

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF RADLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE PRIMARY SCHOOL, RADLEY, ON THURSDAY, 22
NOVEMBER 2007 AT 7.30 PM**

PRESENT: Cr J Standen (in the Chair)
Crs Crowley, Davies, Henderson, Nutt, Rogers, D Standen, Wilson,
Wren, Yorston
Six members of the public for Item 171/07 (a) (i)
Three members of the public
PC Delaney and PC Chan attended for item 170/07
Mrs Julia Mayhew-Archer, Chairman of the Vale of White Horse DC
(for part)

Mrs Julia Mayhew-Archer met the Councillors before the meeting to outline the duties she undertook and learn about the issues of concern to the Parish Council. The Chairman thanked her for coming.

Councillor Yorston signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form before he participated in the meeting.

166/07 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cr Johnston.

167/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cr Crowley declared a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to matters relating to the Radley Lakes.

Cr Wren declared a prejudicial interest in relation to Planning Application RAD/8051/1/

**168/07 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF PARISH COUNCIL, 24
OCTOBER 2007**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 24 October 2007 were **APPROVED** and signed by the Chairman with the following amendments:

Minute 155/07 (c) (iii) 4 – Heading should read: THRUPP AND BULLFIELD LAKES, RADLEY.

Minute 156/07 (b) 2 (i), second paragraph, first sentence should read: "... WREN had turned down the application for a grant of £3,500 on the grounds that it did not think this would provide a total and permanent solution to the problem."

Minute 156/07 (b) 4, second bullet point should read: “A business Premium Account. Varying from sums up to £24,999 and over £25,000, this attracted a small amount of interest.”

Minute 156/07 (b) 4, third bullet point, last sentence, should read: “The Parish Council did not currently need to transfer money”

169/07 BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

The Clerk reported:

- (a) **PLAY AREA:** The damaged part of the green tarmac had been replaced, and the Clerk was following up the crack in the black safety surface.
- (b) **VILLAGE POND:** More barley straw was required, and the cost of barley straw extract was being obtained for discussion at the Finance and Administration Committee on the 29 November.
- (c) **SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL PERSON:** Nothing had been heard from the Head Teacher of the Primary School on this issue, although a reminder had been sent. The Clerk was asked to contact the Chairman of the School Governors to see if he could pursue this.
- (d) **CONSERVATION AREA:** No further information had been obtained from the DC, but a reminder had been sent.
- (e) **BUS SHELTERS:** The OCC had reported that it was in the process of awarding a contract to Bus Shelters UK. They would like to install the Principle Bus Shelter at Radley because it was easier and cheaper to maintain, and had asked for confirmation that the Parish Council would be willing to maintain it. It was noted that the Radley shelters would be given priority, and this should allow for installation in February.

Councillors were concerned about the colour of the shelters, and felt the ones in Radley should be in green, to match the bus shelter by the Bowyer Arms. The Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting with the OCC representatives to clarify the position.

- (f) **NOISE/WORK AT STATION:** No reply had been received from First Great Western. The Parish Council was unhappy that it was not notified of work being undertaken at the station, and the Clerk would press for a reply.
- (g) **LAND BY BOWYER ARMS:** No reply had been received from Greene King. The Clerk was asked to press for action in view of the brambles over the footpath.
- (h) **PARISH PLAN:** Crs D and J Standen and the Clerk reported that they had had a very useful meeting with Anton Nath, ORCC. As this involved finance, a

detailed report would come up to the Parish Council through the Finance and Administration Committee.

- (i) **STORAGE OF PAPER RECORDS:** It was noted that the steel cupboard had been purchased and delivered to the sports pavilion.
- (j) **VILLAGE HALL MATTERS:** It was noted that the Village Hall had lost its bar licence and its Entertainments Licence was under review.
- (k) **VILLAGE HALL WORKING GROUP:** The Radley VHMC would be deciding its representatives for the Working Group on the 23 November.
- (l) **ADOPTION OF RADLEY STATION:** The OCC had been asked for advice on the next step.
- (m) **FUTURE OF RADLEY PARISH COUNCIL:** **IT WAS AGREED** that no further information was possible.
- (n) **YOUR VALE – YOUR FUTURE:** Cr Rogers reported that he had attended the meeting on the 14 November, and had found it very useful.

170/07 POLICE MATTERS

PC Delaney and PC Chan attended for this item. PC Delaney indicated that there were no real problems in the Parish except for the motorcyclists. The following matters were discussed:

- (a) **MOTORCYCLISTS – BEHIND STONHOUSE CRESCENT:** The problem was caused mainly by teenagers who lived around Stonhouse Crescent. PC Delaney was keeping a close eye on this problem, and was pressing for a motorcycle club to be set up at Dalton Barracks. The motorcycles would be kept at the club, and this would mean they were not available to use in the Parish. The police appreciated that local landowners had not given permission for the motorcyclists to use their land.
- (b) **REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR LIGHTING AND YOUTH SHELTER, BMX TRACK OFF AUDLETT DRIVE:** This would not be pursued as the young people who had requested it were more interested in the motorcycle club at Dalton Barracks.
- (c) **SPEEDING VEHICLES – WHITES LANE:** PC Delaney would keep an eye on this.
- (d) **RWENPOWER – FILLING OF GRAVEL PITS:** Following comments at the meeting arranged by the Police on the 2 October 2007, the Clerk outlined the various matters discussed with the police over the last two years. **IT WAS AGREED** that the details should be sent to Chief Inspector Phil Littlechild.

- (e) **NAG MEETINGS:** Cr Wren reported that he had been unable to attend the NAG meeting on the 21 November 2007, but would be able to attend the next meeting on Tuesday, 15 January 2008, which would be held at 7 pm at Abingdon Police Station. Cr Nutt indicated that he would also be able to attend this meeting, but could not attend meetings on Wednesday evenings.
- (f) **POLICE CHANGES:** The Parish Council hoped that PS Andy Cranidge would be able to attend a future meeting of the Parish Council to meet the Councillors.

171/07 PLANNING MATTERS

(i) New Applications

- (a) **RAD/8051/1** – Erection of new 4 bedroom two storey dwelling with linked double garage, Land adjoining 1 Gooseacre: Several residents from Gooseacre attended the meeting and expressed their concerns about the planning application. The Parish Council **AGREED** to object to the planning application on the grounds that the proposed development was too large for the site and therefore was over-development of the site and, as a consequence, it was unneighbourly.

(ii) Permission Given

- (a) **RAD/4241/3** – Demolition of existing porch and erection of a new porch, 20 Sugworth Lane.

(iii) Misc:

- (a) **RWEnPOWER – FILLING OF GRAVEL PITS:**
 1. **MEETING OF RWENPOWER LIAISON GROUP:** No response had been received by the Parish Council from Mr Rainford. Cr Crowley reported that Save Radley Lakes had had a letter asking that the Liaison Group should meet on neutral ground. The Parish Council reiterated its view that it was willing to attend a meeting of the RWEnPower Liaison Group but this would have to be held in Radley and be open to the public.
 2. **LETTER TO RWENPOWER:** No reply had been received from the Chief Executive of RWE Npower. Cr Crowley reported that a letter sent to the Chief Executive by Save Radley Lakes had been replied to by Mr Rainford.
 3. **CLAY STOCKPILE:** Cr Crowley drew attention to the clay stockpile came to be on Lake G and when it was put there, and the correspondence he had had with the OCC Enforcement Officer. The Clerk was asked to express the concerns of the Parish Council and ask that the OCC takes enforcement action in relation to this matter.

4. THRUPP AND BULLFIELD LAKES, RADLEY: The following matters were reported:

- (a) Save Radley Lakes had received independent advice on the Town Green Inspector's report from a leading barrister in this field. They were advised that the report was legally unsound and required further consideration by the Inspector. This had been put to the OCC, and asked that the OCC should defer making a decision on the 26 November 2007 while the report was reconsidered.

IT WAS AGREED that the report from the barrister should be circulated to the Councillors.

- (b) **IT WAS AGREED** that Cr J Standen should attend the OCC Planning and Regulations Committee on the 26 November 2007 if this matter remained on the agenda.
- (c) The Parish Council noted the letter from Mr David Guyoncourt, Vice Chairman of Safe Radley Lakes, requesting that the Parish Council considered making a grant towards the cost of a legal challenge to the Inspector's report and/or taking on the legal appeal process itself as in the case of Sunningwell Parish Council.

The Clerk reported that the Oxfordshire Association of Local Council Clerks had asked NALC to advise if the Parish Council could give financial help, other than under Section 137, if it did not take over the challenge, and it was hoped that a reply would be available when the Finance and Administration Committee met later in November.

Press Cuttings relating to Sunningwell Parish Council's fight to have the Glebe Land designated as a village green were reported to the Parish Council. The Clerk was asked to ascertain whether it was possible for the Parish Council to link with Sunningwell Parish Council to look at their records to see how this matter was handled in relation to the Glebe Land.

172/07 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- (a) **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:** It was proposed by Cr Henderson, seconded by Cr Rogers and **AGREED** that the following accounts should be paid:

(i)	Miss S E Raven:	£640.02
	Salary, November 2007:	£379.28
	Village Cleaner, December 2007:	£96.25
	Metal Cupboard:	£164.49
(ii)	Mrs K Sharp – Salary, November 2007:	£139.33

- (iii) Berinsfield Community Business – Grass Cutting/Gardening: £274.90
- (iv) Copycat Services - Photocopying: £92.19
- (v) Society of Local Council Clerks – Updated Publications: £28.60

173/07 AMENDMENT TO PARISH COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS

The Clerk outlined the need for the change in the Standing Orders which related to the change in the banking arrangements and the limit on the number of signatories on the bank mandate. It was proposed by Cr Rogers, seconded by Cr Davies, and **AGREED** that Paragraph 26.1 should be amended to “Orders for the payment of money shall be authorised by resolution of the Council and signed by two members”. It was noted that the SO currently indicates that there had to be three signatures on a cheque.

174/07 CONSERVATION

- (a) **PARISH COUNCIL AND THE DUTY TO CONSERVE BIODIVERSITY – GUIDANCE ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL COMMUNITIES (NERC) Act:** The Parish Council considered this document. It was appreciated that the NERC made it incumbent upon the Parish Council to take account of the interests of wildlife in the course of its business and to take positive action, where appropriate, to protect it. This document would be useful for the Conservation Working Party.
- (b) **CONSERVATION WORKING PARTY:** The Parish Council considered the draft Terms of Reference for a Conservation Working Party and it was proposed by Cr Henderson, seconded by Cr Davies and **AGREED** that the Working Party should be set up. Cr Rogers abstained from voting. **IT WAS AGREED** that Councillors Crowley, Henderson, Johnston, and D Standen should be members, and an approach would be made to the Abingdon Naturalists Society to see if they would nominate someone to join the Working Party.
- (c) **PLACES FOR PEOPLE:** The Clerk reported that she had not yet had a response from Radley College regarding the widening of Footpath 8. Cr Yorston **AGREED** to discuss this with the Bursar.
- (d) **BULB PLANTING:** The bulb planting had been completed.
- (e) **VILLAGE POND:** It was not yet known who would represent the Primary School on the Village Pond Management Committee.
- (f) **WAYS TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE:** Cr Wilson reported that he had read the booklet produced by DEFRA but found it a very disappointing document. **IT WAS AGREED** that this matter would come up again under the discussions on the Village Plan.

175/07 HIGHWAY MATTERS

- (a) **INCREASED TRAFFIC ALONG THRUPP LANE/CONDITION OF THRUPP LANE/NOISE FROM RECYCLING VEHICLES:** A number of Parish Councils had attended a very useful meeting with OCC Councillor Ian Hudspeth and Mr Steve Howell, OCC Head of Transport. The meeting had also been attended by Mr Mike Gilbert, Vale of White Horse Planning Officer, local residents, and Cr Bob Johnston in his capacity as County Councillor. It was clear from this meeting that the planning matters relating to businesses along Thrupp Lane were very complicated, and that Thrupp Lane was not suitable for the vast amount of large vehicles which were currently using it, particularly as the number and size of the recycling vehicles had increased considerably over the last few months.

Consideration was given to asking for a road to be constructed to allow vehicles to leave the Curtis' site on to Barton Lane but, in view of the limited nature of the tenancies of commercial businesses and the review of the contract with Veolia, **IT WAS AGREED** that this should not be pursued at the present time, especially as the whole site was on Green Belt land and the majority of the commercial users had temporary agreement to be on the site.

The Parish Council appreciated that the planning decision in relation to the Tarmac Limited meant that this business would be able to stay on its current site.

IT WAS AGREED that a letter should be sent to Mr Gilbert, DC, asking him to confirm that the DC would write, as a matter of urgency, to the commercial users based at the Curtis Site reminding them that the temporary planning permission to use the site lasted until 2011, and that it was important they looked for other premises in order to relocate by that time. In addition, the Clerk was asked to point out that the Parish Council was anxious that the DC took action regarding the use of the site by Veolia, and hoped that the difficulties this was causing would be taken into account when the contract was reviewed.

- (b) **TREE – FOXBOROUGH ROAD:** The Clerk was trying to ascertain when the tree would be removed. Members of the Parish Council thought it might be appropriate to plant a tree on the grass verge between Turner's Court and Stonhouse Crescent.
- (c) **RAILWAY BRIDGE, LOWER RADLEY:** The Clerk indicated that she was pressing for the date when the pedestrian signs would be erected.
- (d) **CONDITION OF ROADS:** It was noted that repair work had been taking place on the splay at Catharine Close, and a new lowered kerb had been installed.
- (e) **HIGHWAY SIGNS:** It was reported that Cr Johnston had raised the condition of some of the signs in the Village, especially those in relation to the school, with the Oxfordshire Highways. **IT WAS AGREED** that the Parish Council should press for signs to be cleaned under the "Cleaner, Greener" heading.

176/07 PARISH WEBSITE

Cr Wilson reported that no-one was using the Forum, and pressed the Councillors to do so.

177/07 REPORT OF DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The following report from Cr Johnston was read out:

- (i) Vale of White Horse DC: The DC had now had two presentations on the disposal of the Old Gaol, one from the officers, the other from the putative developers. In consequence a report from the Chief Executive Officer will now go, with a recommendation, to the Executive on the 7 December. It was then hoped that a contract could be signed within the following three months. After that there could be significant consultation on a range of matters with the relevant developer.
- (ii) Oxfordshire County Council: Following the most recent Full Council, the Council accepted a motion wrote by Cr Johnston which will allow for a budget for weed clearance in 2008/2009. Most of the other business of the OCC is taken up with the budget, which looks as though it will be very tight.

178/07 MEETING DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council **ACCEPTED** the meeting dates for the 2008/2009 Council year.

179/07 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) FOR ACTION

- (a) Vale of White Horse DC:
 - (i) Your Vale – Your Future
Issues and options report for future Vale development: Copies of the reports were distributed to Councillors, and **IT WAS AGREED** this should be put on the agenda of the next meeting for discussion.
 - (ii) Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision Strategy and a Draft Supplementary Planning Document: Noted. Noted. The Parish Council had no comments to make.

- (iii) Validation Checklists to Accompany Planning Authorities: Noted. The Parish Council had no comments on this document.
 - (iv) Events for Voluntary and Community groups in the Vale which were being undertaken jointly with the DC and the Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action: Noted. The Clerk would try to obtain paperwork in relation to fund raising.
- (b) Oxfordshire County Council:
Oxfordshire Fire Authority's Integrated Risk Management Plan 2008/13 and Action Plan 2008/09 Consultation Documents: Noted. The Parish Council had no comments to make on this document.
 - (c) Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – Winter General Meeting 2007 Monday, 26 November 2007, Stratfield Brake Pavilion, Kidlington: The Clerk would attend this meeting to listen to the main topic on fund raising.
 - (d) Berinsfield Community Business – Parish grass cutting contract 2008: It was reported that a review of the work undertaken by Berinsfield Community Business had been carried out, and it was considered that this was satisfactory. Several estimates had been requested for additional work.
 - (e) Vale and Downland Museum – 25th Year of Opening: The Parish Council noted that a presentation had been offered to the Parish, and a donation was requested. This matter would be considered by the Finance and Administration Committee.
- (ii) FOR INFORMATION:**
- (a) Vale of White Horse DC:
 - (i) Vale Views, Autumn 2007
 - (b) Oxfordshire Rural Community Council:
 - (a) Changes to the Post Office network in Oxfordshire
 - (b) Review of the Provision of Primary Education in Oxfordshire
 - (c) News Bulletin November 2007
 - (d) Review, Autumn/Winter 2007
 - (c) Oxford Green Belt Network – AGM 19 November 2007
 - (e) Open Space Society – Greens get a second chance
 - (f) Communities and Local Government – Outdoor advertisements and signs: a guide for advertisers

- (g) Local Council Review, November 2007
- (h) Clerks and Councils Direct, November 2007
- (i) Glasdon – Latest Products for Local Councils
- (j) Thames Valley Police – Christmas Crime menu

180/07 NOTIFIED BUSINESS

NIL

Date:
Chairman