

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF RADLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON FRIDAY, 6 MAY 2005, AT 7.30 PM IN THE CHURCH ROOM, RADLEY.

Those present included: Cr D Standen (in the Chair)
Crs Crowley, Henderson, Mott, J Standen, Wyatt
Two members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Messrs Johnston and Wilson.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 14 May 2004, which had been circulated to the meeting, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES

- (a) **ATTACK ON ELDERLY LADY:** The Police had not obtained sufficient information to proceed, but the case was still open in case further evidence was received.
- (b) **Affordable Housing:** The Oxfordshire County Council had finalized its Structure Plan which kept the Green Belt complete, but the situation needed watching.

4. FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND REPORT

A copy of the payment and receipts for 2004/2005 had been circulated to the meeting, and Cr Crowley, as Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee, presented the report. The following points were made:

- (a) At the start of the financial year there was a balance of £31,395.34, but with the precept of £42,000, the interest, VAT refund, and other items, the Parish Council's total income was £86,347.09.
- (b) The total expenditure in 2004/2005 was £50,053.42, the main items of expenditure being:

Administration:	£10,002.00
Annual Subscriptions:	£492.37
Donations (including Section 137 payments):	£516.36
Playing Field Expenditure:	£1,891.19
Play Area:	£17,431.00
Conservation:	£1,506.94
General Maintenance:	£4,225.44
Loan repayment/Interest:	£2,655.00

- (c) The largest payment by far is that for the new play area, as it was in 2003/2004, but the only outstanding payment at the end of the financial year was the 5% retention which was in the region of £2,000. This was paid by the Parish Council in April 2005.
- (d) The Playing Field Expenditure was much lower now, mainly because there was now only one field under the control of the Parish Council.
- (e) The General Maintenance spend was very high because of the vandalism to the sports pavilion. The Parish Council had taken the opportunity to make some improvements, such as a concrete veranda and steel cladded doors and shutters. A claim has been made to the insurance company for repairs which amounted to £4,207 and, except for the excess, the Parish Council was hoping the majority of the cost would be covered.
- (f) The loan repayment/interest payments were almost complete and would finish in April 2005.
- (g) The Accruals section at the end of the accounts gave details of the funds the Parish Council was building up. For example, the Parish Council was building up a gratuity fund for the Clerk on her retirement, a replacement fund for the play area – its life should be in the region of 20 years from 2004, and this would make its replacement a far less painful experience, and a fund to have a new surface on the car park in Church Road.
- (h) The accounts have to be seen by our Internal Auditor before they are submitted to the External Auditor. The 2003/2004 accounts have been approved by the External Auditor.

It was noted that the Website was funded by a grant from the Oxfordshire County Council, and it was essential that the website was used. In addition, the annual Garden Competition was financed by grants.

The accounts and estimates were agreed by the meeting.

5. CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT ON THE WORK OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Cr Standen presented the report on the work of the Parish Council for 2004/2005, indicating that the year had started with the co-option of two Councillors to bring the Parish Council up to its full compliment of eleven Parish Councillors. These vacancies were filled in June by Mr Richard Gilbert and Mr Mark Wren.

He gave details of the work undertaken by the Parish Council during the last twelve months:

- (a) **Planning Applications:** From April 2004, the Parish Council was consulted on 36 planning applications, compared with 49 in the previous twelve months. The Parish Council objected to eight, the District Council has given permission three of these, refused one, one has been withdrawn. Two of the plans were being considered by the Planning and Development Committee on Monday.

The Parish Council was opposed to the development of three houses on site next to the Bowyer Arms, and the Chairman had spoken to this at the Planning and Development Committee, to no avail as the plan was approved. It was very frustrating for the Parish Council when there was strong local opposition and this could not be taken into account as a valid planning reason for refusal.

The Parish Council had pressed for Lower Radley to become a Conservation Area, but the District Council was unlikely to commence work on this request in the near future.

- (b) **Highway Matters:** The Parish Council had continued to press the Oxfordshire County Council on highway matters – part of Church Road was repaired during the year, and the Parish Council was hoping that repair work would take place on Church Road/Foxborough Road and Sugworth Lane. The Parish Council was also pressing for the provision of a wider footway in Foxborough Road, and for better access to Abingdon.

Many of the parishioners of Radley would have visited the exhibition in the Village Hall in relation to Transport Mitigation Measures for Villages surrounding Abingdon, when residents were asked to put forward their views. The views put forward matched those put forward by the Parish Council, and the Parish Council would be consulted shortly on the outcome of this consultation.

One thing the Parish Council had been following up was access to the railway station from the Lower Radley Road, and the dangers to pedestrians crossing the railway bridge. The Highways Department had indicated that it could not widen the footway over the bridge, and the possibility of a footbridge was being considered.

Many of the footways in the village were very narrow, and it was essential that householders ensured hedges were cut back to keep the footways at their maximum width.

When repairing the footway in Church Road, the Highways Department provided a dropped kerb to allow a footpath between the road and the car park. The Parish Council planned to have the car park resurfaced, but this was delayed as Radley College was considering whether a footpath would be allowed across the copse.

The Parish Council had recently pressed the Highways Department to look again at the condition of the trees along Church Road. Earlier in the year the Parish Council was told that the Highways Department did not regard the trees as dangerous and, despite an approach by the Parish Council to Radley College and the local farmer about the danger of branches falling on the road, no action had been taken.

- (c) **Police Matters:** PC Jeff Wheeble, the Area Beat Officer, who was appointed at the time of the last Annual Parish Meeting, had now left that post, and the new Area Beat Officer was Nigel Broomfield. The Parish Council felt extremely frustrated by the lack of action by the police in relation to problems with motorcyclists on the river meadows, and the vandalism at the sports pavilion. Councillors kept pressing for action, but nothing seemed to happen.

PC Nigel Broomfield would be holding surgeries and dates for these would be published in Radley News and on the WebSite. There were some frustrations by local residents who attended the police surgeries only to find that PC Wheeble had been put on other duties. Unfortunately there was still a possibility of this happening if Nigel Broomfield was transferred to other duties, but hopefully a notice could be put up at the Village Hall to warn residents.

- (d) **Conservation:** The Parish Council has regular discussions on conservation matters. Current matters under discussion were:

(i) Tree Planting: The Parish Council was unsuccessful this year in its bid for trees under the District Council's Amenity Tree Planting Scheme, but was applying to the Community Tree Fund for two schemes – planting in front of the car park, Church Road, and trees along the hedgerow at Gooseacre playing field.

(ii) The lime tree in Whites Lane which was destroyed in a road accident had been replaced.

(iii) The Parish Council Centenary Garden by the bungalows in Spinneys Close had been replanted.

(iv) The Annual Garden Competition: There was a high standard of gardens for the Garden Competition in 2004, and the ninth Annual Garden Competition would be held on Saturday, 9 July 2005.

(v) Litter: Mr Hugh Rogerson had been keeping the village litter free since March 2004, and was making a noticeable difference. He also cleared litter in the Village Hall car park and the play area.

(vi) Village Pond: The fencing was shortly to be erected along the roadside of the Village Pond. Consideration was being given to repairing the other fencing, and advice was being taken on work to the pond.

(vii) Best Kept Village Competition: The Parish Council had entered the Competition again, and the village would be reviewed during May and June. Notices had been put up around the village.

(viii) Village Seats: Two new village seats were being installed at the village end of the Lower Radley road, and a further seat, made by one of the Radley College boys, would be put by the bus stop at Pebble Hill.

(ix) Community Work by Radley College Boys: The Parish Council was grateful to the College for the work undertaken in the Parish. This included giving the sports pavilion a thorough clean following the resignation of the cleaners.

