

PARISH OF RADNAGE

A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12th NOVEMBER 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 Neil Raven and Clerk Mrs Gill MacKenzie. Cllr Fynn chaired Item 9 on this Agenda.

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Helen Orchard (on holiday) and Cllr Roy Pitcher (ill health).

MEETING CLOSED FOR PUBLIC SESSION

There were no members of the public present however, Cllr Fawell presented a proposal concerning Item 9 on this Agenda regarding the authority that had been granted, without public consultation, for a campsite at Bella Vista. He was presenting this case as an individual resident and not in his capacity as Chairman. The full written version of his proposal is attached to these minutes.

MEETING REOPENED

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

Cllr Fawell declared a personal interest in Item 9 on this Agenda.

3. Acceptance and signing of minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 8th October 2014.

It was proposed by Cllr Raven, seconded by Cllr Jones, with all in agreement that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on 8th October 2014 be accepted as a true and accurate record. The Chairman signed and dated the minutes.

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

No items to report.

5. Planning.

The planning application for Batt Hall (Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement 7 bed dwelling) was unable to be decided as only one councillor had viewed the application. Three councillors undertook to comment on the application within the next few days. **ACTION: RF/NR/EF**

6. Finance

a) The Clerk reported that the second half of the precept payment had not been received from WDC and that she had chased this up and that an error had been made at WDC and that the payment was expected by the end of the day (N.B. Sec's note: this was received via BACS on 12th Nov 2014). The Clerk advised that a new system of preparing a bank Mandate had been introduced by Lloyds Bank making previous versions invalid. A Mandate to remove Cllr Blakstad as a signatory had been prepared by the Clerk and Cllrs Fynn and Jones signed this. Cllr Raven was asked to bring his completed Mandate to the Action Plan working group meeting to gain the necessary signatures from councillors. **ACTION: NR**

The Clerk reported that as at end October the Treasurers Account had a balance of £9,342.38 and the Business Account had a balance of £29,961.35 representing interest of £1.23 for the month. The budget summary had been circulated and there were no questions arising from this.

b) It was proposed by Cllr Perring, seconded by Cllr Jones with all in agreement that a donation of £50 under the terms of Sect 137 payments be made for the poppy wreath and poppy fund. **ACTION: Clerk**

c) The payments for October 2014 were approved as proposed by Cllr Fawell, seconded by Cllr Fynn with all in favour, and the cheques were signed by Cllrs Fynn and Jones.

7. Village Hall

a) Cllr Jones reported that there had been another problem with the hall floor tiles lifting and that Cllr Perring had been able to affect repairs. One of the PIR's had been damaged and the electrician asked to replace this. Work to replace the hall lighting with LED lamps had not been started. An ongoing problem with the front door bottom seal, which was allowing water to ingress when stormy weather, was experienced was being pursued with the installation contractor and it was agreed that Cllr Perring would make further contact with them to rectify the situation. The heating system was causing some difficulties as some hirers changed the settings that are being programmed for each booking. This is being investigated further. As the Village Hall team had been somewhat depleted in recent months, it was hoped that a meeting to discuss the finer points of the toilet refurbishment, the acoustics and other matters could be scheduled in the forthcoming weeks. Cllr Jones advised that she intended to purchase an additional cover/head for the V-sweeper under the agreement for minor purchases previously authorised. The cost was likely to be £17.50 plus VAT.

b) Cllr Raven advised that due to recent family bereavement he had made limited progress with his proposals for the toilet refurbishment. He would continue to pursue his investigations. **ACTION: NR**

c) Cllr Fawell had prepared a report from one company regarding proposals to install acoustic tiling in the hall. All agreed that further research and additional quotes were necessary. Cllr Fawell agreed to follow this up. **ACTION: RF**

8. Open Spaces

a) Cllr Raven had begun work on his proposals for improvements to the Childrens Playground. Thanks to Cllr Perring, it was reported that the unsafe Monkey Bars had been removed. The Clerk reminded Cllr Raven that his monthly inspection reports were required. Due to family circumstances Cllr Raven advised that he had been unable to progress his proposals further and agreed to report back with his recommendations at the next meeting. **ACTION: NR**

b) Cllr Fynn advised that she had met with Ian Blaylock, Barbara Wallis (Chiltern Society) and Marian Miller (Chiltern Society and Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society (Buildings Group)) on Thursday 6 November at the Black Barn, Radnage Common Road. Barbara and Marian had measured and photographed the interior and exterior of the Black Barn and would submit a report to the council in due course.

