

PARISH OF RADNAGE

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 8 PM ON WEDNESDAY 8th DECEMBER 2010

Present: Councillors: Vice Chairman Ms E Fynn (in the Chair), Mr A Gardner, Ms C Nellis, Mr W Pilbeam, Mr R Pitcher and Parish Clerk Mrs G MacKenzie.

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence. Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Mr M Blakstad and Cllr Mr L Perring. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Mr Andy Howden who was attending to provide a report to the Parish Council under item 4b. There were no other members of the public in attendance so no public session was required.

2. Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare any personal interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting. Cllr Pilbeam declared an interest in one of the cheques payable as it was an agreed purchase he had made on behalf of the Parish Council.

3. Acceptance of Minutes of the Last Meeting

Cllr Pitcher proposed and Cllr Nellis seconded the motion that the minutes of the last meeting be accepted as a true record. This was agreed by all.

4. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes (not otherwise on Agenda)

a. Action Points from last meeting.

(i) Cllr Perring was to pursue the provision of a suitable 'A' sign warning visitors of the existence of the play area. This was reported as being work in progress.

(ii) Cllr Fynn would arrange for future caterers to be asked to complete a questionnaire providing feedback on the kitchen facilities to the Village Hall Manager. Cllr Fynn advised that she had yet to devise the questionnaire.

(iii) Cllr Fynn was to pursue quotes for fire safety equipment in the Village Hall. Cllr Fynn advised that this was ongoing.

(iv) The Clerk was to seek information regarding the cost of Remembrance Day poppy wreaths. The Clerk had established that the actual cost of the poppy wreath used by the Parish Council was £19. All agreed that a donation to the Radnage Royal British Legion for their administration was appropriate and that the same donation as last year would be added to the cost of the wreath.

(v) Cllr Pitcher was to liaise with the Clerk regarding a review of budgetary control. This had been arranged and was due to be carried out by the end of the week.

b. Radnage Rugged Run - the Chairman invited the organiser Andy Howden to give a report on the event which had been considered a huge success with feedback from the runners being good. Andy reported that the run had raised approximately £5,000 for the school through runner entry fees, food and drink, charitable business donations and the Tombola (prizes being donated by the Crown pub, The Three Horseshoes Inn and the Daws Hill Vineyard amongst others). The organisers had learnt from the experience which will enable them to make improvements for future events. It was noted that Race parking and general signage for the weeks prior to the Race needed to be improved so it is more weatherproof. Parking arrangements were generally good, with particular thanks to Simon Watts for preparing and opening his field for this purpose, and just one complaint received to date about a car parked in a gate entrance on the outskirts of the village (which might not have been connected with the race). It was therefore proposed to hold another event next year – on 20th November. The organisers thanked the Parish Council for their help and support in this venture.

Councillors requested that any event advertising signs be removed from around the village after the event had taken place.

5. Planning.

Planning applications and decisions:

10/07542/FUL Ashbrook – Demolition of existing bungalow and erection of detached two storey 4 bed dwelling. No objections from the Parish Council although it was thought that the size of the house was too big for the size of the plot.

10/07694/FUL Daws Hill Farm – Creation of an all weather riding arena with 1.5 metre high fencing. No objection from the Parish Council.

Update on Colliers Farm. The Clerk had provided each Councillor with a written update on Colliers Farm following receipt of a 15 page document concerning the planning appeal. In brief, the appellant's grounds for appeal have changed which means that a public enquiry is no longer required and instead an informal hearing will be held, the date of which is not yet known.

6. Finance

a) RFO Report

The Clerk reported that as at 30 November 2010 the current account stood at £15,890.10 and the deposit account had a balance of £10,029.26 representing interest of 40p. The Clerk had produced a summary of income and expenditure and there were no comments or questions raised.

b. Accounts Payable.

Cheques for approval:

Cheque number 2237 Community Impact Bucks Subscription renewal 2010/11 £30.00

Cheque number 2238 J Haywood – Village Hall cleaner £144

Cheque number 2239 P Rolfe – Village Hall lettings Officer £88

Cheque number 2240 G MacKenzie – clerks salary and expenses £427.85

Cheque number 2241 W Pilbeam – for seeds planting around Wards Pond £20

Cheque number 2242 Radnage Royal British Legion – poppy wreath £50

Cheque number 2243 Pace Fuelcare – Village Hall heating oil £500.23 +VAT

Cheque number 2244 The Print Shop – Village Hall stationery £4.25 +VAT

7. Correspondence

a. Chiltern Society – The Clerk advised that the latest magazine and newsletter had been received which included notification of Bottom Wood Conservation project work. She would endeavour to advertise the need for volunteers for this project within the parish Contact magazine. The Chiltern Society magazine was made available for Cllrs to read.

b. The latest bulletin had been received from Campaign to Protect Rural England and letter advising change of Chairman and their latest news. This too was available for Cllrs to read.

c. The Clerk advised that she had put information on the Library Consultation into the December issue of the Contact magazine as it had arrived too late to be discussed at the last Parish Council meeting. Information had been received saying that a further meeting about the library service and the implications of the Stokenchurch Library was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 5th January at 7.30 pm in Longburrow Hall.

d. A letter had been received from Cllr Watson Wycombe District Council advising that a contribution of £530 had been paid into our bank account specifically to help fund the cost of redressing the lettering on the village War Memorial. The Clerk was to write thanking Cllr Watson for this donation. **ACTION: Clerk**

e. 2011 Census. Sunday 27 March 2011 is Census day and the Clerk agreed to place an article in the parish Contact magazine to ensure wide notification of this.

f. Cllr Pilbeam thanked the Clerk for placing a previous entry in the parish magazine concerning Mrs Sears as this had been much appreciated by her family.

8. Grass Cutting Contract.

The Clerk advised that five tenders for the grass cutting contract had been received and these were discussed in a closed session of the Parish Council (under Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1950 and the Local Government Act 1972).

9. Action Plan.

The clerk requested that the minutes recorded the fact that the Parish Council had prepared and agreed an Action Plan outlining their objectives for the next 2 – 4 years. On behalf of the Parish Council, Cllr Fynn gave a vote of thanks to the Clerk for her work in preparing this document.

10. Precept.

Members of the Parish Council had attended a working group meeting earlier in the month to discuss the budget and to set a suggested Precept level for the next financial year. With the current financial recession and the existing budget allocations, it was hoped not to make any increase in the Precept, although it was recognised that any major improvements to the Village Hall that were not covered by the grant of approx £19,000 might require specific additional fundraising initiatives. Cllr Gardner proposed that the Precept level of £22,000 (twenty two thousand pounds) be unchanged for the Financial Year 2010/11. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Nellis and agreed unanimously. **ACTION: Clerk**

A vote of thanks was once again given to the Clerk for her work in preparing the documentation and her work in the budget forecasting which formed part of the discussion, enabling Cllrs to make an informed assessment and to set a Precept level.

11. Village Hall Update

Cllr Fynn reported that hirings were running at the usual level for this time of year and that each hirer receives a list of cleaning responsibilities and is reminded that they must leave the hall in a lettable state. Following a recent hirer using a staple gun to put up decorations, she is now working on providing guidelines for decorating the hall. Fuel oil for the central heating system was ordered and delivered before the recent cold weather. Insulation for the pipes and cold water tanks in the roof space was checked and improved. Thanks are due to Cllr Perring for his work on this. As the cold weather was prolonged and some of the pipes started to freeze we raised the temperature at which the frost stat on the heating system cuts in. This can be reduced when the weather improves. She advised that the gates to the hall car park had been left open during the recent cold weather so that people could leave their cars in the car park. The commercial dishwasher is now working and was used successfully by the Winter Lunch Club on 30 November.

The fund raising group have obtained a grant of £19,000 towards the next project which includes replacing the flat roof over the entrance hall and toilets with a pitched roof. Thanks are due to Kay and Ian Brown for all their hard work in applying for and progressing yet another successful grant application.

12. Open Spaces

a. Allotments. Nothing to report.

b. Play Area. Cllr Nellis reported that she hoped to be able to arrange a meeting during the school Christmas holidays to discuss the playground management. **ACTION: CN**

c. Open Spaces – No report had been received from Cllr Perring on the provision of a replacement notice board on Sprigs Holly Lane. Cllr Pilbeam advised that he was continuing to seek quotes for the work required to the War Memorial. He suggested that photographic images of the Memorial would be useful to potential contractors and the Clerk agreed to assist with this. **ACTION:WP &Clerk**

For record purposes it was noted that the new grit bin has been sited on Bowers Lane. It was further noted that Green Lane Residents Association had purchased and distributed grit onto Green Lane following the recent snowfall and it was understood that they intended to purchase grit bins for their specific use on Green Lane, using private arrangements from that of the District Council.

13. Risk Management.

Cllrs had received the December Risk Register and would be asked to sign and record action at the next meeting.

14. To receive Reports from Councillors on meetings that they have attended.

Cllrs Fynn and Pilbeam had attended the Chilterns Conservation Board Annual Chilterns Forum on 19 November 2010 which reviewed the work to conserve and promote the Chilterns AONB.

They reported that current projects include the environmental impact of HS2 high speed rail link, Chiltern Commons Network, sustainable development, land use change survey, chalk streams, river enhancement, working with community groups, woodland advice and management plans, updating the ancient woodland inventory, planning and buildings design guide, sustainable tourism, the Chilterns Cycleway, walks and rides website, access for all/disabled ramblers walks, and historic environment.

Future challenges being faced by the board include low river flows and quality, grazing, managing woods for timber and firewood, getting young people involved, working with landowners, and coping with the board's expected 30 per cent cut in public funding. Further information is available on the website

www.chilternsaonb.org.uk/conservation.

15. Forthcoming Meetings and Attendees.

Cllr Gardner agreed to represent the Parish Council at the next meeting of the WDALC which was to be held on Thursday 16th December in Wycombe District Council offices.

Cllr Pitcher agreed to represent the Parish Council at the next South West Chilterns and Marlow Local Area Forum on 18th January 2011.

16. Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 12th January 2011 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

PUBLIC SESSION – (10 minutes in total) – Members of the public may be given a further opportunity to raise any matters of concern.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40 pm.

There was no public session following the meeting.

G MACKENZIE

Clerk to the Parish Council

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