

**PARISH COUNCIL
RADNAGE PARISH COUNCIL**

**REPORT OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 13th MAY 2009 IN THE VILLAGE HALL, RADNAGE AT 8.00PM**

Welcome and Introductions by the Chairman Cllr Martin Blakstad and apologies for absence

The following councillors were present:

Cllr Martin Blakstad (Chairman), Mr. A. Gardner (Vice Chairman), Cllrs Ms. E. Fynn, Ms. C. Nellis, Mr L. Perring, W Pilbeam and Mr. R Pitcher,

Also present;

Mr Ian Baylock (RFO), Chris Watson from Wycombe District Council (WDC) and Frank Downs, Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC).

Ms. Susanne Griffiths – Parish Clerk

16 members of the public were present.

Apologies were received from Cllr Sarah Marshall from WDC and Mike Chadwick

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Ian Blaylock thanked Zoe Smith for the very informative and concise report of the 2007 Parish Meeting.

Welcome by the Chairman

The Chairman introduced the members of the Parish Council and representatives from both WDC and BCC to the meeting.

The Chairman gave a resume of the main activities in which the Council had been involved in during the past year. The following was mentioned; speeding report has been generated based upon a Community Speed watch initiative that was carried out in October last year. The Parish Council incurred additional costs based upon legal costs involved with Wards Pond due to flooding. The Chairman thanked Ian and Kay Brown and their team for the tremendous help with the fundraising activities within the Parish. The Council wishes to improve their communication within the Parish and confirm that Ian Peacock has kindly agreed to publish forthcoming Parish Council agendas and minutes on his website www.radnage.net which is very much appreciated. The Council has been dealing with local public transport issues and flyers are due to be distributed shortly with details of the new bus services.

Village Hall Report

Cllr Elizabeth Fynn advised the meeting that the Village Hall is the biggest asset managed by the Parish Council. During the last 12 months much remedial work has been done, essential to keep the hall open and safe for hiring, this includes: fire risk assessment report, heating system updated, electrical inspection and PAT testing.

The Village Hall Management Advisory Committee disbanded in March due to implications and costs and a new Village Hall Advisory Group was set-up. The group includes three parish councillors. Future projects include replacement of all old windows and doors, replacing soffits and guttering, new kitchen and bar, general deco work, heating upgrades, car park resurfacing and audio visual systems.

Cllr Flynn gave an update on the fundraising and grant applications this included the French doors and patio project at the Village Hall. The fundraising group was formed and raised a total of £19,008. With the assistance of local firms and villagers the project was completed.

Forthcoming is a new project to build a new kitchen and bar area and some grants have already been secured for this. The Fundraising account at the end of April 09 stands at £4646 on deposit and £1111 in the current account. Cllr Fynn thanks all invoiced and a special thanks to Simon

Watts for setting up the Elaine Watts memorial fund, Kay Brown for sourcing grants and Ian Brown for acting as temporary hall manager.

Allotments Report

Cllr Bill Pilbeam advised the meeting of the Parish Councils role in running the allotments and that the Council owns 4 allotment areas within the Parish. The allotments have recently been remapped and re-numbered.

Open Spaces Report

Cllr R Pitcher advised the meeting that the Parish Council has recently set-up a two-year grass cutting contract to include recreational spaces, village hall, burial ground and streaming the pond areas. The feedback so far has been positive and Cllr Pitcher welcomed more feedback from the meeting.

An improvement plan is been generated for the ponds in the village, following a survey that was carried out in 2006 with a BCC Ranger.

Playground Report

Cllr Clare Nellis advised the meeting of her role of maintaining a weekly Health & Safety check on all playground equipment. This check is logged and reported to the Clerk monthly, from which the necessary work orders are raised.

Maintenance/Planning

Cllr Lew Perring advised the meeting that the bus shelters are cleaned on a monthly basis and that the two litter bins have now been moved to create better usage. It is proposed that the Village Hall Notice board is removed and re-located to the vacant telephone box area.

Cllr Perring advised the meeting that the Parish role was one of a consultee on all applications.

