

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF RADLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON FRIDAY, 12 MAY 2006, AT 7.30 PM IN THE CHURCH ROOM, RADLEY.

Those present included: Cr B Mott (in the Chair)
Crs Crowley, Henderson, Wren, Wyatt
Five members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Messrs Nutt, Standen, Wilson and Mrs Standen.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 6 May 2005, which had been circulated to the meeting, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES

- (a) **AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** The Parish Council was asked to ensure that the Green Belt was safe.
- (b) **HIGHWAY MATTERS:** The Parish Council had had a number of meetings with representatives from OCC Highways as there was concern about the standard of work undertaken.
- (c) **POLICE ATTENDANCE AT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS:** Police attendance at Parish Council meetings had been better in recent months.
- (d) **SPORTS PAVILION:** The caretaking and cleaning arrangements had been improved, and the sports pavilion was in a good condition.
- (e) **VILLAGE POND:** Concern was expressed about the fencing along the roadside.

4. FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND REPORT

A copy of the payment and receipts for 2005/2006 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) The Parish Council used receipts and payments method of accounting, so when considering its balances some adjustments had to be made to take into account planned expenditure which had not been spent in the financial year. Details of Accruals/Reserves had been set out in the accounts.
- (b) The total expenditure in 2005/2006 was £29,374.85, the main items of expenditure being:

Administration:	£10,418
Annual Subscriptions:	£495
Donations (including Section 137 payments):	£910
Playing Field Expenditure:	£3,642
Play Area:	£2,375
Conservation:	£5,385
General Maintenance:	£4,278
Loan repayment/Interest:	£1,251

- (c) The Playing Field Expenditure set out the cost of running the sports pavilion and grass cutting of the Gooseacre Recreational Field. Because of the problems with vandalism, the Parish Council had been looking into the possibility of installing CCTV equipment, and a sum for this had been included in the 2006/2007 estimates. At the end of the financial year, the Parish Council appointed a caretaker/cleaner for the sports pavilion and the full cost was shown in the 2006/2007 estimates.
- (d) On Play Area Expenditure, the Parish Council paid the balance of the cost of the new Play Area equipment in 2005/2006. As could be seen from the Reserves, the Parish Council was saving towards the next play area in some twenty years time.
- (e) On General Maintenance, as could be seen from the breakdown of expenditure, the large part of the expenditure had been in relation to maintenance work on the Sports Pavilion and Gooseacre Recreational Field.
- (f) On Conservation, the main new item this year had been the provision of village seats and the maintenance cost.
- (g) The last loan repayment/interest payment was in April 2005, and the Parish Council had no plans to take out any further loans.
- (h) The Accruals/Reserves details were set out at the bottom of page 3 of the Expenditure sheets.

The 2004/2005 accounts had been approved by the External Auditor, and the 2005/2006 external audit started on the 7 August 2006, with the display of a notice, with records being made available to the public from 21 August 2006. The 2005/2006 accounts would be going to the Internal Auditor, shortly.

There was discussion on the large balance being held by the Parish Council, and the Parish Council was asked to consider items for action. The accounts were accepted by the meeting.

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

Cr Mott presented the report on the work of the Parish Council for 2005/2006, indicating that 2005/2006 had started almost the same as the previous year – with the co-option of a Parish Councillor. Mr Richard Gilbert had resigned as a Parish Councillor in May 2005 after a very short time on the Parish Council, and the vacancy was filled by Mr Guy Rogers in July.

The meetings had been very busy, and the Chairman gave a summary of the work undertaken by the Parish Council during the last twelve months:

1. **Planning Applications:** As usual, planning had played an important part in the Parish Council discussions. During the twelve months from April 2005, the Parish Council had been consulted on 22 planning applications, compared with 36 in the previous twelve months. It objected to four of these applications.

It would appear from the reduction in the number of applications under consideration that this was a quiet time for the Parish Council, but far from it. Two of the applications which the Parish Council objected to related to the plans by RWEnPower to fill the last of the gravel pits and parishioners were aware of the impact this had had on the Parish. Two extraordinary meetings had been held to discuss the planning applications, the first of which opened with a public session to give the public an opportunity to put their views to the Parish Council. The Parish Council was grateful and, indeed, valued highly the enormous amount of work undertaken by the Save Radley Lakes Group. The expertise in that group had allowed the plans to be scrutinized very closely indeed, and many unexpected things had been highlighted as a result of this.

