

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF RADLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE CHURCH ROOM, RADLEY, ON THURSDAY, 28 JUNE 2007
AT 7.30 PM**

PRESENT: Cr J Standen (in the Chair)
Crs Crowley, Henderson, Johnston, Nutt, Rogers, D Standen, Wren

90/07 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cr Wilson.

91/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cr Crowley declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest as set out in the Standards Board for England lobby group, dual-hatted members and the Code of Conduct, top paragraph, page 7 in relation to matters relating to the Radley Lakes.

Cr Johnston declared a non-prejudicial interest in matters relating to the Village Hall.

**92/07 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF PARISH COUNCIL, 24
MAY 2007**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 24 May 2007 were **APPROVED** and signed by the Chairman.

93/07 BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

The Clerk reported:

- (a) **PLAY AREA:** The possibility of a site meeting was being pursued.
- (b) **SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS – REVISION TO MODEL CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT:** Preparation work was proceeding.
- (c) **VILLAGE HALL – BOOKINGS:** Cr Johnston reported that the police had not attended the recent event, and members of the Management Committee had monitored the position. When the event had finished, a complaint was received about behaviour of youths on the playing fields. This had nothing to do with the event held at the Village Hall and, despite a request for police to attend, no one had turned up. The Parish Council asked the Clerk to complain about this lack of involvement by the police.

- (d) VILLAGE POND: The bale of barley or oats straw had not yet been collected, and Cr Nutt **AGREED** to do this.
- (e) SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL PERSON: Nothing further had been heard about this.
- (f) CATHARINE CLOSE: Following further pressure on the condition of the road at the junction, the matter was being followed up with Mr Martin Turner, OCC Highways.
- (g) POTHoles – FOXBOROUGH ROAD: No further information had been obtained on when further work would be undertaken. The Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting with OCC Highways to look at the situation.
- (h) INCREASED TRAFFIC ALONG THRUPP LANE/CONDITION OF THRUPP LANE/NOISE FROM CLEANAWAY VEHICLES: DC had indicated that it should be able to get recording equipment into one of the affected properties in mid-July. Technically, noise from moving vehicles on a road was not something that could be dealt with as a nuisance, but there were issues which needed to be resolved. DC had not received any detailed lists of dates and times of problems from residents, and the Clerk was asked to follow up with the residents.

The Clerk was also asked to ascertain the position of the request for an access through to Barton Lane.

- (i) LOWER RADLEY – TRAFFIC FLOW: The further traffic survey had been requested.
- (j) ROAD SIGNS ON WHITES LANE INDICATING WAY TO VILLAGE SHOP/PO: The OCC Highways had indicated that the shop/PO must not put out notices at the road junctions.
- (k) CO-OPTION OF TWO PARISH COUNCILLORS: No one had applied for the two vacant positions. **IT WAS AGREED** that the vacancies should be advertised again and that interested people should be invited to attend the September meeting of the Parish Council.
- (l) RWENPOWER – APPLICATION FOR INJUNCTION: A letter had been sent to the Thames Valley Police regarding the statement made by Chief Inspector Dennis Evernden to the High Court.
- (m) REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR LIGHTING AND YOUTH SHELTER, BMX TRACK OFF AUDLETT DRIVE: No further information had been received from the police.
- (n) CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS: The Parish Council **AGREED** that its acceptance of the Code of Conduct should be

advertised in the local press by the DC. It was noted that The Standards Board for England had sent two documents to circulate to Parish Councillors:

- (a) The Code of Conduct: Guide for members
- (b) The Code of Conduct: Pocket guide

These would be circulated with the agreed copy of the Radley Parish Council's Code of Conduct.

- (o) OXFORDSHIRE VILLAGES OF THE YEAR COMPETITION 2007: The Chairman and Clerk were completing the questionnaire, which had to be submitted by the 30 June 2007. It was noted that there was no charge for participating in this competition.
- (p) PLAYING FIELD – MAINTENANCE/GRASS CUTTING ARRANGEMENTS: It was noted that Radley College staff were not interested in doing any additional work so the Parish Council would have to find another company to trim the edges of the field. **IT WAS AGREED** that Berinsfield Community Services should be asked if they could cut the periphery of the playing field.

It was noted that the Clerk had the telephone number of the firm recommended by Radley College for weed control, but had taken no action to date.

