

Radcliffe-on-Trent Parish Council
 Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting, held in the Radcliffe Room
 at The Grange, on Monday 19 June 2017 at 7pm

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

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

Also present Jacki Grice (Parish Clerk) Jacquie Earp (Admin Assistant), Jenny Ellis (Grounds Team Leader) 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.

1. Apologies

Cllr Georgia Moore, Cllr Gillian Dunn, Cllr Keith Agar, Cllr Pam Thompson, Cllr Graham Leigh-Browne, RBC Cllr Roger Upton – Approved.

2. Declarations of Interest

None received.

3. Chairman's Announcements

There were no Chairman's announcements

4. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 03 April 2017, for approval

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

5. Clerk's report on items arising from these minutes:

M.5 Wall Damage

The Grange Boundary wall has now been repaired, and the 'Check a Trade' contractor has made a very good job. It was noted there is still a crack in the pillar, however the pillar was damaged before the lorry hit the wall.

6. M.6 Cliff Top Walk

The Cliff Top Walk has now been cleaned via a Kent Services Scrubbing machine and Jenny Ellis who swept up alongside it. It was noted that overgrown nettles were present at the Rockley Park entrance and along the Cliff Top. Jenny will arrange for this area to be strimmed back.

7. M.7 Memorial Park Security

All security led lighting and PIR detectors are now in place and working at the Memorial Park.

8. M.8 Redhill Academy Trust

Ongoing – not progressed as ROTSA still yet to meet. Cllr Spencer will represent the PC by attending the next meeting.

9. M.9 Village & Lily Ponds Litter Pick Sessions: Update

The litter pick during the weekend of 3rd to the 4th June was a great success.

10. M.13 Skatepark Update

The Skatepark opening event was well attended and went very well.

11. M.14 Beech Tree Valley Road

The compromised Beech Tree work at Valley Road has now been completed.

12. M.15 Christmas Lights

The Christmas Lights working group will re-convene soon as this is the final year of the three contract with Blachere. The RBC has agreed to extend the shop frontage grant scheme to include 50% match funding for Christmas light infrastructure if the shops require it. There will be a meeting with the Business Forum the first week in July when details will be discussed. The estimate for each shop is £100, however this would be difficult to estimate if a shop is not complying with the current electrical regulations.

13. M.17 Rockley Park Anniversary Events: Update

Cllr Barton confirmed there had been a positive response to the 'Picnic in the Park' event this Sunday the 25th June, and is likely to be popular. Help is needed from members of the Amenities Committee and emails will be sent with cover arrangement details for the day. The weather is set to be a little cooler at the weekend, and the PC gazebo will be set up to offer shelter and shade, cold drinks will also be available. Seats are required for the Omega Jazz Band, who are providing an extra reed player playing either a saxophone or clarinet. The player is reported to be the best around, at no extra cost to the PC.

14. Supporting Local Communities: Outcome of Signposting Radcliffe Bid

Ongoing. The Signage Group are yet to reconvene to discuss costings and details of the exact signage required for Radcliffe.

15. Financial UpdateYear End 31 March 2017

Noted and discussed. The Chairman noted the PC was a little over budget at this stage but was not too concerned, due to the additional maintenance costs at the Rockley Park Bungalow, Cemetery Maintenance and Burials. It was also noted this was not the final accounts and that Sally Horn was still working on the Year End Statement.

It was Resolved: "To accept the Financial Report for Year End 31 March 2017."

16. April-May 2017

Noted and discussed. It was noted it was still only early days for the report, being the first quarter of 2017. An additional £2350 has been received from the insurers regarding the Grange Wall repair.

It was Resolved: "To accept the Financial Report April – May 2017."

17. Open Session for members of the public to raise relevant matters, limited to 15 minutes

No matters were raised.

18. Grounds Staff Update Report, ,

Jenny Ellis joined the committee table to present her report.

Rockley Memorial Park

Planting is well underway and will be completed by Sunday for the 'Picnic in the Park.' Hydrangeas are also ready to be planted but planting has been delayed due to the recent hot weather. Jenny was concerned about the vandalism at the Memorial Park and in the village, whereby new plants, shrubs and trees had been uprooted. In particular an Acer Tree at the Memorial Park had been uprooted and had caused great distress to the donor of the Acer. In the early evening of the incident, Jenny called the Police out to the group of young people causing the problems. The group confirmed they were from different areas of the County and had decided to come to Radcliffe as the Police in their own area were aware of group members and their activities. The group appeared unconcerned at the Police presence who were still dealing with them up until 10pm that same night, however after this time, the vandalism has appeared to calm down. Cllrs discussed various solutions to the problem, however they were sceptical on the installation of CCTV, considering that admissions to the vandalism by the group had been made to Police, two further acts of vandalism had taken place after the Police meeting, but there had been no further action. There were also concerns of how effective a Security firm would be to protect the Grange as this option had not previously worked out, and whether the main gates at the Park should be left open or locked at night, as fence panels had been removed from a neighbouring property in the early hours to obtain access when they were locked. It was also hoped security would improve at the Park when the bungalow is occupied, and the Chairman confirmed that 'Positive Futures' had been contacted and were awaiting a response. Cllr Clegg informed the committee that she had attended a Police Setting Group meeting and that the group were well known to the Police. At the meeting and as a further deterrent Cllr Clegg requested the Police drive around in Radcliffe and it was confirmed that a

Police Car was in the village last Friday evening. Jenny also reported that plants and signs are being stolen at the Park during the day time. The permanent signs for 'do not scatter ashes' and 'please keep dogs on a lead' had been sawn off from the gates and Fuscia plants have been taken from containers. The Chairman confirmed that he would discuss the damage issues and signage policy regarding the scattering of ashes with the Clerk.

19. Cemetery

Regulations and Fees Review

Noted and discussed. The Clerk confirmed that the gravedigger working for the PC had recently been topping up graves with soil free of charge to help out during the current staff shortage. It was confirmed there is currently a £260 charge to dig a grave, previously however the soil has not been removed, but stockpiled in a central area of the Cemetery, which is an eyesore and now needs rotivating and re seeding. If the soil was to be taken away, an additional £40 would be payable, making a total charge of £300. Other administration charges were discussed including legal compliance requests, transfer of ownership requests and exhumations, all of which can be complex and lengthy. Clarification regarding size of grave plots and the administration costs for Monuments and Kerb inscriptions were also discussed. It was Resolved: "That the grave digging charges are increased to £300, transfers are charged at £50 and exhumation prices are on request"

20. To Arrange a working Group Meeting to Consider Gate Issues

Following the repair to the wall and pillars at the cemetery entrance, the gates do not align/match making it impossible to lock without a chain and padlock. Malcolm Lanes were contacted, however they couldn't sort out this issue. The Chairman, Cllr Banner, Cllr Bailey and the Clerk will arrange a convenient time to meet at the cemetery to discuss the next steps forward.

21. To note FOC service received from Grave Digger recently topping up graves

The Clerk confirmed that Alan the Gravedigger had been a real help to the PC by topping up the graves for free during staff shortages and it was proposed that a gift be bought for Alan to show appreciation.

22. Grange Grounds

Request for relocation of Grange Hall Sign

Noted and discussed. It was agreed that the sign for the Grange and Grange Hall is currently in the most prominent place for visitors to see, however brightly coloured corner caps will now be sourced and fixed to corners to make the sign more visible.

23. Picnic Benches only one remaining to consider replacement (no donations offered)

There is only one remaining picnic table left in the Grange Grounds, as one of the wooden tables is now beyond repair. The clerk confirmed that residents did not appear to be interested in donating picnic tables for the Grange, only benches. Cllrs agreed there was a need for parents to sit and watch children playing and for picnic tables to be used and for it to be Wheel Chair accessible..

It was Resolved: " To approve the purchase from village asset funds for one hard wearing composite type Wheel Chair accessible picnic table for use in the Grange Grounds"

24. Vandalism of Bench (top corner) Policy on repair / replacement

Noted and policy discussed. It was agreed that if benches become in poor condition they should be looked at individually by the PC then decide the next course of action. It was Resolved: "It was approved that the Clerk contact the owner of the vandalised bench in the first instance, and if unsuccessful the bench will be removed due to its dangerous condition."

25. Valley Road

Sink Hole and Chanelling Considerations

Noted and discussed. The Environment Agency, Nottinghamshire County Council and Severn Trent have all been contacted concerning the re- appearance of the repaired sink hole at Valley Road. All authorities have confirmed that there is nothing they can do to help, unless the sink hole and pipework is excavated more to discover the source of the problem. The hole is now becoming deeper even though the 2 plastic underground pipes have been recently repaired and the sinkhole filled in. It was noted that underground cameras can only confirm where the damage is and not the source so they would be ineffective in this case. It was also noted there is a manhole covered by a tree trunk in the Valley Road wooded area which may be worth investigating, so Jenny will make further investigations. Suggestions on how to address the sink hole issue included building a new bark path away and around the sink hole, and to fence the hole off, to approach Tony Trevero, a Building lecture at the University of Nottingham for students to excavate and investigate a larger area at the site using ground penetrating radar, and as the sink hole runs along the Trent Valley

Walk, involve and seek advice from Cllr Kay Cutts and revisit Jane Baines (Countryside Access Officer) at Nottinghamshire County Council.

26. Wharf Lane

Skatepark Update and Future Liaison

Cllr Tomlinson provided an update. At the Skatepark meeting last week it was confirmed that more repairs are needed as the wood is slowly deteriorating again. The Radcliffe Skatepark Group will now approach 'Sports England and RBC for additional funds. A bid of £150,000 to Sports England will be applied for so that Radcliffe can become a 'Destination Skatepark' and All Star Performance Centre. A copy of the bid will be provided to the Clerk, who suggested that the Radcliffe Skatepark Group name the PC on the bid application. It was also confirmed that both Nottingham Universities have Skatepark Societies and it will be an opportunity for them to use a 'Destination Skatepark.' RBC Cllr Cottee was emailed approximately four weeks ago for an update on the funding for a new concrete skatepark, however there has been no response to date. More details regarding the Sport England bid will be obtained from Rosie, an organiser from the Skatepark Group.

27. Composting Toilets Update

The Urinal side to the toilet block has now been closed following the theft of a 4m length of pipe from the inside of the toilet. Another pipe has been ordered, and Streetwise may be asked to maintain the block in the future. It is hoped that the issues at the Composting toilets will be sorted by the 19th July, which is the start of the school holidays.

28. Working Groups Review

Noted and discussed. It was Resolved: "That the following Cllrs would convene the following Sub Committees and Working Groups: Football Liaison: Cllr Josephine Spencer, Grounds Maintenance/nature Reserves: Cllr Pam Thompson, Play Equipment: Cllr Bill Banner, Leisure: Cllr Josephine Spencer, Signage: Cllr Graham Budworth, Van: Cllr John Thorn, Lyle Rockley Anniversary Events: Cllr David Barton, Christmas Lights: Cllr Sue Clegg, Litter Pick Events: Cllr Gillian Dunn."

29. Play Area and Skatepark Annual Inspections: To Note Play Area Working Group Meeting on 27th June

Noted. The Play Area Working Group meeting was confirmed for the 27th June.

30. Lily Ponds and Dewberry Hill Management Plans

To Receive the notes of the Grounds Maintenance Working Group meeting held on 07 June 2017
Noted.

31. Bench Donation: To Consider

The friends of Jack Archer have raised £600 in his memory and have made a request to the PC to place a bench at the Lily ponds. As this area is a nature reserve and currently have rustic type benches, it was considered not appropriate to place a memorial bench in the area. The Clerk will now contact the friends and ask for any other alternatives.

32. Rockley Park Mess Room: Pump for Sewerage Failure: To Note

The Rockley Mess Room toilet has a pump connected to the system which has been broken for some time. The RBC will clear out the blocked up drain for £150 tomorrow, the pump will be replaced thereafter.

33. Litter Bin: Hudson Way – RBC Monitoring

The RBC has confirmed that the area around the bus stop and Hudson Way is now being monitored.

34. Leisure Working Group: Update

Ongoing. Cllr Spencer confirmed there may be a meeting this Wednesday, if so a report will be provided for next time.

35. Councillors Reports

- Cllr Culshaw expressed his frustration regarding the current A52 resurfacing works (Mon-Fri) closures. In effect the village is now cut off from access and public transport from 8pm until 6am in the morning. Should you wish to travel to Nottingham between these times a bus needs to be caught in Bingham, and to return to Radcliffe a shuttle bus travels from Bingham back to the village. Cllr Culshaw requested that representatives from Highways England be brought back to a PC meeting for further explanations and updates.

- Cllr Banner reported that public speaking will now be allowed at RBC Planning & Environment Meetings. Cllr Banner also confirmed that the new Arena at West Bridgford had cost 15 million and County Hall had been sold for 7 million. The recently refurbished West Bridgford Hall has been completed to a high standard and is looking good.
- Cllr Brears noted Cropwell Road is still being dug up. He also noted that the pathway at Dewberry Hill had not been cut back. The Clerk confirmed that grass cutting at both Dewberry Hill and the Lilly Ponds area are late this year, however it will be done as soon as possible.
- Cllr Budworth asked when the litter bins at the Skatepark should be emptied as they were very full. It was confirmed the bins were regularly emptied and the bins were only that full from Friday as the skatepark is now being used much more.
- Cllr Bailey noted that the Lily Ponds area is also in need of a grass cut. The Clerk confirmed the order is in for the area to be cut.
- For information, Cllr Clegg confirmed Cllr Cutts will be attending and talking at the next Residents Association Meeting.
- Cllr Spencer confirmed that the Golf Club has been severely disrupted by the A52 Works Road Closures. The grass verges and boundaries are overgrown and has incurred financial losses due to lack of access and suggests that compensation should be sought via Highways England in the form of trees and bulbs.
- Cllr Robinson was also concerned as to why both sides of the A52 should be closed and not staged to allow access to the village.

36. Correspondence for Action:

Residents Requests for CCTV Memorial Park and Wharf Lane- Ongoing Vandalism Issues

The issue has been fully discussed during this committee meeting. The PC will work with the Police as CCTV is not a deterrent to the recent vandalism.

37. Date of Next Meeting

17 July 2017

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.58pm

Signed: Chairman Date