

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF RADLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE CHURCH ROOM, RADLEY, ON THURSDAY, 26 OCTOBER
2006 AT 7.30 PM**

PRESENT: Cr B Mott (in the Chair)
Crs Crowley, Henderson, Johnston, Nutt, Rogers, D Standen, J Standen,
Wren, Wyatt
PC Rod Lovegrove and Sgt Dave Metcalf, Thames Valley Police,
attended for item 137/06.

133/06 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cr Wilson.

134/06 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.

**135/06 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF PARISH COUNCIL, 28
SEPTEMBER 2006**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 28 September 2006 were **APPROVED** and signed by the Chairman, with the following amendments:

Minute 117/06 (c) (i) should read: “.....Neighbourhood Policing, and Patrick Legge”

Minute 118/06 (i) (d) – add sentence: “The Parish Council were unhappy about the retrospective nature of this application.”

Minute 126/06 (b) (iii) – add sentence: “The Clerk would respond”

Minute 126/06 (e) should read: “The Parish Council did not wish to comment.”

Minute 130/06 should read: “Cr Wilson reported that a contract was required for Darren Sandbach, setting out the terms (£20 an hour for a maximum of ten hours as required), and he would liaise with the Clerk.”

136/06 BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

- (a) VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: Cr Johnston reported that it was in order to have two Parish Council representatives.
- (b) DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT – GREATER WESTERN FRANCHISE - DRAFT TIMETABLE: The Clerk reported that the OCC Rail Development Officer had indicated that the new timetable was usually available from staffed stations four weeks before the new timetable began. Therefore, it should be at Didcot and Oxford from mid-November.

The OCC Rail Development Officer had also reported that he was looking at a package of improvements that would improve the car park, footpaths, cycle parking and platform facilities (shelters etc) These would include better links between the station and the bus stops on the road outside. When the costs had been identified and a draft programme of work was available, comments would be invited.

The OCC Rail Development Officer had also asked if the Parish Council was supportive of moves that could introduce an entrance onto the southbound platform at the station as this could provide step-free access to both platforms and was something that he would like to consider with First Great Western. The Clerk indicated she had replied immediately to indicate that the Parish Council were extremely supportive of any action to achieve an entrance onto the southbound platform. The Parish Council endorsed her action.

- (c) GOOSEACRE RECREATIONAL FIELD – BOUNDARY RESPONSIBILITY: A further reminder had been sent to the Bursar.
- (d) LAND REGISTRY – VOLUNTARY REGISTRATION: Further information was awaited from the Land Registry.
- (e) PLAY AREA: Playdale had indicated that arrangements were in hand to repair the safety surface. The Clerk was in touch with the Radley VHMC about the broken slab.
- (f) CAR PARK – PATH TO SCHOOL: Discussions were taking place with representatives of the school and church. **IT WAS AGREED** that this should be put on the agenda of the next meeting.
- (g) SITING OF SECOND NOTICE BOARD: The Radley PCC would be considering this at the beginning of November.
- (h) RELOCATION OF DOG BIN: The dog bin had not yet been removed, and the Clerk was asked to ascertain the position.
- (i) INFORMATION BOOKLET FOR RADLEY HOUSEHOLDS: Cr Mott **AGREED** to find out more about this.

- (j) VALE OF WHITE HORSE DC:
- (i) MEETING OF THE NORTH EAST AREA FORUM, 5 OCTOBER 2006: Crs D Standen and J Standen reported that they had attended this meeting when Chief Inspector Purnell and Patrick Legge, the District Council Team Leader for Environmental Protection, had spoken.
 - (ii) RECEPTION FOR TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL MAYORS AND CHAIRMEN AND CLERKS, 8 NOVEMBER 2006: Cr D Standen **AGREED** to attend this meeting.
- (k) COMPLAINT – HEDGES/TREE BRANCHES, FOXBOROUGH ROAD PROPERTY: It was noted that Radley College had undertaken the necessary work, and a letter of thanks had been received from the Badger Copse resident affected by the growth.