RFO Report

Mr. Ian Blaylock presented the financial report to the meeting. The council has had a "high spend year" leaving the accounts a little shell-shocked. There is an overall deficit of £6,354.97 with a corresponding reduction in the Council's reserves. Mr Blaylock confirmed that the deficit has been caused by unbudgeted expenditure including, contribution towards the Patio project, cost of an election, Village Hall improvements as part of the Health & Safety report, and a vandal attack on the Hall.

The Village Hall is currently costing each household in the parish around £18.00 per year.

Mr Blaylock thanked Kay & Ian Brown for their assistance with the fundraising for the Village Hall. The precept for this year (2009/10) has increased by £6000. Mr Blaylock confirmed that he would be stepping down from his role as RFO to the Parish Council and that the new Clerk would be taking on this important responsibility. Mr. Blaylock thanked WDC for the support received during 2008 when the Parish was 'between Councils', particularly from Janet Clements. He also thanked Chris Watson, Sarah Marshall, Jean Teesdale and David Devine for joining him on the Interim Council.

Cllr Blakstad thanked Mr. Blaylock and as a gesture of recognition for all his hard work confirmed that the Council had agreed to his request for a replacement 'Radenac Tree'. A new tree would be purchased later in the year.

Buckinghamshire County Council Report

Cllr Frank Downs congratulated the Parish Council and residents on the Village Hall project.

Cllr Downs told the meeting that it had been a difficult year on record for BCC and that with the current economic forecast, 2010 will also be a difficult year. BCC pledge to keep future precept requirements in line with the South East Counties. Elections are due on June 4th 2009.

BCC are working on Transformation program which is designed to changing but maintaining standards. Pathfinder is still being progressed with its objective of work closer with local authorities. BCC has recently been awarded 4stars excellence status from the Audit Review, the highest grade possible. BCC has £5million invested in Icelandic Bank and this is due to be paid

back during the next Financial Year. £32million was secured from the government for the new Cressex School in High Wycombe.

Wycome District Council Report

Cllr Chris Watson advised the meeting that he was sorry that he did not get to meet with the council as frequently as he wished during the last year. Cllr Watson congratulated the new Parish Council on earning the trust of the villagers so quickly. Work in the Wycombe District this year includes the refurbishment of the Sports Centre, planning of a new stadium for the local Football and Rugby teams, changes in transport routes, re-development of the train station, opening of the new Sainsbury store and the much needed parking facilities for the Town, new university building. Cllr Watson thanked Ian Blaylock for his work as the RFO, the fundraising team and also the new grass cutting contractor for the work on the cricket field.

Stokenchurch and Radnage Community Action Report

Mike Chadwick was not present at the meeting but his report is as follows:

For those who are not aware, the role of the Stokenchurch and Radnage Community Action Forum is to represent as far as possible the opinions of the community determined from the results of the household questionnaires. The second such survey, carried out in 2007 and published in 2008, led to the production of an Action Plan which forms the basis of the Forum's activity. Regular updates on progress are published on the Forum's website www.stokenchurch-radnage.org where the full survey reports can also be found.

In terms of recent Radnage-specific activity, this has focused on bus services: successfully retaining at least a lifeline service when other areas were suffering complete loss; publicising the revised service, including producing and delivering a flyer to most households with the support of the Parish Council; and repeatedly raising the general issue of rural public transport at County Council meetings.

The Forum has also acted as a conduit of information between the Parish Council and various external meetings which the Council has been unable to send representatives to.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Parish Council in the forthcoming year. It would be excellent if at a future meeting Radnage Parish Council would consider following the lead of Stokenchurch by formally voting to endorse the findings of the survey.

Radnage School Report

Cllr Blakstad advised the meeting that the school currently had 42 pupils and explained the structure of the staff. This year the school has plans to provide a covered outside play area and funding has been generated by the PTA. The school urges all villagers to send in their vouchers from supermarket promotions. Road Safety and parking is still a priority and all new parents are given a map of designated park areas.

Public Open Forum

A number of questions were asked by the members of the public including; the increase in 09/10 precept, clarification of hedge cutting responsibilities for owners, pot holes, and signage. The Council was congratulated on the good progress made to date and also the standard of the grounds maintenance and the appearance of the flowerbeds in the Village.

The Chairman thanked the public for attending, the councilors from both WDC and BCC and Ian Blaylock for his work as the RFO and the meeting closed at 9.25pm