(e) **Website:** The Parish Council now had a website, thanks to the hard work of Councillors Martin Wilson and Basil Crowley and John and Joyce Huddleston and Stan Baker. The public were asked to make use of it - updates on action being taken by the Parish Council were put on the website, and views of the public were very welcome. The website address was www.radleyvillage.org.uk

(f) **Sports Pavilion, Playing Field and Play Area:** The Parish Council now only managed the Gooseacre Playing Field and Sports Pavilion. It decided not to extend the lease on the Thrupp Lane field because the cost was extortionate, but the Radley Youth Football Club had taken on a lease with the landowner. The lease allowed for the use of the field by the one club and, unfortunately, the Radley Men's Football Club had to be disbanded when the Thrupp Lane field was no longer available for its use.

The continuing vandalism at the sports pavilion was extremely frustrating. Most of the repair work had now been completed, and the sports pavilion was going to be painted this summer. There is close liaison with the only users, the Radley Youth Football Club.

The new Play Area had been installed. The installation of the equipment and the safety surface went extremely well, but there were problems with the tarmac surround. However, the remedial work undertaken was satisfactory and acceptable to RoSPA.

(g) **Other Matters:** Other items are discussed in the course of a year, and the following shows the range:

- (i) Radley Railway Station: Representatives from the Parish Council met Mr Mike Crane of First Great Western Link to discuss the access problems. First Great Western Link had the franchise for two years, so major work was unlikely in the near future. However, he gave the Parish Council details of a scheme to help disabled users, and the details were publicised widely in the Parish.
- (ii) Meetings with Innogy: Regular meetings had taken place with Innogy, and the annual site visit was taking place on the 14 May 2005. The Parish Council was very dismayed to find that a planning application was about to be submitted setting out the details for filling the final lake, which was a very attractive area with lots of wild life. Planning permission for filling the lake was given at the start of the project, but the Parish Council was optimistic that this lake would remain.

Reports and correspondence have been received on numerous subjects, and the following list shows the diversity of subjects, which Parish Councillors are asked to be involved:

Vale of White Horse DC:

Local Plan 2011
 Crime and Disorder Reduction Audit Consultation
 Community Safety Audit 2004
 Licensing Act 2003 – Statement of Licensing Policy
 Oxfordshire Blue Plaques
 Supporting Town and Village Vitality

Oxfordshire County Council:

Structure Plan 2016
 Future Waste Disposal in Oxfordshire
 Inland Waterways Scrutiny Review
 Customer Service Strategy
 Casualty Report 2003 and Road Safety Plan 2004/2005
 Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan
 Oxfordshire Youth Offending Team – Volunteers required

Government Office for the South East:

Proposed Changes to Regional Planning Guidance for the South East
 Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
 Tourism and Related Sports and Recreation
 South East Plan

Boundary Commission for England – Periodic Electoral Review of Oxfordshire County Council

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister:

Draft Code of Conduct for Local Government Employees
 A Review of Restrictions on the Political Activities of Local Authority Employees and Pay of Political Assistants

Citizen Engagement and Public Services: Why Neighbourhoods
Matter
Vibrant Local Leadership
South-West Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust, Annual General Meeting
Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment Annual Review 2003-2004

The Chairman reported that he was very grateful for the support he had had from the Councillors and the Clerk, and would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all the help and support they have given during the last twelve months.

6. ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- (a) **MOTOCROSS, CULHAM:** There had been a number of complaints about the noise during events at Culham. The public was encouraged to write to South Oxfordshire DC regarding this.
- (b) **COMMUNITY WORK – RADLEY COLLEGE:** The public wished to record their appreciation of the work undertaken by Radley College pupils.
- (c) **DEAD TREES, CHURCH ROAD:** Concern was expressed about the state of the trees along Church Road, and the Parish Council was asked to follow this up.

The Chairman thanked members of the public for attending the Annual Parish Meeting.

Date:

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Chairman