137/06 POLICE MATTERS

PC Rod Lovegrove and Sgt Dave Metcalf attended for this item. Both officers had been closely involved with the pilot schemes and the wider introduction of Neighbourhood Policing. Neighbourhood policing was a way to improve communication between the police and the public, and Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAGs) were being set up which would work alongside the Parish Council, the District Council and the Oxfordshire County Council. The membership of NAGs would consist of members of various community groups, including Parish Councils. The new approach would mean a dedicated team of police officers; the team would always consist of the same members and their details would be publicised in the area concerned. This approach had been introduced in Carterton as a pilot scheme, and crime had reduced by 27% and 70% of the public knew the names of the police covering the area.

This was a Government initiative to improve respect in the community, and it was being launched over the next month. A talk on Neighbourhood Policing was being held on Wednesday, 22 November 2006, 7 pm, at Kennington Village Hall, and this was being widely advertised throughout the area. In addition, local exhibitions were being held. The first NAG would be held on the 6 December 2006. The Parish Council **AGREED** that two Councillors should share the roll of serving on the NAG – Councillor Derek Nutt and Councillor Mark Wren – and the two Councillors would ensure that the Parish Council was represented at all meetings.

The Parish Council was informed that the replacement for PC Broomfield should be in post within a month.

138/06 PLANNING MATTERS

(i) New Applications

- (a) SUN/2554/6 – Erection of a two storey side extension, Blakes Oak, 35 Lodge Hill. The Clerk reported that this had been sent to Radley Parish Council for information but, as the address was in Radley Parish, she had notified the Planning Department. The Parish Council was informed that Sunningwell Parish Council had objected to the application on the grounds that this was over development of the site. Radley Parish Council **AGREED** to submit the comments that this was over development of the site so that the matter could be put to the full Planning and Development Committee.

(ii) Permission Given

- (b) RAD/7171/1 – Change of use from cattle byre to residential, Park Farm, Kennington Road
- (c) RAD/237/105-LB – Insertion of French doors in place of existing window, new floor, The Cottage, Radley College

(iii) Misc:

- (a) RWEnPOWER – filling of gravel pits: The response from the Secretary of State, setting out in detail why she would not be calling in the planning application, was received. It was noted that having carefully considered relevant planning issues raised by this proposal, and having regard for her call in policy, the Secretary of State had concluded that there was not sufficient conflict in this case with national policies on the matters set out, or other sufficient reason, to warrant calling in the application for her own determination. The Secretary of State was satisfied that issues raised did not relate to matters of more than local importance, and she had decided that the decision as to whether to grant planning permission would remain with Oxfordshire County Council.

The letter from Abingdon Town Council was received. This indicated that the Town Council would only consider expenditure on this matter if a legal challenge was launched by Radley Parish Council following receipt of Counsel's opinion that suggested there were reasonable prospects that such a challenge would succeed. The Town Council could not commit expenditure to a pressure group for this purpose. The Town Council indicated that in September 2006 it had passed the motion that condemned the threatened destruction of the many wildlife habitats which had developed at Radley Lakes and the loss of public amenity space, and urged RWE Npower to rethink the dumping of fly ash in these lakes. The Clerk was asked to reply to Abingdon Town Council indicating that the Parish Council would consider this matter further when Counsel's opinion was available.

Cr Crowley tabled a paper setting out possible action the Parish Council could take, which was discussed thoroughly. It was proposed by Cr Rogers, seconded

by Cr Johnston and **AGREED** that the Parish Council should defer further consideration of this whole matter on Radley Lakes until Counsel's opinion had been obtained. Counsel's opinion would not be obtained by the Parish Council. Cr Mott abstained from voting. **IT WAS AGREED** that once Counsel's opinion was forthcoming, this matter should appear on the agenda of the next possible meeting.

The Parish Council noted that a letter had been received from Jo Cartmell regarding an application to register the Radley Lakes under threat as a Town or Village Green. It was proposed by Cr Johnston, seconded by Cr J Standen and **AGREED** that this subject should be put on the agenda of the next meeting, and that Councillors should receive a copy of the correspondence from Jo Cartmell.

139/06 FUTURE OF VILLAGE SHOP

Cr Wyatt reported on the public meeting held on the 18 October 2006, when the Steering Committee reported its findings and recommendations, together with a summary of the responses received to the survey it had sent out a week before the meeting. The response from the villagers at the meeting was very enthusiastic, with an almost unanimous vote in favour of proceeding with the community shop. It was noted that it had been reported that the shop had been purchased by a person who wished to remain anonymous, and that the community shop would be able to use the premises rent free for three years. Therefore, £20,000 was necessary to fit out the shop, and £15,000 of this had already been pledged by members of the community either by way of donations or by loans. A further circulation to all households was necessary to tell people the outcome of the public meeting and give them a further opportunity to give financial and other support, and Cr Wyatt would arrange this with the Clerk. It would be necessary to set up a Radley Village Shop Association Bank Account to handle the money being received.

It was noted that the job of the Steering Committee was now completed, and that it would be necessary to set up a management committee to get the shop up and running and then to advertise and appoint a shop manager. The Parish Council was pleased to learn that Mr Graham Steinsberg and Cr Wyatt were interested in being on the management committee, with Cr Wyatt continuing to report back to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent to Mr Steinsberg thanking him and the other members of the Steering Committee for the work they had undertaken over the last few months.

140/06 FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

It was proposed by Cr Johnston, seconded by Cr D Standen and **AGREED** that the following payments should be made:

(i)	Miss S E Raven:		£456.28
	1. Salary, October 2006:	£379.28	
	2. Village Cleaner, November 2006:	£77.00	
(ii)	Mrs K Sharp – Cleaner/Caretaker, Sports Pavilion:		£139.33
(iii)	Berinsfield Community Business – Grass Cutting/Gardening:		£517.01
	1. May 2006:	£218.85	
	2. September 2006:	£298.16	
(iv)	Thames Water - Allotments:		£9.03
(v)	British Gas – Sports Pavilion:		£91.25
(vi)	MRH Services – Inspection of Play Area:		£35.00
(vii)	HM Revenue & Customs (Post Office) – Tax/NI: (£250 has been deducted as the year-end figures have been submitted on-line)		£96.39
(viii)	Copycat Services – Photocopying:		£246.56
(viii)	ITT Flygt Ltd – Blockage at Sports Pavilion:		£544.03

141/06 RECOGNITION OF YOUTH LEADERS IN THE PARISH

The Parish Council noted the letter from the Chairman of the Vale of White Horse DC indicating that she would like to host an event to say thank you to people who worked hard in their communities in various ways. She asking the Council to nominate people who the Council felt had made an enormous difference to their local community, and the Parish Council **AGREED** to put forward the names of the Youth Leaders in the Parish, covering the Guides, Brownies and Youth Club, and Mr Doug Rawlinson, for the work he had undertaken for the Radley Retirement Group.

Councillors were asked to consider other nominations for consideration by the Parish Council.

142/06 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) ACTION REQUIRED:

- (a) Vale of White Horse DC:
 - (i) Thames Water's Proposed Reservoir – meeting on Wednesday, 1 November 2006 to explain how the DC intends to respond to Thames Water and to listen to views of Towns and Parishes: It was noted that Councillor Johnston would be attending.
 - (ii) Consultation on Environmental Health and Local Quality Enforcement Policies: The Parish Council decided not to make any comments on these documents.
- (b) South and Vale Carers Centre – Annual General Meeting, Didcot Civic Hall, 7 November 2006 at 10.45 am: noted.

