

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

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

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

Also present Jacki Grice (Parish Clerk), Jacquie Earp (Admin Assistant) RBC Cllr Roger Upton, Jenny Ellis (Grounds Team Leader) Matt Williams (Grounds Staff) and one member of the public.

1. Apologies

Cllr Graham Leigh-Browne, Cllr Joe Bailey, Cllr David Astill, Cllr Alice Tomlinson, Cllr Sue Clegg – Approved.

2. Declarations of Interest

None received.

3. Chairman's Announcements

The Chair's met and looked at the PC Budget situation and how to conserve expenditure for next year. From an Amenities point of view it is a tight budget for next year. It was agreed that the Chairman of Amenities and Cllr Clegg (Chairman for The Grange and Grange Hall) also meet with the Budget Working Group the PC Chairman and Chair and Vice Chair of the F&GP Committee to discuss further and how savings can be made for the Amenities and Grange Hall Budget, both high in expenditure terms. Proposals to discuss includes new expenditure and any savings to be made, Christmas lights, Lily Ponds area, and Rockley Park Pavilion roof. Other items to consider include the Rockley Park Bungalow, new Cemetery Kerbs, Public Toilets refit, Wharf Lane Toilets to work, new Christmas lights, Leisure Hub to take forward, Rockley Park grass feed, Storage, and Vicarage Lane fence. If Cllrs have any other ideas or suggestions Cllr Thorn and the Clerk should be emailed with details, to put on the next agenda for discussion. Thanks go to the Radcliffe Conservation Volunteers, who met at the Lily Ponds last Sunday. Approximately a ton of bark chippings were laid at the bottom of Hallow Well steps, which resulted in a vast improvement in the walkability of the area.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 September 2017, for approval

M.7 Public Open Session: The Chairman noted that the surname of the RCG resident was not included in the minutes and therefore requested that 'Phil' be amended to 'Phil Taylor of RCG'

Resolved: "That the minutes subject to this amendment are approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman".

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

M.5 (prevM.11) Met with Carnell Contractors this morning, who confirmed that works to re-surface and widen the Cliff Path is scheduled for the first week in November. Heavy plant/machinery will be present whilst the work takes place and the path will be laid in 40 metre sections, public warning signs will also be placed in the area of works. The new path will be a metre and a half wide with new edgings and black tarmac, which will 'weather in' after a year or so.

M.9 The PC has now purchased a new trailer. Unfortunately, the registration plate broke so a new one has been ordered. Once fixed, the trailer will be ready to use.

M.10 Regarding Christmas lights a meeting with Harry Hughes from the Business Forum has been held recently to discuss options. Harry will be emailing businesses with future options and return to the PC

with responses. All are aware this is the last year the Christmas motifs will be displayed in the current form. Harry Hughes will be included in any future meetings and discussions.

M.11 Cllr Thorn and Cllr Budworth will be setting dates to discuss solutions for the Composting Toilets at Wharf Lane. Any costings need to be submitted to the Clerk before Christmas.

M.12 The RBC was very impressed with new Business Case for the SkatePark, however it was not discussed at the cabinet meeting on the 10th October. The next meeting will be on the 14th November, and will be considered at that time.

M.14 Individual slats for the Multiplay Bridge equipment at Upper Saxondale is on order at a considerable reduced cost than a new one and will be fitted by Matt Williams (PC Ground Staff). The Valley Road Infant Swings godfather posts are also booked in for repair.

M.16 The Cemetery Wall repairs are booked in for next week.

M.17 A site meeting date to discuss Pollarding at the Lily Ponds is yet to be arranged.

M.19 For the Positive Futures Community Project Cllr Spencer had put forward an idea of raised flower beds at the Infants School.

6. Financial Update April – (Part) October 2017

Noted. There are items to consider and account for, such as the new impact damage on the Cropwell Road sign and Valley Road Play Area (godfather posts). It was noted that burials are very difficult to budget for. The Clerk confirmed burials may range from 10-30 in any year, plus ashes.

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

Standing Orders were suspended at 7.15pm

- RBC Cllr Roger Upton referred to the Radcliffe Skate Park Business Case recently submitted to the RBC. It was confirmed there had been a Cabinet meeting on the 10th October, that was in the public domain and that a Capital Fund had been set up, focusing on Rushcliffe Villages that have existing Skate Parks. The next Cabinet meeting is set for Tuesday 14th November, where amounts and timelines will be looked at. Cllr Upton is positive and optimistic for Radcliffe, funding will be discussed and the meeting will also be an opportunity to reach any decisions. Also reported that time was spent with NCC Cllr Kay Cutts looking at sites around Radcliffe that have been brought to his attention as problem areas. Noted the three Lime trees at Lime Close were excellent specimens and were not doing any damage. It was also noted there were no low branches, however the shrubs and trees at Water Lane opposite Bailey Lane are very overgrown and need to be cut back as it makes the footpath very narrow for residents. Visited Bingham Road Playing Fields with a view to make it a 'Pocket Park & Ride' during weekdays. Cllr Cutts was in agreement with this and confirmed this is high on the agenda at NCC. It would be similar to the Stragglethorpe 'Pocket Park & Ride' site. On Friday 10th November there will be a day dedicated to clear / tidy up Radcliffe Station. Streetwise have been asked to take away cuttings and East Midlands Trains will bring refreshments. Cllrs are invited and any help is welcomed.
- Phil Taylor from RCG confirmed that he had sent an email to Cllr Thorn and the Clerk proposing the test planting of six Dewberry plants at Dewberry Hill. The Dewberry is a native plant, but less common to the UK and cannot be purchased at the normal Garden Centres. After research the Dewberry plants were located at a Wild Fruit Nursery in Wales at a total cost of £47. Cash has been raised by the RCG to offset the cost and it is hoped the plants will make the site of more interest to the public. Although the site was not featured at a recent Nottingham Wildlife event that Phil Taylor recently attended, the new Dewberry's should raise the profile of the area. If the plant is established this year, it is hoped more would be planted next year. It was suggested planting should take place early in November, with scope to involve local schools. Phil Taylor also asked if there was any tarmac left over from the resurfacing of the Cliff Path that it be laid at the bottom of the twitchells. The Clerk confirmed Carnell's will feather the tarmac in at these points. A restored spade was then shown to the Cllrs. The old and rusty spade had been found at the back of a shed, but was found to be solid steel and very strong, now fully restored. The RCG have renovated a number of old tools, and

Cllrs were asked to let the group know of any more. These items will be fully restored and used on future projects.

Standing Orders were re-instated at 7.28pm

8. Grounds Staff Update Report & Notes of the Grounds Maintenance Working Group (Priority Setting) Meeting

Table noted. Jenny Ellis (Grounds Team Leader) referred to item 8 on the table and asked for a decision on when to use top soil in the Rockley Park Flower beds, ie now or in the spring. Another item not included in the table are the Holly Trees. The leaves are brown and appear scorched, however expert confirmation is required to make sure the trees are not affected by fungus. The Horse Chestnut trees also appear to be affected by 'rust', which is a disease and widespread in all of the trees and also needs to be budgeted for. A decision is also required that a specimen of the Horse Chestnut can be sent off to a contact at Kew Gardens for assessment and returned with their feedback/conclusion. Work to improve the Willow Tunnel will be done this week, time scales to note.

Cllrs agree that Horse Chestnut specimens be sent off for assessment, and items 8, 9 and 10 be discussed.

Item 8 Lawns & Flower Beds: It was agreed by the Amenities Committee that topsoil should be placed in the beds (slightly raised) now, and then re-done in the future.

Item 9 Cliff Path, Falling Leaves: The Chairman agreed this was a time consuming job and discussed how often the leaves should be cleared ie: weekly or until all fallen. Cllr Barton suggested the PC should focus on the slope/steep part of the Cliff Path as this area becomes slimy with algae when leaves are left in this area, consequently becoming a Health and Safety hazard for walkers. It was agreed therefore that the slope be regularly cleared of leaves in house and take a more relaxed approach on the level areas of the path. It was confirmed that the leaves cannot be blown down the Cliff because of the dense hedgerow in the way. Jenny Ellis suggested that leaf mulch bays could be built with pallets into the fencing along the path, to alleviate the problem of clearance and the mulch then be used for the park and also be available to residents. The Cllrs agreed this was a good idea and has their full support to arrange.

Item 10 Cliff Path Viewing Galleries: To clear the existing viewing galleries of trees and branches, a 'Rope' Course is now required for ground staff Matt Williams. Matt confirmed it would cost £650 for him to attend, so it may be cheaper for an outside contractor to do this work. It was therefore decided to source quotes and to defer this item to the next Amenities meeting.

Other items on the table were then discussed including:

Item 1 Rockley Park Pavilion Roof Trusses: The Clerk is currently gathering quotes for Building Condition Surveys for all PC properties and will ask for further advice from the selected Surveyors.

Item 4 Moss on Paths: The Clerk confirmed moss removal needs to be done as soon as possible, as it is dangerous and there was a previous insurance claim from a resident who had slipped and broke an arm. Enquiries have been made as to whether it would be feasible to use a hot pressure washer on the existing mossy pathways.

Item 3 Low Branches Pine Tree Main Lawn: Noted, but low on the list of priorities.

Item 15 Cemetery Headstones: This needs discussion and reviewing as there are differing opinions from Cllrs. To discuss and decide an overall longer term view.

It was then agreed that the table should remain with the Chairman and the Clerk for quoting and prioritising as there is a lot of work to be done.

9. Radcliffe Conservation Group: Update & Dewberry Hill Proposal

Noted, as previously discussed by Phil Taylor of the RCG.

Resolved: "That the Radcliffe Conservation Group plant six new Dewberry plants at Dewberry Hill, and for Cllr Banner to ask Radcliffe Junior School if the school children can be involved in the planting of the trees."

10. Wharf LaneSkatepark Update

A Skate Park update was provided earlier by RBC Cllr Upton. It was further confirmed that the Capital Fund idea had come from the RBC Leisure Strategy and that Radcliffe Skate Park had been mentioned several times within the Playing Fields and Pitches Strategy.

11. RO TSA Proposal Fitness Equipment

Cllr Thompson confirmed that ROTSA have agreed to place two additional pieces of adult fitness equipment at Wharf Lane, subject to PC approval. This was discussed and some Cllrs agreed the two pieces of fitness equipment already in place at Wharf Lane is not enough for groups and that any additional equipment be placed in the same area.

Resolved: "That the PC accepts the two pieces of adult fitness equipment and to liaise with ROTSA, where they are to be placed at Wharf Lane Recreation Ground via the Clerk."

12. SpeedWatch: To Note Equipment in Store: To Consider

The Clerk confirmed that after the Speedwatch group had disbanded, equipment that had originally cost £1000 for the project was being stored and not used. It was therefore suggested that this equipment should be sold to help boost Amenities Funds. Cllrs agreed with the Clerks proposal and will leave it to her discretion to sell the equipment.

13. Cropwell Road Welcome Sign: To Note Impact Damage

Noted. The Clerk confirmed the sign was not covered by Insurance, A quote has been received to replace the posts at a cost of £175 plus vat, there was no damage however to the signs themselves, as they are made to fly off at the point of impact. A quote to refit the new post, refit signs and to retouch paintwork has been received for £250 plus Vat. There is damage to the planter however and this would cost £600 for a new one or minimal costs if the PC made in house repairs. Resolved: "That repairs to the planter are made in house by Matt Williams, and the posts are replaced and signs reinstalled by Contractors 'Malcolm Lane' at a total cost of £425 plus vat."

14. Friends of Rockley Park: Update

Fifteen people have signed up for the Friends of Rockley Park Volunteers. One volunteer should be encouraged to act as a convenor and take an active role, as the PC's experience of the RCG convenor namely Phil Taylor has been very positive. Cllrs are in agreement that the Friends of Rockley Park should work under PC supervision.

15. Correspondence

St Marys Churchyard Memorial has cracks in it and needs a good clean, although it was only cleaned approx. 3 years ago. The Church Warden have asked for quotes to repair and restore it, along with a manhole cover in the churchyard grounds which also needs repairs. Cllr Barton suggested starting a public subscription if high costs are involved and also confirmed there are WW1 Commemoration funds available until next year. The Clerk will look into these issues and source quotes as appropriate.

16. Councillors Reports

- Cllr Thompson attended a Positive Futures Event/Presentation which was very good.
- Cllr Barton attended the opening of the Sensory Gardens at the Junior School last week which looks beautiful. Asked that Cllrs have a look if they have a chance to.
- Cllr Budworth was concerned about the state of the Horse Trough which is the responsibility of the PC. It is in a bad state structurally and has weeds growing out of it. It requires sympathetic maintenance, therefore the Office will look into the problem and deal with this issue.
- Cllr Banner confirmed he also attended the opening of the Sensory Garden at the Junior School with Cllr Barton, and was wonderful to hear the children clapping their arrival.
- Cllr Culshaw had attended a meeting this morning with Carnell Contractors and Highways England to discuss the Cliff Path. He had also asked about the possibility of a Bypass for

Radcliffe, however this is at the bottom of a priority list and was advised to lobby the issue with the local MP for Rushcliffe.

- Cllr Agar noted that the Highways England sign on the A52 before the Harlequin is also damaged and bent. He will raise this issue at the next Planning meeting on the 6th November.

17. Date of Next Meeting

20 November 2017

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.18pm

Signed: ChairmanDate