c) The Clerk advised that the current grasscutting contract was due to be renewed. She had prepared 2 new schedules for the grasscutting and hedgecutting requirements into separate schedules (previously some hedgecutting had been included in the grasscutting contract). It was proposed by Cllr Perring, seconded by Cllr Fawell with all in favour, and under the terms of the existing Financial Regulations already adopted by the council, that the existing grasscutting contractor be approached and asked to provide quotes for both schedules. **ACTION: Clerk**

d) Cllr Fynn advised that she was continuing to consult Mr George on which trees required to be removed within Chapel Allotments. She reported that it was proposed to remove 1 in every 2 trees within 15 feet of allotment gardens. There would be no cost to the council. This was appreciated by all councillors and considered to be a necessary course of action. **ACTION:EF**

9. Camp Site at Bella Vista.

This item was added to the agenda as specifically requested by Cllr Fawell "To consider challenging the authority granted to Simon Watts to create a camp site on his property at Bella Vista". As Cllr Fawell had declared a personal interest in this item, he agreed to leave the meeting and Cllr Fynn undertook to Chair this item. Cllr Fawell's presentation at the public part of this meeting was then discussed. After some discussion, the proposals as put forward by Cllr Fawell were considered:

- “If the Parish Council believe that the Bella Vista caravan site is detrimental to Radnage I would ask you write to the Caravan Club requesting that certification is removed using the arguments contained in this note, making further points if needed.”¹
- “I would also request that you should write to David Liddington, our MP. The letter should stress the lack of democracy by allowing the Caravan Club the sole right in determining the suitability of a potential caravan site. There is no place in the current scheme for either the district council nor the Parish Council (and in this the near neighbours) to be consulted.”

It was noted that there were no members of the public present at this meeting, nor had there been at the October meeting, when this item had been on the agenda at both occasions. Following advice by the Clerk it was also noted that the authority given to Mr S Watts had been issued by the Camping and Caravanning Club (not the Caravan Club) under the exemption conditions contained in the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 (as amended) and the Public Health Act 1936 (as amended) making the authority granted as legal and any challenge to this authority would be to question the law.

It was proposed by Cllr Perring, seconded by Cllr Raven with all in agreement that the Clerk would be asked to write to the local MP asking for information and an explanation of the processes which disregard any need to seek public consultation under the existing law. The letter was also to request clarification regarding the change of use of this specific piece of land which was to be used for agricultural purposes and is now being used for leisure purposes. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Fawell was invited to return to the meeting and to re-take the Chair. He was advised of the council’s decision.

10. Clerks Matters – including late received correspondence.

a) The Clerk requested that a councillor be nominated to make a check of the Clerks processes. Cllr Jones agreed to undertake this task. **ACTION: SJ/Clerk**

b) The Clerk advised that she had received an email from an estate agent purportedly acting on behalf of the owners of a plot of land on City Road, requesting confirmation that the council would support a planning application for building a small number of houses on this site. The Clerk strongly recommended that no comment should be made by councillors should they be individually approached about this proposal so as not to prejudice any decision made later when a formal planning application might be received. The Clerk would respond to the email with no comment. **ACTION: Clerk**

11. Forthcoming Meetings and Attendees.

a) Councillors were reminded that the Action Plan working group meeting was scheduled for **Wednesday 19th November** 8pm at 2 Lydalls Cottages. The Clerk tendered her apologies for this meeting and undertook to prepare some notes in preparation for the meeting. **ACTION: All/Clerk**

b) Councillors were reminded that the Precept planning working group meeting was to take place on **Wednesday 3rd December** 8pm at Eton Lodge. **ACTION: All**

c) The Clerk had circulated proposed dates for meetings during 2015. All agreed that these should be adopted and the Clerk undertook to request the necessary bookings for the hall and to publicise them. **ACTION: All/Clerk**

12. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on **Wednesday 10th December 2014** commencing at 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

There was no further public session.

The meeting closed at 22:10 hours.

Chairman’s Signature:

Date:

¹ Entries in “quotes” are quoted from Mr Robin Fawell’s presentation in the public session.