

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RADLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE CHURCH ROOM, RADLEY ON THURSDAY 25th FEBRUARY 2015 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Crs J Standen (in the chair), Dudding, Henderson, Pasquire Crowley, D Standen and Yorston.

IN ATTENDANCE: District Councillor Ed Blagrove, the clerk.

17/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Crs Betts, Crowley, Johnston and Kallie and Walker and accepted by the Council.

18/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

DISPENSATIONS: None requested.

Cr Crowley's standing dispensation was noted.

19/16 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: None

20/16 REPORTS FROM THE DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Standing orders were suspended so that this item could be brought forward.

(a) **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR:**

(i) Ed Blagrove reported:

The budget had been agreed by the full council and Council Tax would be frozen for the 6th year. Highlights:

- The Corporate Services contract will save £4 million by 2020.
- The cost of garden waste and bulky collections was frozen.
- The budget included £30,000 for grants for the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations, £100,000 for New Homes Bonus grants. £50,000 for community flood groups.
- The council would hold reserves of £3 million by 2020.

The District Council had today made an announcement that would change the shape of local government in the district by creating a South and Vale unitary council as part of an Oxfordshire devolution bid. The final details were unknown at present, but this would link local councils closer to the NHS and would bring in services presently delivered by the County. If it went ahead, it was most likely that county councillors would stay in post until 2018, when the new ward boundaries would come in to being.

(ii) A written report from Cr Bob Johnston was received:

"1. The Vale has a budget, frankly given their strong financial situation it was rather a timid budget. There will be no increase in Council Tax, but up to £2 million is to be spent on car parks. I pointed out that as authorities as far apart as Birmingham and Somerset have long come to the conclusion that providing ever increasing amounts for free parking is ultimately self-defeating, you can never provide enough free parking.

2. I have been active in giving evidence to the EIP of the local Plan. I have defended the Green Belt on numerous occasions and pointed out for example that it is pointless to take playing fields out of the Green Belt, when there is no room to replace them. The Inspector took great interest in that point. I have also stressed the conflict of interest the Vale has as landowner of Pebble Hill and Woodlands and as

planning authority. They are seeking to take the same out of the Green Belt, when it has been admitted they could be redeveloped for conventional housing, losing a very valuable source of low cost housing. Again the Inspector appeared to be most interest in my assertion that they were a valuable and sustainable source of low cost housing for senior citizens.”

(b) COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Written report from Cr Bob Johnston was received:

“1. The County now has a budget for 2016/17. It was quite remarkable. We knew that the original administration budget was most unlikely to pass. Accordingly the Group Leaders of the three largest Groups had discussions. There was a lifeline, a last minute £4.5 million one off transition grant from the Government. After lengthy discussions agreement was reached. Our Group which was the only one too meet continuously and to brief our Leader, were most concerned that there should be extra funding for the Children's Centres and bus subsidies. The main points were that Council Tax is to rise by 3.99% (about £40 pa for a band D), extra funds for the Centres, with no cuts before September. This is to give them time to develop alternative strategies; most will now stay open in some form. There will be pump priming for buses, again with the same logic. Most contracts run at least to June, so again time has been bought. There will be more money for adult social services.
2. The County will now consult on a new unitary. According to a report by Ernst and Young such an authority could save £50 million by slimming down senior staff and removing duplication in areas such as planning and waste.”

21/16 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 27 JANUARY 2015: The minutes were **RESOLVED** to be a true record of the proceedings.

22/16 POLICE MATTERS:

- (i) The Neighbourhood policing monthly update had been circulated by email.
- (ii) PCSO Claire Chavagnon had noted that there was an ongoing issue with criminal damage to vehicles in Radley. She was discussing this issue with the police crime prevention officer to consider ways that the police could tackle this, as well as trying to reduce the parking issues.

It was noted that residents continued to take direct action on station parking and it was **RESOLVED** that the Council would ask the police to press Oxfordshire County Council to take action on parking restrictions.

It was noted that although the clerk had made a formal complaint to the County Council on the station parking issue online and by email, neither complaint had been acknowledged.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council would take its complaint to the Ombudsman.

23/16 PLANNING MATTERS:

(a) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: Cr Dudding reported that:

- (i) The steering group had met and the topic groups had completed their tasks. It was now for a wider steering group to progress them to consultation. The first consultation, planned for the second half of May, would look at aspects which would be developed into the Neighbourhood Plan. The Village Hall was booked for the weekend of 21 and 22 May for public exhibitions. It was essential

now to speak to Radley College and Arnold White Estates to see what they made of what had come from the topic groups.

The Thrupp Lane group had produced interesting and challenging ideas and would need to take them to all land interests in the area.

South Kennington group had suggested that Kennington residents should also be consulted. How to do so required further thought. They also thought the group could make more use of social media.

The Shape & Cohesion group thought that the shop was a key asset. Shop management had reservations at a suggestion of making space for the shop on the allotments, but others thought that might be a useful location for community facilities.

Cr Henderson suggested that, considering the historic cost to the village of running the existing facility, there should be an option which does not include a sports pavilion.

A feasibility sketch was commissioned for developing the allotments, as well as an illustrative map of the Thrupp Lane area.

- (ii) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP: It was proposed by Cr Dudding and **RESOLVED** that the following should be co-opted to the working group as suggested by the topic groups:

Martin Wilson, (convenor 'Shape' topic group), Christine Wootton, (convenor of the 'Thrupp Lane' group), Richard Dudding, ('Infrastructure' topic group), Carolyn Jessop, 'South Kennington' group with Rosemary Aldgate substituting if Carolyn is unable to attend a meeting, John Huddleston, Frank Hindson (Infrastructure), Sheila Smith, (Shape), Mike Wilson, (Thrupp Lane resident)

It was proposed by Cr Dudding and **RESOLVED** that Richard Dudding should be asked to take on a special role in moving forward the Thrupp Lane group's strategy for that area of the village.

- (b) LOCAL PLAN Examination in Public (EIP)

- (i) Cr Dudding reported that the Inspector had heard with interest what the Council had to say, but she thought that realistically there was little prospect of him changing the housing allocations in Radley.

It had been ascertained that the Inspector would produce interim findings within a month of the EIP ending Cr Dudding hoped that these would be a guide to his conclusions that could inform the Neighbourhood Plan.

- (ii) It was noted that the Vale had submitted a statement of common grounds and had updated the Infrastructure Delivery Plan saying that it would make greater healthcare provision.

- (b) COUNTY APPLICATIONS: None

- (c) PLANNING COMMITTEE RESPONSES had not commented on:

- (i) P16/V0103/PDH: Single storey rear extension Projection: 4.8 metres Height: 3.0 metres Height to eaves: 3.0 metres: 40 Sugworth Lane

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- (ii) P16/V0212/HH: Garden room side extension: 1a Foxborough Road
- (d) COUNTY APPLICATIONS - None
- (e) OTHER DISTRICT APPLICATIONS: None
- (f) DISTRICT DECISIONS:
 - (i) P15/V2914/P18: Prior approval for raising the parapet heights across the bridge. Radley Road Bridge Radley Railway Station – PERMISSION NOT REQUIRED
 - (ii) P15/V2987/HH: Single storey kitchen extension: 2 Shaw’s Copse: APPROVED
- (g) APPEALS: None
- (h) It was noted from Kennington Parish Council’s minutes that they had applied to the District Council to change the boundary between the parishes so that the mobile home parks and all of Sugworth Lane up to the A34 was moved into Kennington. It was understood that this request had been refused.

24/16 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

- (a) ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

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

Income:		None		
Expenditure:				
	Supplier	Item		Power to Act
15/02/16				
1061	Thames Water	Water supply pavilion	275.18	LG (Misc Provisions) Act 1976
1062	Thames Water	Water supply allotments	2.12	Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 s23
25/2/16			As sheet	
1063	HMRC	PAYE & NI	As sheet	LGAct 1972 s112
1064	OCC Pension Fund	Employer & Employee pension contributions	As sheet	LGAct 1972 s112
1065	ST Grounds Maintenance	Empty Play Area bin	50.00	Public Health Act 1874 s164
1066	Radley College	Annual rent Gooseacre Annual rent village pond & car park	1,089.29	Public Health Act 1875, Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984, Public Health Act 1936 s260
1067	MRH Services	Play area inspection and repairs	238.61	Public Health Act 1874
1068	Mrs J E Dymock	Refunds, Neighbourhood Plan admin & expenses	175.07	LG Act 1972 s142
1069	SH Lewis	Clean bus shelters	96.00	LG (Misc Provisions) Act 1953 s4
1070	Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association	Annual subscription 2016-17	50.00	LG Act 1972 s111
1071	Oxon Association of Local Councils	Annual Subscription 2016-17	447.16	LG Act 1972 s111
1072	HOBS Reprographics	Printing	18.00	LG Act 1972 s142

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1 March				
SO	Mrs J E Dymock	Clerk salary, village cleaner salary, telephone line rental	As sheet	LG Act 1972 s112 Litter Act 1983 s5 (1) LG Act 1972 s111

- (b) DIRECT DEBITS: It was **RESOLVED** that the Council would set up direct debits with Thames Water for i) water supply at the allotments, ii) water supply to the pavilion.
- (c) EXTERNAL AUDIT FROM 2017-18:
It was **RESOLVED** that the Council would not opt out of the new future audit arrangements for smaller councils. Opting in would mean that the Council would have an auditor appointed for it by the new sector body which has been set up by NALC (National Association of Local Councils) with SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks) and the Association of Drainage Authorities.
- (d) REVIEW OF THE GARDENING CONTRACT: It was **RESOLVED** that maintenance of the area in front of the bungalows should be vired from “Gardening” to the “S 137 donations” heading.
The Gardening Contract would be considered in full by the Finance and Administration committee.
It was suggested that the Council might speak to Sovereign Vale regarding provision of social housing if the allotments site was developed.
- (e) TREE PLANTING: It was **RESOLVED** that the Council would seek quotes to replace the dead lime tree in Whites Lane.
[Specification: Tilia cordata (small leaved lime). Feathered, good sized root balled 2-2.5m overall height minimum 5 breaks.]
- (f) A budget of £70 was **AGREED** for the purchase of a projector screen.
- (g) LAND OWNERSHIP:
It was **RESOLVED** that the Council should move to registering Lower Radley Green. The clerk would speak to the closest neighbour before proceeding.
- (h) BALANCES:
- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Barclays Bank current account: | 34,070.66 |
| Business Saver Account | 0.63 |
| Business Premium Account | 150,250.74 |
| | 184,322.03 |
| Cashbook balance | 183,872.87 |
- (i) BUDGET UPDATE: Noted
- (j) RECONCILIATION: Noted.
- (k) VILLAGE BENCHES: It was noted that the benches would be removed for cleaning.

25/16 HIGHWAY MATTERS:

- (a) REPORTS BY COUNCILLORS: None
- (b) STATION PARKING: None (discussed earlier)
- (c) Outstanding: Refer the question of a Road Traffic Order for the BOAT (Byway Open to All Traffic) RTO to the April Finance and Administration committee.

26/16 CONSERVATION:

- (a) Village benches – above.
- (b) The Garden Competition this year will be on Saturday 25th June with judging taking place from 10am to 5pm. The Flower Show was planned for the following week on Saturday 2nd July.

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27/16 THRUPP LANE ISSUES: None

28/16 VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS: None. Items requiring action were dealt with under finance.

29/16 COMMUNICATIONS: None

30/16 CORRESPONDENCE: None – items requiring action were reported above.

31/16 MATTERS FOR REPORT: None

32/16 CONFIRMATION OF THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:
Thursday 24th March at 7.30pm in the Church Room.

Signed.....Date.....

(Chairman)