The Parish Council had just been notified that the second planning application would be considered on the 10 July, not May as expected, and the Parish Council had asked to speak at that meeting to highlight the great concerns it had over the plans. It would press for the retention of the remaining lakes as a resource for the area to counterbalance the impact of gravel extraction and pit filling on the local environment over many decades.

2. Highway Matters

Following what seems like years of pressure for improvements, a lot of work had been undertaken in the Parish during the last few months. A number of the footways had been improved, various road repairs had been undertaken, village gateways had been installed, and the trees along Church Road had been cut back. The Parish Council was still pressing on safety grounds for improvements along Thrupp Lane, at the junction of Whites Lane/Foxborough Road, and along Sugworth Lane.

The possibility of access to the railway station from the Lower Radley Road seemed very remote, but the Parish Council continued to raise with the

Oxfordshire County Council and the rail authorities the difficulties experienced by the disabled, the elderly and young families with baby buggies. There was an emergency service which could be used but this meant a great deal more travelling.

The Parish Council had raised the safety of pedestrians and cyclists on the railway bridge with Oxfordshire Highways. Narrowing the carriageway, either with a kerbed footway or white lining would increase the potential for head on conflicts, and the possibility of a footbridge was very long term.

A lot of the improvements, such as the village gateways, had been a result of the survey "Transport Mitigation Measures for Villages Surrounding Abingdon" undertaken last year, when residents were asked to put forward their views. Very little appeared possible in relation to the narrow footways in the village, but the Parish Council had publicly expressed the view that householders should keep their hedges cut back to ensure the footways were kept at their maximum width.

Radley College had now agreed that the copse could be included in the lease for the car park held by the Parish Council. This would allow a path to be constructed to make use of the dropped kerb put in by Oxfordshire Highways, and make it easier for people using the car park when visiting the lower burial ground. An order had been placed for this work as well as the resurfacing of the car park.

3. Police Matters

PC Nigel Broomfield became the Area Beat Officer for this area at the time of the last Annual Parish Meeting. During the year, Thames Valley Police had launched Neighbourhood Policing, and there had been closer links with Sgt Darren Price and two of the Community Support Officers. A new telephone number had been launched in addition to the 999 emergency number, and this had been widely publicised in the Parish.

PC Broomfield hoped to restart the police surgeries again, and dates would be published as soon as they were known. The police were aware of the problems created by transferring the police to other duties so that they could not attend one of the surgeries, and ways of dealing with this problem had been discussed fully.

Unfortunately, the police had not been able to find sufficient evidence to take action against the people who vandalised the sports pavilion. However, the police had given more attention to the Gooseacre area following a number of other complaints, and hopefully the improvement achieved would continue.

4. Conservation

The Parish Council had regular discussions on conservation matters, and the items which had come up throughout the year were:

- Tree Planting: The Parish Council had been successful in obtaining a grant from the Tree Council for planting trees in the copse by the car park. The planting would take place next November. Radley College had agreed to plant more trees at the Gooseacre Recreational Field.
- Litter: Mr John Rogerson continued to keep the village free from litter, and was doing a splendid job.
- The Annual Garden Competition was continuing for its tenth year and was being held on Saturday, 15 July 2006. This had become a very successful event, and was looked forward to each year.
- Best Kept Village Competition: The Parish Council was awarded the fourth prize in the Larger Village category in 2005 – the certificate had been put up in the Village Hall. The Parish Council had entered the Competition again this year – the competition had been enlarged and now included the activities in the community as well as the physical condition of the village. The Parish Council was sure the litter collection and the Annual Garden Competition contributed to its success in the Best Kept Village Competition.
- Village Pond: New fencing, recommended by BBWONT, had been erected along the roadside of the Village Pond. Radley College boys undertook work on the pond site, such as repairing the side fencing and keeping the area cleared where appropriate for a wild life site. The pond needed to be cleared in the autumn to improve/increase the wild life at the pond, and the Parish Council was taking advice on how this could be done.
- Village Seats: The Parish Council had a programme for providing village seats, and it also received a donation for one seat. During the year two new village seats were installed at the Lower Radley turn, the bench made by one of the Radley College boys has been put by the bus stop at Pebble Hill, two new seats had been put in the garden at the Spinneys Close bungalows, and the seat by the bus stop outside Radley College had been handed over to the Parish Council. All the seats provided in the last two years would be maintained on a regular basis by the Parish Council.
- Footpaths: The footpaths were regularly walked in the Parish to ensure they were open and usable. The Parish Council had been asking for a change of designation in relation to Footpath 9, the footpath which went alongside the lakes, but so far had not come up with evidence to put forward to the Oxfordshire County Council.

