

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF RADLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON FRIDAY, 27 APRIL 2007, AT 7.30 PM IN THE CHURCH ROOM, RADLEY.

Those present included: Cr B Mott (in the Chair)
Crs Crowley, Henderson, Johnston, Rogers, D Standen. J Standen, Wren
Five members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr Nutt.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 12 May 2006, which had been circulated to the meeting, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES

- (a) TANNOY MESSAGES, RAILWAY STATION: Although approaches had been made to the railway authorities, it had not been possible to reduce the amount of messages. **IT WAS AGREED** that another approach should be made to see if this problem could be solved.
- (b) CROSSING PATROL PERSON – RADLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL: An approach had been made to the head teacher at the primary school, and this was being followed up.
- (c) VILLAGE GATEWAYS: The cleanliness of the village gateways was an ongoing problem. **IT WAS AGREED** that the OCC Highways should be asked to deal with these under the Cleaner/Greener policy.

4. FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND REPORT

A copy of the payment and receipts for 2006/2007 together with the audited accounts 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:

Expenditure: The total expenditure for 2006/2007 was £44,148.78, including VAT, although total expenditure including accruals was £44,700.94, the main items of expenditure being:

Administration:	£10,042.99	(£10,418.44)
Annual Subscriptions:	£569.44	(£495.39)
Donations (including Section 137 payments):	£1,531.00	(£910.00)
Playing Field Expenditure:	£4,277.34	(£3,641.62)
Play Area:	£183.00	(£3,641.62)
Conservation:	£2,992.96	(£5,385.21)

Car Park:	£17,194.30	(£574.12)
General Maintenance:	£3,128.47	(£3,277.83)

Donations (including Section 137 payments): The Parish Council was receiving many more requests for donations, and had given some to new organizations during 2006/2007. However, one of the larger Section 137 donations covered the cost of photocopying of leaflets for distribution to the electorate of the Parish in relation to the Village Shop. Unfortunately, the Parish Council had no specific powers to give funding to this project and this was the only way it could help.

Playing Field Expenditure: The playing field expenditure continued to be high, but the difference between 2005/2006 and the higher figure for 2006/2007 could be explained by the appointment of a caretaker and cleaner. This had been well worthwhile as the sports pavilion was very well looked after now.

Play Area Expenditure: The Parish Council had very little expenditure on the Play Area in 2006/2007, and the cost shown covers the official inspections of the play equipment. In addition, in the reserves, there is a growing balance to go towards the cost of a new play area in the 2020s.

Conservation budget: The spend this year had been much lower, and the costs incurred relate to gardening in various parts of the village and the employment of a village cleaner.

Car Park: The main expenditure this year was for the resurfacing of the car park, which allowed the Parish Council to use some of its reserves.

General Maintenance: This continued at about the same level. This year, the costs included the repainting of the sports pavilion, repairs to fencing, and some drainage clearance work.

Income: The main income came from the precept, and the costs of the Parish Council were mainly met from its precept. It continued to hold a large balance. At the start of 2006/2007, the balance in the bank was £74,301.40 and at the start of 2007/2008 it was £77,688.63. However, the balance in the bank includes reserves and in 2007/2008 the reserves were:

Clerk's deferred gratuity:	£7,000
Play Area – Replacement Fund (£2,000 pa):	£8,000
Provision of Adventure Trail (£2,000 pa):	£6,000

Some of the reserves have been used for the resurfacing of the car park.

The Parish Council was very aware that it has a large balance, and would welcome your ideas on how this can be spent. During 2007/2008 the Parish Council would be spending some of the balance on:

Provision of New Fencing for the remainder of the Play Area, i.e. along Gooseacre and on the Village Hall site.
Provision of CCTV equipment for the sports pavilion.
Provision of two bus shelters

The 2005/2006 accounts had been approved by the External Auditor, and the 2006/2007 external audit would be held on the 17 August 2007. The notice would be displayed from 2 to 15 July 2007, and records would be made available from 16 July to 10 August 2007 for anyone who wished to see them. The 2006/2007 accounts would shortly be going to the Internal Auditor, a step which has to be taken before the External Audit.

The accounts and estimates were accepted by the meeting, and Cr Crowley and the Clerk were thanked for their work in relation to the accounts.

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

Cr Mott presented the report on the work of the Parish Council for 2006/2007. His overpowering impression of this year was two contrasting stories – the first one which had been on every Parish Council agenda during the year was Radley Lakes and the disappointment when the Oxfordshire County Council granted planning permission to RWEnPower to fill Lake E with pulverized fuel ash. The second was the Village Shop and the absolute delight when the people of Radley decided they wanted a shop and when the committee, chaired by Graham Steinberg, succeeded in getting the project off the ground. The anonymous benefactor who was letting the premises rent free for three years must also be remembered with thanks.

Other things had been discussed, 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 our discussions. Radley Lakes featured continually, but the Parish Council, over the twelve months from April 2006, had been consulted on 31 planning applications, compared with 22 in the previous twelve months. In addition, it had looked at three plans covering the conditions put on the RWEnPower planning application by the Oxfordshire County Council. Of the 31 planning applications, the Parish Council objected to four, two of which had been approved by the District Council and one which was not approved.

There had been continual discussion and updates on the position at Radley Lakes, and the Parish Council was extremely disappointed at the outcome of the planning application and the preparation work undertaken by RWEnPower. It had agreed to meet with representatives from RWEnPower, but this would be followed up by the new Parish Council which came into force in May.

2. **Highway Matters:** The Parish Council continued to have regular contact with the Oxfordshire Highways to try to improve the condition of Radley. Meetings at the Thrupp Lane/Whites Lane/Foxborough Road junction resulted in the hedgerow being trimmed drastically. Bill Homewood joined in these discussions, and arranged most of the trimming on the road side verges for Oxfordshire Highways.

Meetings continue on Thrupp Lane, although it is difficult to see that major work will be achieved even if it is very much needed. Local residents were extremely concerned about the amount of heavy vehicles using this road, and the Parish Council was continually in touch with Oxfordshire Highways about the problems.

There had been a meeting with a representative of Oxfordshire Highways to look at possible safety measures in Lower Radley, and minor improvements had taken place. However, there was significant traffic around Lower Radley, especially in term time when a lot of the traffic to the boat house and the speed of vehicles on the narrow roads was of great concern. The condition of the road surface was also very poor, but the chances of anything other than minor repairs were very slight.

3. **Police Matters:** PC Nigel Broomfield moved on at the end of 2006, and our new Area Beat Officer was PC Sean Delaney, who had been attending Parish Council meetings regularly since he started in January. Neighbourhood Advisory Groups had started, and two of the Councillors attend these meetings – Cr Derek Nutt and Cr Mark Wren. At the moment a list of priorities had been established, and the NAG would decide how to handle these.

PC Delaney was keeping a close eye on the problems being caused at the Village Hall site, caused by drink and drugs, and some arrests had been made. It was an on going problem, and the Parish Council was now discussing the problems this was causing the Radley Village Hall Management Committee who was going to restrict its bookings and thus reducing its income.

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

- **Tree Planting:** Trees were planted in the copse by the car park in November. A group of children from Radley Primary School helped with the work, and there were now six new trees in the copse. In addition, Radley College planted more trees at the Gooseacre Recreational Field, and with careful nurturing by Cr Martin Wilson during the hot summer, were starting to grow well.