(ii) FOR INFORMATION:

- (a) Oxfordshire County Council:
 - (i) News, October 2006
 - (ii) Oxford Inspired, Autumn 2006
 - (iii) CAG Oxfordshire, October 2006
 - (iv) Road Accidents in Oxfordshire 2006 issue
 - (v) 2005 Casualty Report/2006/2007 Road Safety Plan
 - (vi) Annual firework poster – result of competition for primary schools
- (b) Vale of White Horse DC - Design Award Scheme – Decisions
- (c) South Oxfordshire DC Site Allocations Development Plan
- (d) Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire – The Wildlife Trusts – Protecting wildlife for the future
- (e) The Playing Field, Autumn 2006
Newsletter of Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association
- (f) Open space evening, Wednesday, 25 October 2006, 7 pm for 7.30 pm, 30 East St Helens Street, Abingdon (St Ethelwolds House)
- (g) ASHTAV:
 - (i) News, 2006 Issue, No. 2
 - (ii) ASHTAV Annual General Meeting, 28 October 2006
- (h) Oxford Green Belt Network:
 - (i) Newsletter, October 2006
 - (ii) Annual General Meeting, 25 October 2006

- (i) Details of Play Equipment – Playground Services and SMP

143/06 CONSERVATION MATTERS

- (a) BENCH, PEBBLE HILL: Cr Standen reported that Radley College were pleased to receive the photographs.
- (b) FOOTPATH 10: The path had not been reinstated, and the Clerk was asked to report this to the OCC.
- (c) TREE PLANTING – COPSE BY THE CAR PARK, CHURCH ROAD: The Clerk reported that, although Wick Hall Gardens had closed, Mr Ford was willing to order the trees for the Parish Council. In view of this, the Clerk had been in touch with Berinsfield Community Services to undertake the planting.

144/06 HIGHWAY MATTERS

- (a) JUNCTION AT WHITES LANE/FOXBOROUGH ROAD: Dates had been received for a meeting, and the Clerk would clear these with Councillors at the end of the meeting.
- (b) PEDESTRIAN CROSSING, SANDFORD LANE: It was noted that under the Local Transport Plan (LTP2) the OCC had been identifying problem areas throughout the County and had developed a programme of schemes that would deliver real benefits and value for money to combat these problems. Priority for funding had been given to these schemes. The personal injury road traffic accident database for the last five years had been checked in relation to the request for a pedestrian crossing at Sandford Lane and, as there were no such accidents involving pedestrians on Kennington Road in the vicinity of Sandford Lane, the very good injury accident history meant that the provision of a “controlled” crossing would not contribute to a Local Transport Plan objective, and the OCC were not able to progress the request at this time.
- (c) PEDESTRIAN CROSSING, CHURCH ROAD: The Clerk reported that the Head Teacher at the Primary School had written to the OCC requesting a “lollipop” person.
- (d) TRAFFIC PROBLEMS – LOWER RADLEY: Dates had been received for a meeting, and the Clerk would clear these with Councillors at the end of the meeting.
- (e) SUGWORTH LANE: The period of loan for the safety signs was almost up, and the Clerk had contacted the OCC to ascertain the cost of purchasing the ones loaned to the Parish Council.
- (f) ROAD/FOOTWAY REPAIRS: No information had been obtained on when minor repair work would be undertaken in the Parish. Cr Johnston reported that virement of budgets was likely to affect the OCC Highways’ budget.

- (g) **JUNCTION CHURCH ROAD/KENNINGTON ROAD:** The OCC had dealt very promptly with the complaints about bad visibility, and the offending vegetation had been cut back within a few days of it being reported.
- (h) **CATHARINE CLOSE:** It was reported that the road surface was very poor, particularly at the entrance, and the manhole cover was still a hazard for pedestrians.

145/06 PARISH WEBSITE

It was noted that the new Forum was nearly ready.

146/06 REPORT OF DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Councillor Johnston reported:

- (a) On the Vale, the new bus pass scheme had been enormously successful, so much so that it was more costly than expected. The Vale had a new policy on prosecutions, and there had been a number of successful prosecutions for fly tipping.
- (b) On the County there were discussions on budgets and a number of virements would be necessary to balance overspent budgets. The cost of repairing damage to roads caused by the heat wave would limit the amount of money available for minor repairs. On Radley Lakes, the OCC was unlikely to change its decision.

147/06 NOTIFIED BUSINESS

- (a) **DRAINAGE, SPORTS PAVILION:** The Clerk reported that there were ongoing problems with blocked drains. She was advised to contact the DC for advice.

Date:
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Chairman