The detailed report from Simon Ringrose on the trees surrounding the playing field had been circulated to Councillors. **IT WAS AGREED** that this should be considered by the Finance and Administration Committee.

- (q) VILLAGE SHOP – PARKING: The OCC Highways had indicated that a scheme for “decriminalised parking” was going to be introduced sometime in 2008. This would mean that the Highway Authority (Oxfordshire County Council) and/or the District Councils would take over the enforcement of waiting restrictions from the Police. This was likely to result in more wardens being on the street carrying out enforcement, but there would need to be restrictions in place in the first place for them to enforce.

The Parish Council had been asked to remove the yellow line on the west corner of the Catharine Close/car park junction where it encroached on to the public highway.

- (r) DROPPED KERB – CATHARINE CLOSE: The OCC Highways had put this on the list, but it would take some time to achieve.
- (s) MANHOLE COVER – ON PAVEMENT BY VILLAGE SHOP: OCC Highways had put in another order to the utility concerned for the repair of the manhole cover.
- (t) NEW ROAD – SPLAY: The need for repair work had been reported to OCC Highways.

- (u) **OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL: MINERALS SITE PROPOSALS AND POLICIES DOCUMENT:** The Parish Council comments were submitted to the OCC by the 7 June 2007. A letter has been sent to the DC regarding consideration of Lower Radley as a Conservation Area, but no reply has been received.

94/07 POLICE MATTERS

- (a) **SPEEDING IN PARISH:** It was noted that the Police had been very active in the Parish in relation to speeding vehicles, and a number of people had been caught. Another five events would be taking place.
- (b) **Stakeholder Event:** The results of the meeting held on the 5 June 2007 would be published on the website in September and would subsequently be used to inform the 2008-2011 Strategic Policing Plan.

95/07 PLANNING MATTERS

(i) New Applications

- (a) RAD/20138 – Installation of new dormer and roof light and French doors with balustrade on end gable, 4 Turners Close: No objections

(ii) Permission Given

- (a) RAD/3279/14 – Erection of a canopy to the existing patio area, The Bowyer Arms

(iii) Misc:

(a) RWEnPOWER – FILLING OF GRAVEL PITS

1. Letter from RWE Npower: The Parish Council was concerned about the letter from Mr Rainford, and **IT WAS AGREED** that a letter should be sent to the Head Office of RWEnPower expressing concern about Mr Rainford's appointment. Cr Wren **AGREED** to prepare the first draft of this letter.
2. Meeting with Mr Rainford: It was noted that Mr Rainford had indicated that the agreed method of communication between the Power Station and the Parish Council was the Local Liaison Committee. The Parish Council considered that this meeting was a matter for the whole Parish Council, and the Clerk was asked to press for representatives from RWEnPower to attend a special meeting of the Parish Council.
3. OCC Planning and Regulations Committee: This would be meeting on the 16 July 2007 to consider the remaining conditions.

4. Fly Tipping – Footpath 9: There had been a lot of fly tipping along the BOAT, and the Clerk was asked to draw this to the attention of the DC.
 5. Tree felling at Radley Lakes – Forestry Commission, England: A detailed reply has been received indicating that no action would be taken in relation to the trees felled unless the planning permission was not taken forward, when the Forestry Commission would issue a Restocking Notice requiring the restocking of the felled areas.
- (b) **THRUPP AND BULLFIELD LAKES, RADLEY – APPLICATION TO REGISTER AS A TOWN GREEN:** It was reported that the Enquiry had finished, and the Inspector was now preparing a report which should be ready by mid-August. There was concern that RWEnPower would commence work before the results of the Enquiry were known, and Councillors were advised to contact Mr Rob Dance, OCC, if there were any concerns on activity on the site.

96/07 FUTURE OF VILLAGE SHOP

The letter from Mr Graham Steinsberg, giving thanks to the Parish Council for their invaluable assistance in getting this venture off the ground, was noted.