- Litter: Mr John Rogerson continued to help with litter collection throughout the village, and Radley benefited very much from his work.
 - The Annual Garden Competition was continuing for its eleventh year and was being held on Saturday, 7 July 2007. This had become a very successful event, and was looked forward to each year.
 - Best Kept Village Competition: The Best Kept Village Competition was no longer going to be held, but the Parish Council was going to consider whether it should participate in the Village of the Year Competition.
 - Village Pond: The Parish Council obtained further advice on the Village Pond, and a large area of bulrushes had been cleared in the autumn. Radley College boys did a lot of work on the site during the autumn, repairing fencing and clearing back growth. No work was possible now as it would disturb the habitat at the pond.
 - Footpaths in the Parish: The Parish Council kept a close eye on the footpaths, and was also searching for “lost” footpaths. Martin Wilson was our lead on this, and would welcome any information Radley people had.
5. **Website:** The website was now well established and well used. The public were asked to continue to use it – it was possible to obtain updates on the action being undertaken by the Parish Council, and the public could let the Parish Council know its views on any matters relating to the Parish.
6. **Sports Pavilion, Playing Field and Play Area:** The appointment of a caretaker/cleaner had been a great success, and the sports pavilion was now in a very clean condition. During the year the sports pavilion was repainted, and the redesigned ramp for the disabled built.

The Play Area was well used by young children. It continued to be a meeting place for youths, although the local Area Beat Officer did turn them off when he visited. However, there was an ongoing problem with broken glass – luckily local residents do appear to clear this up in between visits by Mr Rogerson and the Chairman thanked people for this help.

7. **Village Shop:** This success story was well known to you all. Following a couple of public meetings, one attended by Jane Barker from the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, and the setting up of a local Village Shop Committee chaired by Graham Steinberg, things had really taken off. The community were really behind this project, individuals supporting it financially and an anonymous benefactor

letting the building rent free for the first three years. Our sincere best wishes goes out to all those who had participated in making this venture possible.

Much to the disappointment of the Parish Council, there were no powers which allowed the Parish Council to give significant financial support to this venture. However, the Parish Council had been able to help with the photocopying of leaflets for distribution to residents of Radley. Many Councillors helped with the distribution of the leaflets, and thanks were also given to Radley Guides for the help they gave.

- 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 during the year – it showed the diversity of subjects which Parish Councillors were asked to be involved. For example the Parish Council had been asked to comment on the following:

South East Plan

South East England Regional Assembly – Partial Review of the South East Plan: Revised Apportionment of Primary Land-Won Aggregates
Regional Housing Strategy 2007

Future of Post Office and Post Office Account Cards

Community Decline and Charter 88s Campaign for a modern democracy - empowering citizens and local councils

Thames Path Management Strategy 2006-2011

Local Authority Byelaws in England

Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework:

Minerals and Waste Issues and Options Consultation Paper June 2006

Minerals and Waste Core Strategy

Waste Sites Proposals and Policies Development Plan

Vale of White Horse Environmental Health and Local Quality Enforcement Policies

Oxford Brookes University – JET Site End State Public Consultation Focus Group

Consultation on the Future of Primary School Provision in Oxfordshire Communities and Local Government – A Revised Model Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members

There had also been good news in relation to the Railway Station – the Oxfordshire County Council was progressing plans to improve the station and its environment. Subject to funding, the OCC hoped to implement an extensive list of improvements over the next 6-12 months, including a paved area at the top of the approach road with seating and real-time bus information, a wider approach road, new footpaths from Radley Road to the platforms, improved lighting to increase security, extra cycle parking, an extension of the car park, replacement signage in and around the station, new anti-vandal waiting shelters, resurfaced platform and car park.

The Chairman indicated that he had tried to ensure that Councillors were given the time to discuss matters of importance to the Parish and yet ensure meetings were completed by 9.30 pm. But this was a very difficult task, especially when there were so many matters the Councillors which to comment on.

He expressed thanks for the support he had received from the Councillors and the Clerk, and took this opportunity to thank them for all the help and assistance they have given during the last twelve months. He indicated that he had decided not to stand for the Parish Council again, but wished the Parish Council continuing success in the future.

Mrs Jenny Standen thanked Mr Brian Mott for the service he had given as Parish Councillor since 1996, and for his period as Chairman of the Parish Council over the last two year. This was endorsed by the meeting.

6. ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- (a) AREA OF LAND BY SIDE OF BOWYERS ARMS: This area was an eyesore and it was hoped the Parish Council would ask Greene King to clean the area.
- (b) VILLAGE PLAN: A plan was needed for improving the village and for the people to put forward ideas on what was needed. A new village hall was one idea put forward.

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

Date:

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Chairman