audit:	£175.00
(b)	Berinsfield Community Business:	£425.95
(c)	Thames Water – Sports Pavilion:	£57.63
(d)	Thames Water – Allotments:	£7.80
(e)	Copycat Services – Photocopying:	£177.94
(f)	Radley PCC – Hire of Hall:	£56.00
(g)	SLCC – Local Council Administration:	£48.00

(b) TO CONSIDER PRECEPT FOR 2007/2008

The Parish Council considered the budget paper, which set out the current spend for 2006/2007, the revised budget for 2006/2007, and the proposed budget for 2007/2008. **IT WAS AGREED** that the Parish Council should precept for the same sum as 2006/2007, £42,000.

(c) **PATH FROM CAR PARK TO SCHOOL**

Following further discussion on the possibility of obtaining funding from the OCC, the school and the church, **IT WAS AGREED** that, as outside funding was highly unlikely and as the Parish Council would be legally responsible for any accident caused by the poor surface, the Parish Council should accept responsibility and get the path resurfaced. The Clerk was asked to obtain further estimates for this.

(d) **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

It was proposed by Cr Wyatt, seconded by Cr Henderson and **AGREED** that the following accounts should be paid:

(i)	Miss S E Raven:		£456.28
	Salary, November 2006:	£379.28	
	Village Cleaner, November 2006:	£77.00	
(ii)	Mrs K Sharp, Cleaner/Caretaker, Sports Pavilion – Salary, November 2006		£139.33
(iii)	BDO Stoy Hayward – External Audit:		£411.25
(iv)	Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association:		£40.00
(v)	Society of Local Council Clerks - Subscription:		£85.00
(vi)	Open Spaces Society – Subscription:		£40.00

157/06 SECOND NOTICE BOARD

The Parish Council **AGREED** that as the shop was now going ahead a site should be sought by the shop. This would be pursued with the Village Shop Management Committee.

158/06 CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Oxfordshire County Council – Mobile Library Review: Details would be put in Radley News and on the notice boards
- (b) Vale of White Horse DC:
- (i) Grants for additional parish cleansing 2007/2008: An application would be made.
 - (ii) Electoral Register: The Clerk had applied for a copy of the latest Register

- (iii) District and Parish Elections May 2007: It was noted that the cost of a Parish Council election would be in the region of £1,800, and this had been included in the budget.
 - (c) Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – Winter General Meeting 2006, Monday, 20 November 2006: Papers on the Implications for Local Councils of the Local Government White Paper – Strong and Prosperous Communities had been circulated to the Parish Councillors. Councillors were disappointed that so little applied to Parish Councils.
 - (d) Countryside Alliance – Post Office Card Account: A letter would be sent appealing against the decision to remove the Post Office Card Account
 - (e) Oxfordshire Carers’ Forum – Request for Donation: This would come forward with other requests for donations.
 - (f) Concern about Possible Flooding, Lower Radley: Letter from Mr Kenny was noted. It was noted that the ditch had recently been cleaned and there was unlikely to be any problems.
 - (g) BDO Stoy Hayward – Report on External Audit: It was noted that the audit had been carried out satisfactorily, and the necessary notices had been posted.
- (ii) FOR INFORMATION:**
- (a) Oxfordshire County Council:
 - (i) News, November 2006
 - (ii) Road Safety News Autumn 2006
 - (iii) Home2School, Autumn 2006
 - (b) Vale of White Horse DC:
 - (i) Thames Water’s Proposed Reservoir – documents relating to meeting held on 1 November 2006
 - (ii) Vale of White Horse Statement of Community involvement – Notification of the Inspector’s Report
 - (iii) Local Plan 2011
 - (c) Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association Annual Report for 2005/2006
 - (d) Clerks and Council Direct, November 2006
 - (e) Local Council Review, September 2006
 - (f) Village Fete, 30 June 2007: The playing field and sports pavilion had been booked.
 - (g) Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – Change of Address

- (h) Ollerton – Details of Street Furniture
- (i) Details of Play Area Equipment from SMP Playgrounds, Wicksteed, S&C Slatter and Matta Products (UK)
- (j) Noise Nuisance, Village Hall: Correspondence which Cr Wren had been having with the VHMC and the DC was tabled. It was noted that the VHMC was appealing for members, and a note had been put in Radley News.

159/06 CONSERVATION MATTERS

- (a) FOOTPATH 10: It was noted that the path had still not been reinstated.
- (b) TREE PLANTING – COPSE BY THE CAR PARK, CHURCH ROAD: It was noted that tree planting would take place on 29 November 2006, and a party of children from the Radley Primary School would be helping from 11 am.

160/06 HIGHWAY MATTERS

- (a) JUNCTION AT WHITES LANE/FOXBOROUGH ROAD: A further meeting had taken place with representatives from the OCC and the DC, with Mr Bill Homewood, and the necessary tree trimming to help visibility was agreed.
- (b) PEDESTRIAN CROSSING, CHURCH ROAD: No reply had been received from the Primary School regarding funding for the “lollipop” person.
- (c) TRAFFIC PROBLEMS – LOWER RADLEY: Several Councillors had met a representative from Oxfordshire Highways and carried out a detailed inspection of the traffic problems in the area.
- (d) SUGWORTH LANE: It was noted that the OCC had indicated that there would be no charge for the signs loaned to the Parish Council.
- (e) CATHARINE CLOSE: No work had been undertaken to repair the road surface or the manhole cover, and the Clerk was asked to follow this up again.

161/06 PARISH WEBSITE

No report was made.

162/06 REPORT OF DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The following report had been received from Cr Johnston

(a) District Council Report:

Earlier in the month, at the request of the Parish Council, Cr Johnston attended a briefing given by the County and Vale Officers at the Guildhall on the possible new reservoir at Steventon. If constructed at 26 metres in height it would be visible from parts of Radley, including Radley College. It was most informative. There was a general view that Thames Water had yet to make a case for the need for the new reservoir. A key question they had so far failed to answer was why they wished to spend 900 million pounds on a new facility, when for the same sum they could reduce wastage by the same amount in London (about 250 million litres a day). The allegation was that the former would put an asset on the bottom line, while the latter would not. This one had a long way to go.

It was also worth reporting that the Vale had at last reached a legal agreement with Threadneedle to refurbish the Bury Street shopping precinct. It would not be covered, but would include many much larger units, for whom apparently takers were already in the wings. It had been a most difficult set of negotiations, and the whole thing had been weighed down by commercial confidentiality

(b) County Council Report:

The County was continuing to spend much effort on drawing up its budget for 2006/7. As an opposition member Cr Johnston was given very little information apart from the routine financial monitoring information. From that it is quite clear that the ruling Group has three problems:

1. They had already stated in their medium term financial plan exactly what the Council Tax rise would be, from memory the figure was a rise of 4.25%. For better or for worse they had deprived themselves of any flexibility in this area.
2. They had a £4 million pound bill for heat wave road damage, thus far they have only identified £500,000 towards rectifying this. At Cr Johnston's most recent briefing by the County Officers he was informed that the rest would have to come out of the ordinary road maintenance and repair budget. This would make it very difficult to get any more of the roads and pavements in Radley resurfaced next financial year.

3. They still had a budget problem of nearly £3 million pound hole in the budgets for Services for Older People and Adults with Learning Difficulties. This meant for example that Radley residents would find it more difficult to get home helps or choice for any local residents with learning difficulties.

163/06 NOTIFIED BUSINESS

NIL

Date:
Chairman