

Radcliffe-on-Trent Parish Council
 Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting, held in the Radcliffe Room
 at The Grange, on Monday 23 January 2017 at 7pm

Cllr John Thorn (Chairman) (A)
 Cllr Rod Brears
 Cllr Martin Culshaw

Cllr Pam Thompson (Vice Chairman)
 Cllr Joe Bailey
 Cllr Graham Budworth
 Cllr Gillian Dunn
 Cllr Josephine Spencer

Cllr David Astill (A)
 Cllr Bill Banner
 Cllr Sue Clegg
 Cllr Graham Leigh-Browne (A)
 Cllr Alice Tomlinson
 Cllr Keith Agar (A)

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

Also present Jacki Grice (Parish Clerk) Jackie Earp (Admin Assistant), Primo Rose (Grounds Person) Jenny Ellis (Grounds Team Leader) and four members 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. Cllr John Thorn, Cllr David Astill, Cllr Keith Agar, Cllr Graham Leigh Browne – Approved. In the absence of the Chairman of the Amenities Committee, the Vice Chairman Cllr Pam Thompson chaired tonight's meeting. At this point Grounds Staff Primo Rose and Jenny Ellis join the Committee Table.

2. Declarations of Interest

None received.

3. Chairman's Announcements

- Streetwise were considering whether they wanted to continue using the Greenhouses for students at Rockley Park. A meeting therefore was held on the 17th January 17 at the PC Office and the Clerk, Cllr Thompson, Cllr Thorn and John Scott Lee CEO from Streetwise Environmental attended. Streetwise confirmed that 12 students in total had used the facility during the time however only 2 students had gone on to use it for projects. Streetwise stated their time at Rockley Park had been useful and they were happy to help repair the greenhouses, however they now no longer wanted to be involved and would withdraw at the end of January 17. The meeting was very amicable and arrangements had been a success, resulting in awards being presented to Streetwise and Radcliffe Village.
- The outside Victorian brick wall to the corner of the Grange Grounds has been recently badly damaged by a lorry reversing into it. A large hole has been created and is unstable 2 meters either side of it. The driver offered his Company to repair the wall, this was not accepted and the Clerk is intending to claim on the Lorry Driver's Firm's insurance. The owner is concerned about the increase in his insurance premium, therefore a quote of £3,500 to repair the wall has been obtained and sent to the driver, and the Clerk will allow 24hours for the owner to make a decision to either claim via his insurance or for the wall to be repaired via the quote.

The Chairman then asked that item 11 of the Agenda be moved to item 6 to accommodate members of the newly formed 'Young Radcliffe' Group, attending the meeting: Resolved.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 21 November 2016, for approval

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

5. Clerk's Report on Items Arising from these Minutes:

M.3 Best Kept Village

The £1,125 total prize money from the Best Kept Village Award is being put forward as a contribution to a bid for village signage through the N.C.C supporting the Local Community Support Scheme, a decision on this is expected in April 17.

6. M.9 Round Border on Front Lawn at Rockley Park

Thanks go to Jenny Ellis PC Grounds Team Leader, who asked John A Stephens' to provide materials for a raised round border at Rockley Park. In response they have donated all of the materials, to enable work to raise the border.

7. M.10 Burning Brash at Rockley Park
The brash burning up at the Park is nearly complete, as a result the area to the right hand side of the toilet block has now been opened up creating a large area to work on.
8. M.12 Cemetery Entrance Wall Repairs
The Cemetery Entrance Wall has now been repaired.
9. M.22 Cemetery Number Markers and Wall Signs
Ongoing, no progress to date although this project is in hand.
10. M.26 Wharf Lane Toilets
There was minor vandalism when the toilets were initially installed, recently however there have been no other incidents.
11. M.15 Play Area Working Group
The Chairman asks Cllr Banner for a progress update on the Junior School Survey's. Cllr Banner confirmed the surveys are ongoing from last September. The Headmaster agreed the surveys are good idea, however Cllr Banner had not heard anything back until correspondence last week.
12. M.21c Replacement of Old and Damaged Picnic Bench in Grange Grounds
There has been two requests for donations for benches at the Rockley Park, however there have been no requests to donate picnic benches that need replacing in the Grange Grounds.
13. Community Organised Festival 15 July 2017 Wharf Lane
Cllr Barton referred to briefing note 11 of the Agenda, and discussed this Event. The 'Young Radcliffe' Committee Group have come to this meeting to ask the PC for permission to hold the event on the land at the Wharf Lane Recreation Ground. A provisional booking was made in October 2016, however approval is required from this committee to go ahead. Cllr Barton was pleased to be invited to the last two Young Radcliffe meetings and is therefore able to report back to this committee. Cllr Spencer noted the obvious area to stage the event is on the Football Pitch, and requested this should be done. Cllr Spencer also asked for details regarding electricity supply and toilets. Cllr Barton confirmed electricity used at the event would be via on site generators, and additional toilets would be brought to site. Cllr Bailey also agreed the football pitch should be used and suggested there would be limited damage to the pitch by users out of season. Cllr Clegg requested a 'non-glass' event to protect footballers future use of the pitch and Cllr Barton confirmed no glass would be used however it had been previously agreed that the pitch would not be used. The Clerk will check the lease for the Recreation Ground and ensure the outcome passed onto the organisers of the Festival. Cllr Culshaw suggested a compromise could be reached between both parties ie: if there were seeded areas of the pitch that couldn't be walked on, then these areas could be sectioned off. Cllr Tomlinson fully supported the 'Young Radcliffe' Group, and confirmed it is a brilliant idea. Cllr Tomlinson noted this sort of event is needed for the young people in the village, and suggested the Skate Park Users Group get involved as it is the Skate Park's 20 year old Anniversary this year. Cllr Budworth had concerns regarding the start and finishing times of the event, parking, noise, and access for emergency vehicles to the Residential Park Homes at the bottom of Wharf Lane. Cllr Barton agreed there would be parking issues and confirmed the British Legion will be approached in order to use their car parking facilities on the day. The sound from the event will stop at 9.30pm prompt, and therefore considers 2.30pm-9.30pm reasonable hours to hold the Festival. Insurance is being investigated and there will be full public liability insurance cover. It will be a ticketed event, so there will be control over numbers attending. Cllr Moore asked for regular updates to be brought to this committee before the event in July 17.
It was Resolved: "That permission is granted from Radcliffe Parish Council to use their land at Wharf Lane Recreation Ground from 2.30pm until 9.30pm for a Community Organised Festival on the 15th July 2017."
14. Financial Update
Figures for Actual/Forecast and Budget were provided, noted and discussed. It was noted there was no sale of funeral plots in November or December 16, which is unusual. It was also confirmed the PC do not pre-sell burial plots, the Cemetery budget was 67% net budget, and burial plot sales are variable. The budget figures for vehicles and machinery in December at £1,200 was due to van welding and making the driver's seat stable. The Clerk confirmed the PC would be looking at the different types of fleet at Streetwise, before making a decision to buy another van.
It was Resolved "To note and approve the Accounts".

15. Open Session for Members of the Public to raise relevant matters, limited to 15 minutes
16. Standing orders were suspended at 7.32pm
- A member of the RCV has put forward a Radcliffe Community Litter Pick on Sunday 5th March 17 and noted that if half a dozen litter pick volunteers were to be spread across the village, there would be a lot less done rather than just concentrating in one area such as the Lily Ponds. It was confirmed that the Clerk would arrange for Streetwise to pick up the full bags of litter from the Park Gates the following day – Monday 6th March 17.
17. Standing orders resumed at 7.35pm
18. Radcliffe Conservation Volunteers: 2016 Review, AGM Notes & Agreed 2017 Sessions
Noted and discussed. It has been decided that the 2017 work sessions now be moved to the 1st Sunday of every month, from the beginning of February 2017. There are possible future ideas of a bat walk that is being investigated. Thanks go to the RCV for their work.
19. Great British Spring Clean/Litter Pick 3-5 March: To Consider
Noted and discussed. Following on from the success of 'Clean for the Queen' another campaign 'The Great British Spring Clean' has been put forward for the weekend of 3-5 March. Unfortunately this weekend coincides with the RCV Community Litter Pick on Sunday 5th March. Cllr Dunn suggested forming a working party on the same basis as last year's campaign, and to carry out 2 litter picks, firstly for the village on the Saturday 4th March and a second litter pick for the Lily Ponds and riverbank on Sunday 5th March. Cllr Barton agreed it was an excellent idea to form a working party and to separate the days/areas for that weekend. Cllr Clegg was concerned there was not much time to organise this and for a working party to be formed before the March dates. Cllr Dunn, Cllr Barton, Cllr Thompson and Cllr Clegg agreed to form a working party and to discuss date details later.
20. Grounds Staff Update Report & to Consider Changing Layout of Planting Beds at Rockley Park
Jenny Ellis presented the report with the aid of her sketches for the new flower beds
- a) Decide on a New Layout for the Oval Lawn Flower Beds
Noted and discussed. Jenny asked for opinions from the Cllrs as to which layout they prefer out of three proposals. The Ground Staff prefer example 2 as the shape is the one that the PC has always had and they will be able to set it out with perennials as well as bedding plants. Cllrs raised the question of what to do about the scattered human ashes that are in the existing beds, when the new ones are set out. A discussion continued as to whether people should be made aware of the changes or not, however it was agreed that the park is not a burial ground and that ashes were scattered without permission in the first place. The Ground Staff confirmed that the Sun Dial area & donated shrub area of the park would not be affected. It was Resolved: "That the PC decides to use example 2 of the new layout for the oval lawn flower beds at Rockley Park, based on the preference of the Ground Staff."
 - b) Update on Front Entrance Progress
Noted and discussed. The work in this area is ongoing and there has been a large donation of materials from John A Stephens to raise the round border on the front lawn. The plant list from the Nursery is on its way and will be available for the next Amenities meeting.
 - c) Garden Volunteers Group
The Ground Staff confirmed that a number of residents visiting Rockley Park had expressed an interest to help do the gardening, and suggested producing an advertisement for the Spring Newsletter to invite residents to join a garden volunteers group. Cllrs agreed this was a good idea in principal, however volunteers would be asked to do light duties with their own tools not power tools and PC insurance would have to be looked at. Cllr Barton also had concerns about the additional time Ground Staff would take to train the volunteers, and asked Jenny to take this idea further forward to include a senior volunteer in the group to take example from. The Clerk will find out further details from the PC Insurance regarding the group.

d) Wharf Lane Hedge and Re-Planting

The costings to replace the dead conifer trees on the left hand side of Wharf Lane have been received today. The cost is £75 per ten laurel plants. Thirty plants in total are required over a three year period, planting 10 plants at a time. There will be no removal costs for the dead conifers as this would be done 'In-house', and the new planting would be as close to the boundary as possible'

21. Banner Policy Bingham Road Triangle: To Consider

Noted and discussed. Notices are put up at this area which leads onto the A52 Major Trunk road, these can be a distraction and look a mess, and Cllrs were therefore in agreement not to allow banners at the Bingham Road. Any banners retrieved from the Triangle are stored at the Grange Hall office. It was Resolved: "The PC agrees there will be a 'No Banner Policy' at the Bingham Road Triangle.

22. Ground Staff Van Update and Future Considerations

Noted and discussed. This issue was also referred to at item 14. The pros and cons of leasing or buying a new PC van was discussed and also the van's current worth. Recommendations from Ground Staff to the type of van is required, therefore it was agreed to set up a Working Group to discuss the details, costings and recommendations. Cllr Moore, Cllr Spencer, Cllr Thorn, Jenny Ellis and Primo Rose will attend the Working Group Meeting and report back with additional information to this committee.

23. Mowers & Tools Update

The PC have three mowers that are not used. The Clerk requests Henton & Chettle visit to provide a potential trade in figure for the mowers to be off set against a new £450 'Cobra' model, which is more suited to PC requirements. A trade in figure of £180 is expected.

It was Resolved: "Clerk to arrange the re-sale of the current PC mowers and off-set against the cost of a new Cobra mower.'

24. Skate Park Update

Cllr Tomlinson confirmed that volunteers started repairing the skate park after Christmas and have made progress. There was a real community feel whilst the repairs were taking place and a skip was filled with wood and taken away for disposal. Repairs stopped last week due to poor weather, but the volunteers will continue once the weather has cleared up. There has been only one incident of vandalism, however this may be due to people not realising that the repairs are taking place. Cllr Tomlinson will draw up the wording for the office, so that notices can be placed around the Skate Park whilst the repairs are ongoing. Cllr Moore confirmed that there has been no budget updates from the Rushcliffe Borough Council, however this is still looking good. Cllr Barton also confirmed there would be a report at the Leisure Strategy meeting, which will be available for next time.

25. Christmas Lights: To Arrange a Working Group Meeting

Noted and discussed. Cllr Moore, Cllr Spencer, Cllr Budworth and Cllr Clegg will set up a Working Group regarding this year's Christmas lights and Local Businesses. Cllr Moore will convene the meeting.

26. Leisure Facilities Working Group: Update

Cllr Spencer confirmed that the Working Group are still waiting for the RBC for outline planning advice and that local Groups and Organisations are willing to put money forward for the Leisure Facility. A more detailed update should be available for the next Amenities meeting.

27. Tree Maintenance Report

The report was noted and discussed.

It was Resolved: "That the trees listed at point 1, 2, & 3, be attended to now as a priority equating to £410. Trees listed at points 4 & 5 of the report to be dealt with in 2018, and the tree detailed at point 6 to be an agenda item for the next Amenities meeting.

28. Councillors Reports

- Cllr Moore confirmed that she had written a letter and enclosed all PC correspondence to Cllr Leigh-Browne at Lings Bar Hospital. Cllr Leigh Browne was grateful for the letter and reading material.

- Cllr Spencer noted there was a lot of mud and leaves up at the Cliff Walk. Primo Rose confirmed he had cleaned it as much as he could that day, also the Clerk confirmed that Streewise had offered to machine brush to clear the walk tomorrow free of charge. Jenny Ellis confirmed that a job sheet had been found that lists the PC Ground Staff jobs to be done, which may include the Cliff top Area and will look into it further.
- Cllr Clegg attended a Police Steering Group meeting and a paper regarding driver awareness of horses and cars were discussed. Inspector Berry provided local Crime Statistics and was aware of the recent egg throwing at resident's windows, and the armed robbery at Tesco, which is currently being followed up.

29. Correspondence
Noted

30. Date of Next Meeting
27th February 2017

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Signed: Chairman Date