

# PARISH OF RADNAGE

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021 IN RADNAGE VILLAGE HALL AT 8 PM

### **Present:**

Chairman: Cllr Mr Darren Ungless, Cllr Mr Tony Eden and 5 members of the public were in attendance and the minutes were taken by the Parish Clerk: Ms Lisa Stibbs.

The meeting began informally, giving residents the opportunity to meet members of their Parish Council.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from County Councillors Carl Etholen, Robert Carrington, Shade Adoh and Parish Councillor Mr Jez Lofts .

### **2. Welcome and Chairman's report.**

The Parish Council Chairman opened the formal part of the meeting by welcoming everyone present and thanked members of the council for their hard work throughout the year. Special mention was made of our school, our Church and all the various groups, clubs and associations that all contribute so much to our village. Thank you.

The purpose and format of the Annual Parish Meeting was explained to all present and that the Parish Council is here to represent Radnage, is apolitical, and that being a Parish Councillor is a voluntary and unpaid position that can be very rewarding in trying to make a difference to our community. The Parish Council is currently in the process of appointing another 2 councillors.

Councillor Ungless gave special thanks to Robert Nikiel for all his work on the Parish Council in the last 6 years.

### **3. Acceptance of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

The minutes of the APM meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019 were approved as proposed by Cllr Eden, seconded by Cllr Ungless and agreed by all as a true and accurate record. The Chairman signed and dated the minutes.

### **4. Reports from Councillors**

Cllr Ungless the gave a presentation (which will be available on The Radnage.net website) explaining that we have managed projects with others being planned and some still ongoing – such as the installation of new playground equipment and restoration and maintenance of the older existing pieces, ongoing landscaping with clearance works, the provision of a defibrillator planned for Bennett End, speeding control and safety, and we are always challenged on budgets

“We have had a very challenging year in that we have had to deal with the unprecedented Covid 19 situation resulting in a loss of income from bookings at the village hall. We have said goodbye to two councillors, Robert Nikiel and Everton Merchant - whose energy and contribution to the Parish Council was very much appreciated. We will also be welcoming 2 new councillors – Ellie Hurrell and Grant Gie, all being part of a great team council who work hard for the good of the village.

A big thank you to our Bookings Clerk, Carol Eden for running the Village Hall hiring's and enquiries, and for ensuring the hall is in good condition for each visitor. Carol reports that the hall is now taking bookings again as the Covid restriction start to lift and hopefully parties, events and special occasions will soon be booked in the hall again.

The hall is enjoyed by a variety of hirers, clubs and associations and hosts many events. The playing fields are regularly used by Radnage Raiders FC with the focus on individual and team development, encouraging the young players to be the very best they can be.”

"Radnage has a number of areas of common land and green spaces which need to be maintained, including the recreation ground at the Village Hall and the Children's Playground. The Parish Council is responsible for the upkeep of these areas and we have a contract with a local supplier for regular grass

cutting and hedge trimming. Periodically, larger maintenance works are needed and these are dealt with as individual jobs as required - examples would be tree maintenance or pond clearance. The village hall kitchens are utilised by smaller start-up businesses but not on a regular basis. Free Wi-Fi is available to all users of the building and outside space.

“Besides the activities already mentioned, an important element of the Parish Council is to review and comment on planning applications and enforcement cases in the Parish and have done so on over 36 applications received, being objective and to ensure relevance to our area and the AONB, whilst being sympathetic to each case on an individual basis. The public are also very much encouraged to make their comments known to the planning department.

## **5. Local Groups, Associations and Friends.**

There are various clubs and associations within the village including the WI, St. Mary's Church PCC, GLRA, the Radnage Charity, Radnage Raiders and the British Legion to name but a few, as well as pub restaurants, farms and businesses large & small and our village school and Scout Group.

**Radnage Charity** – This has been in existence in Radnage since the late Elizabethan period and is a landowner of 25 acres in the village which is tenanted. The Charity, which is one of only very few still in existence, gives to 3 main areas of our community – the Church, School and the 'Poores' branch, which is for the benefit of villagers who are in need, hardship or distress. It also considers donating to other worthy causes within the village.

The Chairman opened the meeting to those present.

**The GLRA** was represented and it was explained that 60 years ago the lane was a dirt track but the residents wanted a proper road surface. It was not constructed to the current standards and so the council will not take on its maintenance, leaving the residents to maintain it. It is also a Right of Way for the public. Costs are financed by an amount set aside annually as a subscription payable by each household, or road frontage. When the road was created the Green Lane Residents Association was formed. The speed bumps are not supported by all for reasons such as access by the emergency services, but they are present to keep the speed of vehicles using the lane down to the 15mph limit. The GLRA also looks after the welfare of the residents in other ways such as the gritting of the lane, residents welfare etc.

Many thanks are extended to Jo.

## **6. Discussion and Questions.**

**Green End Road Pond** – The area around the pond has been cut (as part of the grass cutting contract) but it should have been left for the wild flowers to grow. Cllr Lofts will liaise with the residents who are knowledgeable on wild flowers and will try to ensure that this is not cut again.

**Speeding** – Highways Agency/Transport for Bucks are responsible for any changes on the roads. However, the residents have speed stickers for their wheelie bins. Cllr Ungless is involved with Speedwatch initiatives from Thames Valley Police and is hoping to obtain two speed guns, as volunteers in High Viz pointing speed guns at speeding motorists is a good deterrent.

**Allotments** – Discussion was held regarding forming of Allotment committees so that all holders can agree on any work being done in the allotments

**c. Thank You's** – There are many individuals, associations and businesses that offer their time, assistance and support to the Parish Council for which we are extremely grateful. We thank all of those people who do so much.

Minutes of this meeting will be considered for approval at the next meeting of the Parish Council to enable any matters arising to be dealt with.

The meeting concluded at 21.40 hours.

**Chairman's Signature:**

**Date:**