97/07 FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

(i)	Miss S E Raven:		£475.53
	Salary June 2007:	£379.28	
	Village Cleaner, July 2007:	£96.25	
(ii)	Mrs K Sharp – Salary, June 2007:		£139.33
(iii)	Southern Electric – Sports Pavilion:		£267.99
(iv)	Thames Water – Allotments:		£5.93
(v)	Berinsfield Community Business – Gardening:		£361.32
(vi)	Copycat Services – Photocopying:		£62.51
(vii)	Allianz Cornhill – Adjusted Payment:		£97.76
	Initial insurance payment did not include the lean-to.		
(viii)	SLCC – National Conference, October 2007:		£275.00
(ix)	Spareacre Hire:	Hire of Mini Bus	£70.50

Deposit: £100.00

(x) Radley Village Hall – Hire of Hall for Meeting on the Radley Railway Station £22.00

(b) VILLAGE HALL – SOUND PROOFING: Cr Johnston indicated that the Radley Village Hall Management Committee was required to undertake the following work at the Village Hall following complaints about noise:

(i) Double Glazing: This would cost £2,000, and the VHMC would be paying for this.

(ii) Sound Proofing of roof area: It would cost £11,500 to undertake this work. Cr Johnston had been in touch with the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, and had been advised that the Parish Council should lead on this as this would open up the possibility of grants from the DC and WREN. The suggestion was that the Parish Council should make a grant of £3,000, the DC had been asked for a grant of £5,000, and WREN had been asked for a grant of £3,500. The grants from the DC and WREN depended on the Parish Council handling the project and making a grant. It was confirmed that the Parish Council had the power to undertake this. **IT WAS AGREED** that this should be discussed by the Finance and Administration Committee. Cr Johnston did not vote on this decision because of his interest as Secretary to the Radley VHMC.

(c) PROVISION OF CCTV AT SPORTS PAVILION: The Clerk reported that she had not yet got an upgraded estimate.

(d) PROVISION OF FENCING AROUND PLAY AREA/VILLAGE HALL: ACCOUNTS 2006/2007: The Parish Council considered three estimates:

MRH SERVICES:

(a) Parish Council fencing: £4,807.77

(b) Village Hall fencing: £2,078.57

There might be a small increase to cover some of the costs since the estimate was given, but the company supplying the fencing had agreed to maintain the quote given in January 2007.

WAREFENCE:

(a) Parish Council fencing: £5,639.24

(b) Village Hall fencing: £2,238.39

PAS FENCING AND LANDSCAPING:

(a) Parish Council fencing: £6,985.50

(b) Village Hall fencing: £2,478.25

All costs were exclusive of VAT.

It was proposed by Cr Nutt, seconded by Cr Rogers and **AGREED** that the estimate given by MRH Services should be accepted and that the Parish Council should meet the cost of the Parish Council and Village Hall fencing. Cr Johnston did not vote on this decision because of his interest as Secretary to the Radley VHMC.

IT WAS AGREED that all the fencing should be in blue so that it would match the fencing already provided along one edge of the Play Area.

- (e) **PROVISION OF BUS SHELTERS:** It was noted that the OCC was considering tender submissions from a range of shelter suppliers, but had not yet awarded a contract. The Clerk was asked to ascertain the timescale for the provision of bus shelters in Radley under the OCC scheme before a decision was made to apply for an OCC grant towards shelters.

It was noted that the OCC had investigated the feasibility of providing RTI displays in Radley, and would be providing these for stops at Sugworth Crescent and Radley Rail Station (both sides). The cost of providing power supplies to a display at Pebble Hill Mobile Home Park looked to be prohibitive.

- (f) **SAVE RADLEY LAKES – BOOKING OF GOOSEACRE RECREATIONAL FIELD AND SPORTS PAVILION, 28 JULY 2007:** Cr Crowley left the meeting for this item. The Clerk reported that Save Radley Lakes had booked the Gooseacre Playing Field in order to hold a Fete. The Village Fete did not pay to hire the field, and she thought the Parish Council would like to consider whether Save Radley Lakes should pay in view of the local interest in the reason to raise funds. It was proposed by Cr Johnston, seconded by Cr Nutt and **AGREED** that Save Radley Lakes should have use of the Gooseacre Recreational Field free of charge.

98/07 RADLEY RAILWAY STATION – STATION ADOPTION

It was reported that the Village Hall had been booked for Friday, 14 September 2007, at 7.30 pm for a public meeting. Details of this meeting had been given to the editors of the Town Crier (Abingdon), Kennington Chronicle and Radley News, but the Town Crier was too full for it to be inserted and the next edition came out after the meeting. In addition, the Abingdon Herald and the Head Teacher of the Primary School had been informed of the meeting. Mr Adrian Saunders, OCC, has booked the date, and the Parish Council agreed that First Great Western should be invited to join the meeting.

