

PARISH OF RADNAGE

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11th NOVEMBER 2015 AT 8 PM IN RADNAGE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Councillors: Chairman Ms Elizabeth Fynn, Vice-Chairman Mrs Sue Jones, Ms Tamsin Addison, Mr Robert Nikiel, Mrs Helen Orchard, Mr Lew Perring and Clerk Mrs Gill MacKenzie.

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting including our newest councillor, Ms Tamsin Addison. Apologies were received from Cllr Coggrave who was away from home. There were no members of the public present and therefore no public session was necessary.

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

Cllr Addison declared an interest in the planning application for Little Ashridge but did not take part in the planning considerations at this meeting. No other declarations were made.

3. Acceptance and signing of minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 14th October 2015.

It was proposed by Cllr Nikiel, seconded by Cllr Orchard with all in favour that the minutes of the meeting held on 14th October 2015 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 of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council not otherwise included in this agenda.

The Clerk advised that following the decision at Item 7(e) regarding the request for a grant from the Ward Budget, the request had been made for grant towards the annual fire safety checks, upgrading safety lighting and replacing fire equipment as this better met the criteria for the offer of funds.

Cllr Fynn advised that further to Item 10(d) recent trimming of hedges had been carried out and therefore she was to seek clarification from Cllr Coggrave if the work was still required by identifying the area of concern.

ACTION: EF

5. Planning Applications.

- 30 Green Lane - Householder application for construction of single storey rear extension, roof alterations incorporating hip to part gable and construction of 1 x side dormer window, render to front and construction of detached garage to side (alternative scheme to pp 14/05284/FUL). No objection.
- Batt Hall - Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement 8 bed dwelling (alternative scheme to pp 14/07642/FUL). No objection.
- Madles Lodge - Householder application for demolition of outbuildings, raising of roof, roof extensions and alterations to create first floor living accommodation, erection of detached garage and associated external alterations. No objection.
- Little Ashridge - Householder application for construction of single storey side extension. No objection.
- Meadowbank - Householder application for construction of detached summerhouse in the rear garden (part retrospective). No objection.

6. Finance

a) The monthly budget sheet had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and no questions arose from this. At the end of September the Treasurers Account had a balance of £21,892.49. The Business Account had a balance of £37,977.74 representing interest of £1.56.

b) Payments for October 2015 were approved as proposed by Cllr Fynn, seconded by Cllr Perring and agreed by all and Cllrs Nikiel and Perring undertook the signing of cheques. The Clerk would provide information to Cllr Addison who offered to review the water utilities bills over the past year or so for comparison purposes. **ACTION: Clerk**

7. Village Hall

a) A sign asking people to keep access clear in the event of a full car park had been purchased and installed. Two new kettles have been purchased for use in the bar/kitchen. A new list of contact phone numbers had been placed by the key boxes in case of emergencies or urgent requests. The floor of the hall continues to be monitored for condition.

Cllr Jones reported on the toilet refurbishment project and had recently circulated details from a local contractor for all councillors to consider.

Following a short discussion and recognising that an earlier quotation had been more than double the quote received from Climate Building Services, councillors were keen to accept this quotation. The Clerk advised that the current Council Financial Regulations permitted councillors to follow this course of action, particularly as there had been difficulties in finding a contractor willing to offer a quotation for the work for many months to date. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Nikiel with all in favour that an initial budget of up to £16,000 be agreed to enable the work to begin using Climate Building Services as soon as practically possible. It was also agreed that a small team consisting of Cllrs Jones and Nikiel would discuss the more detailed aspects of the task (e.g. colour of doors/walls etc.) with Climate Building Services and make any necessary decisions within the budget allocated. It was hoped that Cllr Coggrave would join this small team and Cllr Jones undertook to ask him. **ACTION: SJ/RN**

8. Open Spaces

a) Cllr Fynn reported on the progress in obtaining quotations for the work to demolish the Black Barn. Two quotes had already been received and a third was expected. The most expensive was tendered by a large commercial company whilst the other was a local resident. Cllr Fynn explained that the cheaper of the quotations contained a comprehensive amount of detail and that this included a sympathetic view of the surroundings and an understanding of what was required in landscaping and making good the site afterwards. It was agreed to await the third quotation and to report back at the next meeting with a view to making a decision. **ACTION: EF**

b) Cllr Nikiel advised that there was nothing much to report on the playground and that he hoped to carry out the outstanding work to sleeve the climbing poles in the next couple of months. He also advised that he would be making arrangements to remove the broken and unsafe bench during the same timescale. **ACTION: RN**

9. Clerks Matters – including late received correspondence.

A request for a representative of the Parish Council to read at the village Christmas Carol Service on 13th December had been received. Cllr Jones agreed to undertake this task. **ACTION:HO/SJ**

The Clerk advised that due to telecoms works, Bowers Lane was due to be closed for 3 days in January. Cllr Nikiel offered to put copies of notices to this effect on the notice boards. **ACTION: Clerk/RN**

The Clerk advised that election fees were still outstanding from the May 2015 elections. The Clerk reported that an increase in the subscriptions to BALC (including NALC subs) to 17p per elector was to be expected in 2016-2017. The Clerk advised that a press release had been received from BCC advising of a freeze on non-essential spending to enable existing funds to be prioritized. This document states that the public will see an impact in terms of highways and pavements maintenance and the postponement of some routine repairs and improvement projects.

10. Forthcoming Meetings and Attendees.

Councillors were reminded of the following forthcoming meetings:

- Action Plan: Thursday 19th November 8pm at 2 Lydalls Cottages.
- Precept Planning: Thursday 3rd December 7.30pm at Eton Lodge.
- The Clerk advised that the WDALC AGM was deferred to Thursday 7th January – there were no takers.

11. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on **Wednesday 9th December 2015** commencing at 8pm in the Village Hall. (Councillors agreed to follow this with a social gathering at The Crown.)

The meeting closed at 21:12 hours.

Chairman's Signature:

Date: