

PARISH OF RADNAGE

A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11th JUNE 2014 AT 8 PM IN RADNAGE VILLAGE HALL

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

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone. Apologies for absence had been received from County Cllr Carl Etholen and Cllr Helen Orchard (on holiday).

There were no members of the public present so no public session was held.

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 Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 14th May 2014.

It was proposed by Cllr Fynn, seconded by Cllr Jones with all in agreement that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on 14th May be accepted as a true and accurate record. The Chairman signed and dated the minutes.

4. Acceptance and signing of minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 14th May 2014.

It was proposed by Cllr Fynn, seconded by Cllr Jones with all in agreement that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on 14th May be accepted as a true and accurate record. The Chairman signed and dated the minutes.

5. Acceptance and signing of minutes of Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish Council held on 21st May 2014.

It was proposed by Cllr Fynn, seconded by Cllr Jones with all in agreement that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21st May be accepted as a true and accurate record. The Chairman signed and dated the minutes.

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

There were no items to report.

7. Planning.

There were no planning applications to be considered at this meeting. It was noted that the recent planning application for White Gates Green End Road for construction of detached double garage and store had been permitted by WDC.

8. Signing of a Deed of Easement for 1 Chiltern Cottages, Radnage Common Road.

A Deed of Easement regarding access across Radnage Common for 1 Chiltern Cottages was formally considered having been received from the council's solicitors for signature. The Clerk advised that she had spoken to the solicitors to clarify Clause 1.4 which stated the Grantee's land being registered at HM Land Registry and the plan showing the boundary of the property known as 1 Chiltern Cottages. The property contains a small parcel of Common Land registered at HM Land Registry to the Parish Council. Ms Humphreys confirmed that the land is still owned by 1 Chiltern Cottages albeit that the Parish Council has registered Common Land within its boundary (giving the public a right to use that small parcel of land should they wish to). All were in favour of granting the Deed of Easement and the Chairman and Vice Chairman signed the documents.

9. Finance

a) The Clerk advised that as at end of May 2014, the business account had a balance of £29,995.08 which largely represented the dedicated, capital and reserve funds and benefited from interest of £1.18 during the last month. At the 30th May, the treasurer's account had a balance of £13,623.05. The budget summary had been circulated prior to the meeting and there were no questions arising from this.

b) Payments for May 2014 were agreed by all as proposed by Cllr Pitcher and seconded by Cllr Perring. Cllr's Fynn and Jones signed the cheques.

10. Report on Devolved Services Briefings.

Cllr Raven had circulated papers he had received at the Devolved Services Briefing he had attended and the Clerk had also attended a separate but identical meeting.

BCC are proposing to enable and fund town and parish councils to take on a devolved set of transport services across the county. Parishes are being asked to work in small teams, or clusters, to manage urban grass cutting, hedge cutting, footway clearance, minor maintenance and other tasks currently managed and undertaken by Transport for Buckinghamshire. This initiative is being proposed as reductions have to be made to budgets as funding is being reduced year on year. The proposal is only relevant to areas within the 30 mile per hour limits.

BCC advised that Hedge cutting (as an example) is undertaken every 3 years and that a minimum grant for this task was anticipated. The full package of maps and costs are not yet available. WDC advised that they would be writing out to each council in the week beginning 16th June with maps of open spaces owned by them, and the financial offer they would be making. It was accepted that the majority of the small rural parishes did not have large areas of grass or hedge cutting undertaken by BCC as the majority of the land was privately owned. The only grass area relevant within Radnage is the area around the bungalows set aside on Green Lane.

The work involved for small parish council's was likely to involve more liaison with contractors as well as managing the work within the parish area. For the Clerk appointed as the point of contact for a 'cluster' this was seen as a significant increase in work and responsibilities with no provision for this included in the proposal. BCC were urging parishes to provide a response to the initial proposals by end August 2014.

After some discussion it was proposed by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Fawell and unanimously agreed to reject this proposal.

ACTION: Clerk

11. Road Signage

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had provided all Cllr's with a report she had compiled regarding some ongoing work to address various road safety issues around the village.

In short, as a result of a speed survey on City Road which had been commissioned by the Parish Council and highlighted excessive speeds along this road, particularly when the road is clear of traffic and parking (which is busy during school arrival and departure times) traffic calming measures had been suggested.

When the school was considering going 'Combined' the issue of road safety during school arrival and departure times was brought to the attention of villagers however, no viable solution to the parking and access to the school could be suggested. The Parish Council took it upon themselves to see if the pathway outside and on the same side of the road as the school could be extended, this being the only suggestion to aid drop off and pick up 'arrangements'.

Following consultations with representatives from Transport for Buckinghamshire, it was discovered that the path alongside and outside of the school does not meet the minimum width now required of

footpaths. The existing path would therefore not be changed nor extended as the space available does not lend itself or permit the installation of more pathway.

It was recommended that the Parish Council think carefully before considering the use of traffic calming measures. Speed bumps and pillows are no longer used by BCC/TfB and would not be recommended or installed by them. Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) could be an option however, there would be the cost of purchase and installation; they would have the effect of 'urbanising' an otherwise rural area, and there is no sensible place on this relatively narrow stretch of road where this type of signage could sensibly be installed.

BCC/TfB do not advocate the use of mirrors as they are considered unreliable however, he did agreed that the egress from Radnage Lane onto Chinnor Road was a difficult junction and he would investigate the possibility of asking the owner of the corner property to cut back and reduce the hedge.

A survey of the signage within the village had been undertaken and some recommendations made:

- To move, enhance and update all the existing signage on the approach to the school and to severely cut back the hedgerows in the 'pinch point' where the road bends.
- To replace the 'Radnage' sign on approach to the village, not far from The Crown public house with a more up to date sign – with various options available for the Parish Council to choose from.
- To renew and replace the 'School' and 'Crossroads' signs and place them in areas where they are not obscured – from both directions.

It was thought that these measures would increase road awareness to drivers and would be the preferred option to improving road safety associated with the school.

There was some further discussion on the cutting of privately owned hedges on the bend in City Road and it was agreed that the Clerk should write to the owners of Hurst Cottage to explain the ongoing safety concerns and ask if they would severely reduce the height of their hedge and cut it back further from the road.

ACTION: Clerk

Having looked at the options available for the replacement Radnage sign it was proposed by Cllr Perring, seconded by Cllr Jones with all in favour of the simple "RADNAGE Please Drive Carefully" version. The Clerk was asked to convey this decision back to TfB.

ACTION: Clerk

The Clerk was commended for her work on this subject.

12. Village Hall

a) In her capacity as Village Hall Manager Cllr Jones reported that the new email address was proving very beneficial and that a number of new enquiries and several large events had been booked for this summer including two weddings. The Election hire went off satisfactorily apart from a long delay in collecting the booths after the event. It would appear that we have very little control over the timing and payment. The heating system was still causing some concern and was being closely monitored and Cllr Fawell agreed to meet with Tony Eden to take another look at the programming.

ACTION: RF

Garden Sunday was blessed with good weather and many villagers enjoyed the event and commented on the improved state of the hall. It acted as a good showcase for our facilities. It highlighted the fact that the hot water urn leaked badly. It was proposed by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Fynn with all in favour that a new urn be purchased with up to £100 allocated.

ACTION: SJ

b) It was decided that Cllr Fawell would discuss the potential costs of the installation of LED lighting with the electrician and report back to the council.

ACTION: RF

c) Cllr Jones advised that an offer of 80 padded chairs could be available at an attractive price for purchase from nearby function rooms. The offer has been postponed until next year but was thought to be worthy of a visit and consideration nearer the time.

13. Open Spaces

a) The Clerk advised that permission for the memorial to Michael Day had been received from the Oxford Diocese and that she had advised the stone carver who was representing the family. She had also contacted the Diocese office once again for advice on the correct forms to be used with future applications as the letter from the Diocese advised that the incorrect form had been used and that the Registrar wished to deal with this particularly request informally. **ACTION: Clerk**

b) The tree branch overhanging Green Lane which had been causing concern had been cut back by a local resident. Thanks to Roy Boulton for his swift response to this plea for help just before Garden Sunday.

c) Cllr Pitcher reported that there were several vacant allotments and that ground maintenance would be required to keep weeds to a minimum whilst they are not tenanted.

14. Clerks Matters – including late received correspondence.

a) Cllr Neudecker had kindly offered to donate half of her ward budget, £260, to Radnage Parish Council and wished to know how the council would wish to spend this. All present were in favour or asking that the money be put towards the cost of reducing the crown of the walnut tree on the Common. This work had been scheduled to be undertaken at the end of June. **ACTION: Clerk**

b) The Clerk personal shredder had broken and she asked if the council would consider the purchase of a small office shredder. It was proposed by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Fawell with all in agreement that the Clerk should purchase a shredder at a cost of £33.47 +VAT. **ACTION: Clerk**

15. Forthcoming Meetings and Attendees.

a) It had been requested that the date for working group meeting to discuss the future of the Black Barn be changed as this clashed with the Radnage Royal British Legion Vintage Evening which several members of the council would like to support. It was agreed that this meeting be rescheduled for Wednesday 30th July and if this was not found to be suitable then it would be postponed until October. **ACTION: All**

b) Armed Forces Covenant signing event 23rd June 2014 followed by flag raising ceremony. No members of the council were interested in attending this event so the Clerk had volunteered to represent the community. **ACTION: Clerk**

c) A request had been received from the Community Liaison and Training Officer for South Central Ambulance NHS Trust to talk to Cllrs about Emergency Ambulance Attendance. As the council had already received a presentation from our local First Responders Team and had also been present at a recent presentation at a Community Building forum the decision was to decline the opportunity for another formal presentation. **ACTION: Clerk**

d) There were no takers for attendance at a Planning Forum to be held on 26th June at WDC.

e) Cllrs Raven and Orchard had recently been offered the opportunity to attend a Councillors Induction Course for which the budget for the cost of attendance was agreed. **ACTION: NR/HO**

16. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on **Wednesday 9th July 2014** commencing at 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

There was no public session following this meeting. The Chairman closed the meeting at 21:45 hours.

Chairman's Signature:

Date: