

PARISH OF RADNAGE

A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10TH JULY 2013 AT 8 PM IN RADNAGE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Councillors: Chairman Mr Robin Fawell, Vice-Chairman Ms Elizabeth Fynn, Mr Martin Blakstad, Mrs Sue Jones, Mr Lew Perring, Mr Roy Pitcher and Clerk Mrs Gill MacKenzie.

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no absentees.

The meeting did not close for a public session as no members of public were present at the start of the meeting.

2. To receive any disclosure of pecuniary interests by Members relating to items on the agenda.

No declarations were received.

3. Acceptance and signing of minutes of Meeting of the Parish Council held on 12th June 2013.

It was proposed by Cllr Blakstad, seconded by Cllr Jones with all in favour that the minutes of the meeting held on 12th June be accepted as a true record. The Chairman signed and dated the minutes.

4. Report on progress on items in the previous minutes not otherwise included in this agenda.

The Clerk advised that so far her requests to other clerks seeking copies of an existing parish planning statement has not been answered however, she had other ideas to follow up.

5. Casual Vacancy.

The Clerk advised that the period during which local electors may have requested an election to fill the casual vacancy had expired and that WDC had confirmed that no such a request had been made. She advised that the council may therefore now take action to fill the vacancy by co-option. All agreed that a personal approach to one candidate at a time would be beneficial and Cllr Blakstad undertook to make the initial approach to a prospective councillor and the Chairman agreed to co-ordinate responses.

ACTION: MB

6. Planning.

The council recorded the response to a planning application:

2 Whitethorns : Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement 4 bed dwelling and garage with associated works at 1 Whitethorns. Council objection on grounds that a large newbuild would encroach on a rural area within CAONB.

The council agreed on a response to planning application:

Bella Vista: Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling and associated landscaping. The Parish Council had no objection.

7. Finance

a) The Clerk reported that as at 28 June the treasurer's account had a balance of £14,031.58 and the business account held a balance of £22,085.26 representing interest of 97p over the month. The monthly budget summary had been distributed and no questions arose from this. The Clerk advised that following a request from the council, the new internal auditor Miss P A Kimber, had agreed in writing to act as internal auditor for the council for the following year.

d) The payments for June 2013 were approved as proposed by Cllr Blakstad, seconded by Cllr Pitcher with all in favour and the signing of cheques was carried out by Cllrs Pitcher and Perring.

8. To record actions concerning a Deed of Easement for Flints Cottage.

The Clerk advised that following a discussion with the resident of Flints Cottage a letter had been received from his solicitor clarifying the content of the additional clauses in the Deed of Easement which had been presented to council the previous month. Four councillors had responded by email with a view that the letter and the Deed should be seen by the council's solicitors to ensure the council is protected. This had been disappointing news for the resident who had been reminded that costs would be his responsibility and who had agreed that he had no option but to accept this route of action. As proposed by Cllr Blakstad, seconded by Cllr Fawell with all in favour, the Clerk was tasked with seeking clarification and advice from the council's solicitors.

ACTION: Clerk

9. Village Hall

In her capacity as Village Hall Manager Cllr Jones made a short report advising that the kick plates on the kitchen doors have been installed. The lettings administrator was going on holiday from 20 July until 4 August so the hall phone would be transferred to Cllr Jones who will take over bookings for the period.

Cllr Jones advised that she had visited Piddington Village Hall to view the improvements they had made to their toilets. She reported that their hall was about the same age as Radnage village hall and the Piddington loos had had two upgrades! Apparently Piddington had received a Lottery Grant of £10,000. Cllr Jones had undertaken some comprehensive research into the costs for updating the village hall toilets which were discussed. It was agreed that the Village Hall team of 3 councillors would form a core working group to assess the findings of the research with a view to returning to a council meeting with their recommendations for consideration and decision.

a) It was proposed by Cllr Fynn, seconded by Cllr Fawell with all in favour that the cost of up to £150 be allocated for the light sanding and recoating of the Village Hall floor as continued maintenance was considered important.

ACTION: SJ

b) It was proposed by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Fawell with all in favour that the sum of £696 (excl VAT) be allocated from the Village Hall Project fund for the purchase of 2 x Gorillo hand driers, one of which would be funded from the money donated from the 'Choir' fundraising event.

ACTION: SJ

10. Open Spaces

a) Cllr Pitcher advised that he had arranged a meeting with a representative from Chilterns Conservation Board on Friday 19th July to gain advice on action to take to enhance Green End Pond. The Clerk undertook to update the resident at Radnage House who had offered to help keep the pond tidy.

ACTION: RP/Clerk

b) Cllr Pitcher reported that he was in communication with a tree surgeon who, it was hoped, would offer some advice on the management of the larger trees on council owned land. He would report any recommendations at the next meeting.

ACTION: RP

c) Cllr Pitcher updated councillors on the re-allocation of allotments at the City Allotment site, advising that all plots were now let, with plot 3 now sub-divided into quarters. A new tenant had also been accepted at the Sprigs Alley site.

d) Recommendations resulting from the playground RoSPA report were deferred to the next meeting to allow Cllr Perring time to view the full report that had been received within the last couple of days. Cllr Perring advised that following investigation it would not be possible to repair the large slide by welding however, the alternative use of plastic steel had been suggested which would make a suitable repair. It was proposed by Cllr Perring, seconded by Cllr Pitcher will all in agreement that up to £25 be authorised for this repair.

ACTION:LP

11. Community Bus Service

The Clerk advised that a request to the Stokenchurch Community Transport Chairman to include Radnage in the Community Bus Service had been turned down as the current constitution restricted the provision of services to anyone outside the parish of Stokenchurch. He had also advised that it was a registered Industrial and Provident Society with a complex legal structure making a change to the constitution a

difficult process. The Clerk awaited further confirmation that this was still the case after the recent Management Committee meeting.

Councillors were disappointed with this response and agreed that if the result was to deny our request then it might prove beneficial to seek the advice of our County Councillor Carl Etholen who had indicated that he was particularly interested in helping with community transportation. The Clerk was asked to follow this up. **ACTION: Clerk**

12. Risk Management. Completed records of the last six months Risk Registers were received from most councillors.

13. Clerks Matters.

a) The Clerk appraised councillors of the new waste services soon to be introduced. She had put some basic information on the village website and advised that all households would receive a welcome pack at the end of July. A drop in session hosted by the Joint Waste Team was taking place between 3.30pm and 7pm outside the council chambers at Wycombe District Council on 22nd July for any councillors who would be interested in attending. New bins were expected to be delivered in September and October to residents.

b) The resident at The Farmhouse had asked the council to take responsibility for the repairs to his fence which had been damaged when a branch of the walnut tree on the common had broken off. It was agreed not to pursue an insurance claim as this would be more costly to the council in the longer term and that the council would take the responsibility of organising the repair and costs. Cllr Pitcher agreed to obtain one quote and ask the resident to provide one other, and that Cllr Pitcher should then go ahead and arrange for the company/person offering the cheapest quote to be tasked with the work. **ACTION: RP**

c) Ian Blaylock had provided an update on his 'Black Barn' project, which he stated he was enjoying. Meetings had been held with representatives from the Chiltern Society, the Chilterns Open Air Museum and Wycombe District Council and that a tremendous amount of interest was being generated. The building had been added to the 'Local List of Historic Buildings' in the hope that some funding could be obtained to fully access the buildings condition.

d) A request had been made by a tenant of plot 3b City Allotments for a shed sized 8x6feet. As the current allotment guidelines allow for a maximum of 36 sq feet, it was decided that as the majority of sheds were approx 48 sq feet, that the guidelines should be updated. The Clerk was asked to update the guidelines which would be considered at the next meeting. Following discussion it was agreed to allow the shed on plot 3b as requested. **ACTION: Clerk**

e) The Clerk advised that the Bucks County Show was due to take place on Thursday 29th August at Weedon Park.

14. Forthcoming Meetings and Attendees.

No-one was available to attend the next NAG and Parish Liaison Meetings.

15. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Wednesday 11th September 2013** commencing at 8pm in the Village Hall.

It was agreed that the following working group meetings would be held:

Action Plan – Wednesday 20 November 8pm at White Cottage

Precept planning – Wednesday 27th November 8pm at 2 Lydalls Cottages

A date for a Risk Schedule review meeting would be decided in the autumn.

The meeting closed at 21:35 hours.

PUBLIC SESSION.

A public session followed the meeting with Mrs Lucy Green offering to assist with initiatives which might increase the opportunity for a community bus service to be available within Radnage. Mrs Green was thanked for her offer of help. The Clerk would advise Mrs Green of any progress made with the Stokenchurch Bus Committee and Cllr Etholen.

Chairman's Signature:

Date: