

Radcliffe-on-Trent Parish Council
 Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting, held in the Radcliffe Room
 at The Grange, on Monday 19 September 2016 at 7pm

Cllr John Thorn (Chairman)(A)	Cllr Pam Thompson (Vice Chairman)(A)	Cllr David Astill (A)
Cllr Rod Brears	Cllr Joe Bailey	Cllr Bill Banner
Cllr Martin Culshaw	Cllr Graham Budworth	Cllr Sue Clegg
Cllr Jean Robinson	Cllr Gillian Dunn	Cllr Graham Leigh-Browne (A)
	Cllr Josephine Spencer (A)	Cllr Alice Tomlinson
		Cllr Keith Agar

Ex-officio: Cllr Georgia Moore (PC Chairman) Cllr David Barton (PC Vice Chairman) (A)

Also present Jacki Grice (Parish Clerk) Jacquie Earp (Admin Assistant) Primo Rose (Grounds Person) Jenny Ellis (Grounds Person) and one member of the public.

In the interests of transparency, the council asks that any person wishing to record the meetings proceedings informs the Chairman prior to the start of the meeting and that recording equipment is on view. There is an Open Session on the Agenda at which time members of the public are invited to raise any matters pertaining to the work of the committee, limited to fifteen minutes, during which time Standing Orders will be suspended.

Apologies

1. Chairman Cllr John Thorn, Vice Chairman Cllr Pam Thompson, Cllr David Barton, Cllr Josephine Spencer, Cllr Graham Leigh-Browne, Cllr David Astill - Approved. In the absence of the Chairman of the Amenities Committee Cllr Georgia Moore was elected to chair tonight's meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

None received

3. Chairman's Announcements

There were no announcements.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 25 July 2016

Resolved: "That the minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman"

Clerk's Report on Items Arising from Previous Minutes

5. M. 6 Financial Update

- The additional CCTV signs have now arrived and are now displayed on the Grange Gates, and the remaining signs for the village and the Grange Building will be displayed shortly.

6. M.7 Lily Ponds: Relocation of Benches

Pending: Wood from felled trees will be used to make the benches at the Lily Ponds, work will commence thereafter.

7. M. 10 Radcliffe Conservation Volunteers - Update

Hallow Well Steps Drainage Works ongoing – The original contractor let us down, so the Clerk will ask the Grounds Staff to clear the drainage system..

8. M.11 Composting Toilet to approve specification location and funding contribution (Tesco Funding £10k)

The ground works for the composting toilets have commenced this week, having been let down by the original contractor. The toilets are due to be installed 4th October 2016.

9. M. 12 Welcome Sign Planters: Shelford Road and Cropwell Road

The Welcome Sign Planters are due to be installed this week.

10. M.13 Report and Recommendation from the Play Area Working Group for new Equipment: To Consider

The Play Boat and Rubber Crumb are due to be installed this week.

11. M. 25 Councillors' Report

The Clerk reported the graffiti under the railway bridge to Network Rail. They came and painted only half of this out in a different colour to the bridge. The Clerk was dissatisfied with this, and contacted Network rail however they apologised and confirmed nothing further could be done due to staff resources and budget restraints.

12. Financial Update

There were no comments or areas of concern regarding the Financial Update.

13. Open Session for Members of the Public to raise relevant matters, limited to 15 minutes

14. Standing orders were suspended at 7.04pm

- Phillip Taylor from the Radcliffe Conservation Volunteers apologises to the Clerk for not responding to an email he has received, as he has been on holiday. Phil confirms the group want to place bark chippings at the bottom of Hallow Well path, this was done last November but could do with another dressing. He requests that bags of bark are dropped off at Cliff Top. He explains the difficulties of getting the bark to the location as access is limited and needing more than 4 volunteers to shift the bark as previous. The Clerk confirms that she is meeting with Streetwise later in the week and will ask for additional help for Phil. He also confirmed a session to clear the Himalayan Balsam at the lily ponds took place in August and another session took place a few weeks ago, and the gully to the steps are silted up and needs cleaning. The chair suggests that Phil creates an advert for volunteers as soon as possible for the Parish Council Newsletter. Phil also confirmed he will speak to Jim Lennon the man who is making the owl boxes up for an installation date.

15. Standing orders resumed at 7.11pm

16. Grounds Staff Report – To Consider

The Chair welcomes Primo Rose and Jenny Ellis to the meeting and asks that if there are any future meetings they can make an input, they would be very welcome. Jenny raised the following points:

- Rockley Park

Flower Display - Entrance to Park

Jenny & Primo would like to see more members of the community attend our beautiful park, and make it more attractive for visitors. At the gate area of the park from Rockley Avenue, Streetwise will be levelling off the ground with top soil. The existing area will be cleared and prepared and raised, and advice sought from an established nurseryman on how to plant out this area. It is hoped the bed can face visitors with plants to include the Tudor Rose. The area near to the toilet block can be cleared and it is hoped the shape of a tiger can be formed in plants.

- Trees

Advice has also been taken regarding the trees in the park. Some of the trees can be taken back to form a bush to let more light into the park, to allow more plants to grow as the lack of light is limiting planting. There are a lot of the same type of tree at the park, however a lot have been planted too close together so there are a lot of 'stick' trees. Jenny requests that these trees be taken down and more specimen trees be planted in their place, such as Acers. The soil is good acidic, perfect for growing more unusual trees, which will attract more people. General pruning of trees to be done, and clearing leaves in the winter.

- Community Orchard – Compost Area

Streetwise will be providing 4 bays for compost and brash. In that area there are fruit trees, which we hope to expand with more fruit trees to create a community orchard. It is hoped that a lot more people including children will use the orchard.

- Future of the Park

Primo & Jenny have been busy clearing the park, including the Woodland Walk which has been hard pruned. By next spring the plants will have grown back and will be more manageable. An attraction close to the Pavilion (which is currently being refurbished) would be a Rose Garden to the right of the Pavilion. The 3,000 begonias from this year could be saved, dried out and re-potted using the greenhouses at the park. These could be potentially sold to generate money for the park, to perhaps buy a chipper or equipment that is needed, as currently the brash piles up so a chipper could keep the park tidy. Jenny will also form a database to list all the plants in the park, so there is a written agenda of jobs to be done at any one time. Vegetable patches can be introduced in certain areas, Schools could be contacted and park 'mini workshops' be available for the children. An Easter hunt could take place in the

park for children, and each child be given a daffodil to take home. Something to encourage children to take an interest in gardening.

- Winter Work

In the winter the viewing areas on the cliff to be cleared, so that it's possible to see the river and the views again. Hedges to be cut, furniture, play equipment, paths and other areas to be jet washed. Planning for next year lyle Rockley Celebrations, preparing and feeding the soil for planting the display areas in the park.

The Chairman thanks Jenny very much for her presentation and Primo's support, the chair loves some of their ideas particularly the community orchard and agrees the park is under used. The Chair confirms there will be a personnel meeting soon to discuss grounds staff requirements. Cllr Agar suggests that the Groundsmen compile a wish list of equipment, to include a chipper for the Clerk's attention. Cllr Banner confirms that we purchased a shredder, but did not purchase a chipper due to the high cost of the machine. The Chair confirms this will be reviewed after the wish list has been submitted. The Chairman confirms that we are in urgent need of a subcommittee Grounds Maintenance Meeting, whereby further issues will be discussed. The Clerk will arrange this.

17. Rockley Park

a) Greenhouse Arrangement with Streetwise – To Consider

The Chairman confirms that the Clerk believes that we should not have a formal lease with Streetwise, but just to have an informal lease for another year. It was Resolved: "The Parish Council and Streetwise to have an informal yearly lease regarding the Greenhouses at Rockley Park".

18. b) Tree Work – To Consider

The Chairman refers to item 10b, two cases quoted for and three urgent cases to deal with on the new paper dated 18th September. It was Resolved "Clerk to urgently arrange tree surgery works as per the quotation to a total of five trees." A further discussion takes place regarding the Cherry Plum tree at Rockley Park. It was Resolved "Clerk to arrange removal of the Cherry Plum tree as per the quotation."

The Clerk notes that we have a budget of £2,000 for tree surgery, and the above works equate to £915.

19. c) Pavilion Refurbishment and Clearance Work Update

The Chairman confirms that the works are in hand, and everything will look good for the celebrations next year. However, we require another £1,500 for re pointing the pavilion. There is a budget of £6,000, but this will be adjusted so the re-pointing can be done. The Clerk confirms there is £3,000 for clearance and planting, however we have so much 'free' work from Streetwise, so we will not spend so much on this. It was Resolved " Clerk to arrange re pointing of Pavilion for a budget of £1,500"

20. d) To Note leak on Flat Roof Mess Room to Store (Quotations being sourced)

Noted. This item will be on next Amenities meeting Agenda.

21. Skate Park- Update – (Decisions deferred to next F & GP)

The Chairman confirms that we have had a reply from the Rushcliffe Borough Council. It doesn't answer or mention our request of urgent funding for a new Skate Park, and is a very disappointing reply. This Parish Council has done as much as we can to make our point made at the Borough Council regarding the lack of leisure facilities and are very disappointed with the lack of response. This letter has been shown to one of the sports groups in Radcliffe, who are wanting to take this further. Cllr Tomlinson confirms the Skate Park Working Group are still pulling together busily raising funds and feel they have also been let down by the Borough Council, however they are aware of how hard the Parish have worked and feel very much included in any decisions made. Cllr Tomlinson thanks the Parish Council on their behalf for all their efforts. The Chair thanks Cllr Tomlinson and appreciates that however hard the Skate Park Working Group works to raise funds, £250,000 for a new Skate Park is impossible to attain. The Chair refers to the point made in the letter of the new Leisure Facility at Boundary Road in West Bridgford, and how costly and hard it would be for villagers to travel there. Cllr Tomlinson also confirms this was noted by the users. Cllrs discussed the letter, they feel disappointed as Radcliffe are not included in the Leisure Strategy Review. The Chairman now agrees to take this issue to the village and do a presentation to Sports Groups and any other groups that wish to come along to explain the work the Parish has done over the last year and to discuss the way forward. The Chairman will also speak to John Cottee the Borough Portfolio Holder for Leisure at a Parish Forum next month, regarding the leisure Strategy Review. Any decisions to publish correspondence or any other items regarding leisure will be taken at the next Full Council meeting.

22. Cemetery Entrance and Boundary Wall Repairs- To Consider
 a) Boundary Wall Repairs
 Cllr Joe Bailey discussed the new specification he compiled for the boundary wall, and the three quotes consequently received. The Builders had differing opinions on the course of action to take, on whether to render or to leave bricks exposed. It was Resolved " Office to instruct Builder A to remove render from the Cemetery wall in the first instance then re-visit to decide next course of action at a cost of £1137.40 plus VAT."
 b) Cemetery Entrance
 Ongoing: The quoting table for the Cemetery Entrance repairs is discussed. The Clerk feels that the trees that are planted at the outside to the entrance gates should be removed as they are too large and may be causing some of the existing cracks to the wall, she suggests our Grounds Staff will do this work. Cllr Bailey refers to one of the quotes that recommends new concrete footings, and asks why this should be necessary. Cllr Banner suggests the reason may be tree root damage. The Chair asks that we go back and find out why one quote did not include concrete footings, and that the specifications be like for like.
23. Valley Road Sink Hole- Update
 Cllr Culshaw and the Clerk visited the site today, as the contractors exposed two underground crossed plastic pipe land drains underneath the point of where the land collapsed. One of the pipes is damaged needs replacing and clearing out. Severn Trent Water have confirmed the pipes do not belong to them, so we are currently finding out who owns them. A discussion follows, and the Clerk confirms that the investigation works have cost £855, and is now waiting for a further quote for the contractors to dig out further. This will now go to the next Finance & General Purposes meeting. The Clerk will also be speaking to Jane Baines, Countryside Access Officer at Notts County Council and Adam Greest of Severn Trent Water to help with the identification issue.
24. Wharf Lane Composting Toilets: Opening/Closing – To Consider
 A discussion takes place on the existing opening and closing hours at our other public toilets. These are 8am – 6pm. If the closing hours were to be extended to 6pm, then we would require staff outside their normal working hours. Cllr Clegg suggests that the toilets should be closed at the same time the cemetery gates are closed in the summer, as 6pm is too early to close for the children and people using the park. The Chairman agrees there should be a cut-off point, and would prefer a uniform time in line with the other facilities. It was Resolved "The Composting toilets are to open between 8am and 8.30am and to close at 4pm for the winter, the summer closing times to be agreed at future Amenities Meetings".
25. Dewberry Hill Clearance Works – Update
 In Hand: Work to clear the footpaths at Dewberry Hill has already started, and work to remove the brash work will begin next week.
26. Leisure Facilities Working Group: Update
 The Chairman confirms that Cllr Jo Spencer is due to have another meeting with the Leisure Facilities Working Group and will provide an update.
27. Councillors Reports
 Cllr Tomlinson reported that Playgroup had opened today, having received an Ofsted report stating they are fit for purpose. The staff and committee has worked really hard over the summer to get the playgroup up and running, and Councillors will be invited to an official opening in due course.
28. Correspondence
 a) Lily Ponds Litter & Fire Debris
 This has been noted. Apart from signs, we have no resources to monitor the area.
 b) Wharf Lane Litter & Vandalism
 This has been noted. It was suggested that the litter bins should be moved to the 'right places,' the Chairman acknowledges litter is a problem and suggests that we ask for more bins to be placed in problem areas. The Clerk will arrange for this to be done.
29. Date of Next Meeting
 24th October 2016
 There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.15pm

Signed: Chairman Date