IT WAS AGREED that a flyer should be prepared to give to people who had a particular interest in the station, and to those people living nearby. All local organisations should be informed of the meeting, and details should be given to Joyce Huddleston so that this was put in the diary of events on the web site.

99/07 CONSERVATION

- (a) **GARDEN COMPETITION:** The Parish Council noted the reports of the Working Party held on the 24 May 2007 and 28 June 2007. It was noted that recommendations had been made to buy as much food as possible from the Village Shop and to hire a mini-bus for the afternoon session, the cost of the mini-bus being £60.00 plus VAT. It was proposed by Cr Johnston, seconded by Cr Henderson and **AGREED** to the recommendations.

100/07 HIGHWAY MATTERS

- (a) **FLOODING BY RADLEY COLLEGE AND SUGWORTH LANE:** It was noted that the OCC Highways and Thames Water were aware of the problems but there was little which could be done as the drainage system was unable to cope with the heavy rain.
- (b) **GROWTH OF ROADSIDE TREES AT ST JAMES' TERRACE:** The growth made it difficult for pedestrians, and would be reported to the OCC Highways.
- (c) **GROWTH IN ROADSIDE GUTTERS:** This would be reported to OCC Highways, but it was understood that the budget had been withdrawn for this service.
- (d) **TREE – FOXBOROUGH ROAD/WHITES LANE JUNCTION:** A large tree in front of the last house on the left going towards Abingdon had a lot of growth from its base, which caused a vision problem at the junction. This had been drawn to the attention of OCC Highways.

101/07 PARISH WEBSITE

The Chairman reported that there had a complaint about some material put on the web site relating to the Enquiry into the Village Green. This would be discussed in detail at the next meeting.

102/07 REPORT OF DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cr Johnston reported

- (i) **Vale of White Horse DC:**
 - 1. There had been eight expressions of interest in the Old Gaol, and this had been short listed to four. Recommendations would be made to the Vale Executive on the 13 July 2007.
 - 2. Abingdon Market Square – the refurbishment was almost complete.

3. ABITS: Cr Johnston was informed that no Vale Council person was present at the public meeting.
- (ii) Oxfordshire County Council: The OCC was awaiting finance monitoring reports, so things were quiet at the moment.

103/07 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) FOR ACTION

- (a) OCC – Review of external transport posts: The Parish Council agreed to support the three external transport posts.
- (b) Vale of White Horse DC: Offer by Chairman of DC to meet Parish Council: The Parish Council **AGREED** to invite the Chairman of the DC to its July meeting.
- (c) Oxfordshire Association for the Blind: Request to advertise service offered: This would be referred to Radley News.

(i) FOR INFORMATION:

- (a) Oxfordshire County Council:
 - (i) Contact Details 2007/2008
 - (ii) Home2School Newsletter: Summer 2007
 - (iii) News, June 2007
 - (iv) 2007 Celebrating a Thousand Years of Oxfordshire
 - (v) Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework – Waste Sites Proposals and Policies Development Plan Document Change to Preferred Options Consultation Arrangement
- (b) Vale of White Horse DC
 - (i) Standards Committee, 28 June 2007
 - (ii) Small Grants
 - (iii) New Community Funding Advice Service
 - (iv) Vale Community Safety
 - (v) Council News is no longer going to be produced. Details are available on the Council's website www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk.
- (c) Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils:
 - (a) Annual General Meeting 11 June 2007
 - (b) Update on Upper Thames Major Resource Development
- (d) Climate (www.climateX.org) – Create an Inspiring climate awareness in Oxfordshire/The Children's Food Festival 14 and 15 July 2007 Abingdon Airfield.
- (e) Oxfordshire Rural Community Council:

- (i) Review
- (ii) News Bulletin, June 2007
- (f) Oxfordshire Community Foundation – Report on Activities 2005-2006
- (g) Glasdon – Local Councils News Sheet
- (h) Parkers Wholesale Catalogue
- (i) Oxfordshire Green Belt Network – Comments on OCC Mineral Working Documents
- (j) Open Spaces Society, Report – Summer 2007/Annual report and accounts 2006
- (k) ASAP Computer Services
- (l) Abingdon and District CAB – AGM, 28 June 2007
- (m) Motocross, Culham - 16th/17th June

104/07 NOTIFIED BUSINESS

NIL

Date:
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Chairman