5. Website

The website was now well established and well used. Please continue this use - you could update yourself on action being taken by the Parish Council, and let us have your views on any matters relating to the Parish. The website address was www.radleyvillage.org.uk

6. Sports Pavilion, Playing Field and Play Area

A caretaker/cleaner had been appointed, and the sports pavilion was now being very well looked after. Most of the maintenance work had been done, and the building would be repainted very shortly. The site was, however, very attractive to vandalism and a close watch was being kept on the area by residents and the police.

The Play Area was well used by young children. Unfortunately at times it did appear to be the meeting place for older children, and there had been problems with broken glass and beer cans. Again, this should be helped by the vigilance of neighbours and the police.

7. Village Shop

Since the new development in Church Road was first put forward and the shop run by Mr Derek Nutt closed, the Parish Council had been actively pursuing the possibility of a new shop being opened. It was fully appreciated by the Councillors that the shop was very much missed and the community aspects of it were a great loss. An approach had been made to many retailers, but the floor space was too small to attract them to the village. However, a meeting had taken place with Jane Barker from the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council to ascertain whether a Community Shop is feasible. Her advice was to ask local residents to complete a questionnaire and, if the community felt that a shop was needed, to have a public meeting to discuss the options. The Parish Council was following this up - a questionnaire had gone to all households in the Parish and the Parish Council would be discussing the replies at its May meeting.

8. Other Matters

Reports (or very often details of a report with reference to the web) and correspondence cover numerous subjects, and the following lists a few of the items which came before the Parish Council – it showed the diversity of subjects which Parish Councillors were asked to be involved:

Vale of White Horse DC:

Local Plan 2011 – Public Local Inquiry

Review of Parish Arrangements (after strong objections from the Parish Council, Radley was not going to lose part of its Parish to Kennington Parish Council)

Part III Local Government Act 2000 – Local Code of Conduct
 High Court Cases/Standards Committee Action Plan
 North East Area Forum
 Consultation on Local Government (Misc Provisions) Act 1982
 - Public Entertainment Licensing
 Oxfordshire County Council:
 Oxfordshire Provisional Local Transport Plan (2006-2008)
 Transaction: Moving Forward – What do you think of our
 plans for transport
 Oxfordshire Structure Plan 2016
 Minerals and Waste Development Framework
 Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan
 Emergency Plan for Local Councils
 Social & Health Care Business and Commissioning Plan 2005-
 2008
 Consultation questionnaire and invitation to briefing – New
 housing to 2026 in Oxfordshire under the South East Plan
 The Countryside Agency – Landscape Access Recreation
 Government Office for the South East:
 South East Plan
 Guidance for the South East – Waste and Minerals
 Campaign for the Sustainable Communities Bill
 DEFRA
 Partnership in rolling out broadband to rural communities
 Funding for Parish Plans
 Rural Social and Community Programme
 BT – Proposals to re-align payphone provision to meet consumer demand.
 Great Western Rail Franchise – Stakeholder Consultation Document
 Oxford Green Belt Network
 Motocross at Culham: Complaints about the noise of events led to a helpful
 meeting with the organizers. The Vale of White Horse DC continues
 to monitor the position.
 Boundary Commission for England – Periodic Electoral Review of
 Oxfordshire County Council
 Office of the Deputy Prime Minister:
 Proposed Changes to Regional Planning

Following a resolution that Parish Council meetings should finish by 9.30 pm, the
 Chairman reported that he had tried very hard to keep to this. To do this it had been
 necessary to ensure that the Parish Council only discussed items on which it could
 usefully comment and to pass other queries to the relevant authority, such as District
 Council, County Council and Police. The Chairman indicated 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 assistance they have given
 during the last twelve months.

6. ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- (a) TANNOY MESSAGES, RAILWAY STATION: The regular irrelevant messages which came over the Tannoy system at the Railway Station was a nuisance to nearby residents. The Parish Council was asked to raise this with the railway authorities.
- (b) CROSSING PATROL PERSON – RADLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL : The Parish Council was asked to press for this provision.
- (c) VILLAGE GATEWAYS: The Parish Council was asked to arrange for the village gateways to be cleaned up. The one coming from Abingdon was particularly dirty.
- (d) BUS SHELTERS: The Parish Council was asked to clarify the sites for new bus shelters.

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

Date:

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Chairman