

**Radcliffe on Trent Annual Parish Meeting
Wednesday 19 April 2017, Grange Hall, 7.00pm**

Minutes

Radcliffe on Trent Parish Councillors Present on the Top Table

**Cllr Georgia Moore (Chairman) Cllr David Barton (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Josephine Spencer (Chairman Finance and General Purposes Committee)
Cllr Martin Culshaw (Chairman Planning and Environment Committee)
Cllr John Thorn (Chairman Amenities Committee)
Cllr Sue Clegg (Chairman Grange and Grange Hall Committee)
Mrs Jacki Grice (Parish Clerk)**

Chairman's Welcome

- 1.** Cllr Georgia Moore advised that she would be chairing the meeting, and welcomed the Radcliffe Parishioners, Parish Councillors, Local Borough and County Councillors to the meeting. The format of the Agenda was summarised, and informed that the meeting was being recorded.

Housekeeping

- 2.** No fire alarm testing is planned, and mobile phones should be set to silent.

Introduction of Panel

- 3.** The Chairmen of the Standing Committees and Jacki Grice (Parish Clerk) were introduced. PCSO Sally Charles was also welcomed to the meeting.

Apologies

- 4.** RBC Cllr Neil Clarke. Approved.

Review & Acceptance of Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 22 April 2016

- 5.** Questions arising from last year's Annual Parish Meeting was noted and discussed. Proposed by Cllr Graham Leigh-Browne and seconded by Cllr Alice Tomlinson it was:
Resolved: "That the minutes be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council."

Chairman's Report

- 6.** The past year has been one of celebrations, events and changes for Radcliffe that began in the summer by celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday, the Main Road adorned with bunting. As the summer progressed the annual Carnival and Village Show was enjoyed. Unfortunately wet weather meant the 'Last Night of the Proms' was cancelled, however determined to go ahead this year, the venue will be changed to inside the Grange Hall. The Christmas light 'switch on' rounded up a very busy year and both Councillors and residents are thanked for the enormous amount of time and effort volunteered to make these events so successful for the whole village to enjoy. To complete the village scene Radcliffe became proud winners of the 'Best Kept Village in Notts' competition. This is very well deserved and many thanks should go to Parish Council grounds staff who worked very hard. Over the coming months the Parish Council have many more plans for the village including the 90th Anniversary celebrations of Rockley Park. The Parish Council are determined to work towards providing leisure facilities for the village, and work is now underway to make this a reality including bids for a new Skate park. A working group has also been created to investigate ways to provide a new leisure facility, desperately needed for

the village. Congratulations go to the Train Working Group who have over the past year and much hard work have managed to achieve five additional trains to stop at Radcliffe Station, and have hopes for more in the future. The new car parking system in the village is proving a major success. Villagers have expressed their great delight that they can now at last find a parking space in both the Health Centre car park and Walkers Yard car park. Running a successful Parish Council is not always easy considering the many different requirements in a community. To please everyone all of the time is almost impossible when what suits one will not always suit another. It is a careful balance therefore fairly divide funds amongst the amenities in the village, however it can be agreed that one of the loveliest parks in Rushcliffe must be Rockley Memorial Park that celebrates its 90th birthday this year and is there for all the community to enjoy. Amazingly there are still residents in the village that have never visited the park and the audience are asked if they know of anyone (particularly newcomers) who have never been to the park, to inform them of a joy they are missing. In conclusion Radcliffe Parish Council will continue to budget wisely, provide a quality service whilst always watching the public purse. This can only be achieved with the help of dedicated Councillors and staff, all of whom are thanked. Finally thanks go to the residents for all the help and support provided as volunteers to the many groups and organisations in the village which is very much appreciated.

Presentation of Civic Awards

7. Civic Awards 2017 were presented by the Chairman Georgia Moore to; Joan Birch, Jane James, Scott Lowman and Samantha Proctor for their work in the community. The Chairman's Award was presented to the Radcliffe on Trent Skate Park Committee. The Chairman's Group Awards presented by Chairman Georgia Moore were received by The Radcliffe on Trent Community Signing Choir.

8. The Radcliffe on Trent Community Signing Choir.

A song 'Something Inside So Strong' was then performed by the Radcliffe on Trent Signing Choir.

Committee Chairman's Reports of the Last Years Activities

9. Finance and General Purposes – Cllr Josephine Spencer

The finance of the Parish Council is a delicate balance of careful budgeting, knowledge of the village and its needs, plus provision for future capital items. The precept has not been increased this year but with sensible and careful planning the Parish Council will continue to deliver the amenities and facilities that Radcliffe deserves. Good levels of reserves are maintained which is both prudent and necessary for those unexpected expenses that inevitably occur. This prudence must be balanced with the continued demands on the budget for the maintenance and provision of facilities demanded by other Council Committees. Income is from the precept collected in Council Tax, hiring of the Grange and Grange Hall, and from the cemetery. A rate increase was implemented last year as sadly the Parish Council does not benefit from a Rushcliffe Borough grant. The grant ceased two years ago and was worth £13,000. There is still a mortgage on the Grange Hall, and have resisted the temptation to shorten the term, thus ensuring the costs are spread over several generations to reflect a fairer contribution. The proposal to build a Sports and Leisure Hub requires external funding and will necessitate much lobbying and applications for Grants Aid however the Parish Council are prepared to forge ahead to get this much needed facility. They then followed a summary of the grants provided over the last twelve months. Thanks go to the F&GP committee for their patience and scrutiny when confronted by pages of words and figures and are very fortunate to have a very able 'responsible Finance Officer' in

Jacki Grice and Sally Horn Accounts Clerk, whose methodical and forensic accounting keeps the all the committee on the straight and narrow. Thanks to both and thanks to Lisa Simpson for managing the Grange Hall bookings. Looking to the future the demands on the budget will become even tighter but has confidence in the great team. With continued budgeting and prudence Radcliffe will continue to be a great place to live.

10. Planning and Environment – Cllr Martin Culshaw

Over the last year the Planning Committee have considered around 80 planning applications. Most of these have been for extensions or other changes to houses or for tree removal or pruning. Most applications are not controversial and whilst the Parish Council may make comments it does not make the decision as whether permission is given, that responsibility lies with Rushcliffe Borough Council. A recent example concerned the mid Victorian properties on Bailey Lane, whereby an application was submitted to drastically alter the existing building. Following a Parish Council objection to the original development, the properties will now retain a lot of the original features. The Parish Council Planning and Environment Committee has also submitted its comments on the latest proposed version of the Local Development Plan Part 2, The Greenbelt Review and the Community Infrastructure Levy Consultations. The outcome of these consultations will strongly influence where and how many new houses are built and what funds are available to improve services such as roads, schools, Health and Leisure facilities. There will be a minimum of 400 new houses developed in Radcliffe so it is important where the new houses will be built. Examination of the Neighbourhood Plan is complete and it should move to approval via a local referendum before the summer holiday period. The Parish Council have contributed fully to the Plan and wish to thank RBC Cllr Roger Upton for his hard work in leading the Steering Committee.*** The Trains Working Group consisting of Councillors and other Radcliffe residents has been successful in getting five additional trains to stop at Radcliffe as part of the winter timetable 2016-17. The Trains Working Group are members of a number of organisations including the Poacher Line Stakeholders Group who are lobbying for improvements to the line as part of the new franchise for rail services in the East Midlands due in the next two years. At a meeting today a consultant has been appointed to build a business case for additional trains and is likely to recommend Radcliffe have trains every hour and half hourly and the upgraded car park to accommodate 30 cars. This represents a major step forward for the village and Cllr Pam Thompson is thanked for all her hard work. The Parish Council also raised the matter of installing speed cameras on Shelford Road with Nottinghamshire County Council Highway's Department. Installation is unlikely because of the considerable cost which could be as high as £100, 000 to cover the length of the road and the relatively lower priority compared with other sites in the County. A new Zebra Crossing will be built at the bottom of Shelford Road near to the roundabout in the coming months. It is hoped that a further crossing may eventually be built across Main Road to the west of the roundabout. Regarding water and sewerage, the Parish Council have a good working relationship with Adam Greest, (Customer Experience Manager) for Severn Trent Water and reports to the Parish Council every 3-4 months. This enables the Parish Council to highlight any problems around the village and for Adam to deal with them promptly. For example the problem of sewerage on the Junior School drive and the Pumping System problems have now been resolved. The Highways England latest news regarding the A52 Junction roadworks means that works at the RSPCA will not be completed until June and at the Cropwell Road Junction, August this year. The main reason for the delay is due to problems with the gas and utility services.

11. Grange and Grange Hall – Cllr Sue Clegg

The last year has been a particularly busy one for the Grange and Grange Hall Committee. The Chairman thanked all the staff for their efforts which present the facilities to their best advantage for whatever occasion both inside and out. Councillors are thanked too as without volunteering their time and efforts at the many events, Radcliffe would be a much poorer village. All the facilities continue to be used by many organisations, with several new large groups arriving in Radcliffe this year. Classes in the Grange make good use of the facilities in the older building which are enhanced by internet connectivity and white board. It is hard to believe that the Silver Cinema has been running for over a year. The crowds keep coming and the 'Golden Oldies' and latest films make a good mix providing a companionable and enjoyable afternoon out. It was stressed the doors open at 12.30pm as the film starts at 1pm, if any earlier it could interfere with a morning booking. A grant was not received in 2017 so the ticket price increased, but only to £2.00. As well as the Silver Cinema the Parish Council have initiated Children's films on the Wednesday mornings of the School Holidays. There has been a request from an adult as to whether they can attend the children's film 'BFG'. Adults are welcome to the children's films bearing in mind there will be some chatter and no tea or coffee at these sessions. It is hoped that the events in 2016 have been enjoyed, and the 2017 programme containing additional events is available tonight. In last year's report it was mentioned that Grange Hall is 13 years old and is in need of more maintenance and repairs to keep up its appearance. The Committee has been very busy with maintaining and improving the facilities for all occasions. The new automatic doors to Grange Hall were installed earlier on in the year with money obtained from a grant application. It is hoped that the cleaning of the stage curtains, preservation of the Hall floor, and the upgrading of the main lights can be seen by all whilst new kitchen and bar floors, painting and other replacements become the norm. A consultation for the replacement of the boiler/heating and hot water supply in the Grange Hall has taken place this year, and after careful budgeting the new systems are imminently due to be replaced with a more logical and economic unit. At the start of 2017 the decision to include VAT on the charges for Grange Hall meant that the Committee took a long deep look at pricing structure. This has not been an easy task and a review of the new arrangements is planned after six months. The Grange Hall and all Parish facilities are primarily for the benefit of Radcliffe Residents and the Grange and Grange Hall committee have and will continue to work within the set budgets to maintain and improve the facilities that Radcliffe Parish Council offer to residents, which are a great asset to the village.

12. Amenities – Cllr John Thorn

The Amenities Committee is responsible for a large number of village facilities. Various Council Staff were thanked, who have in their different ways have worked so hard to ensure Village Amenities are kept in good condition and have acted promptly should anything go wrong or if items need repairing. Many residents are aware the Skatepark was founded over 20 years ago by a small dedicated group of skateboarders and parents. With the support of the Parish Council and a successful bid for funds the group gave an enormous amount of their time to build the various structures. The Radcliffe Skatepark became one of the largest and best in the area and as well as serving local young people it became famous regionally as a great park to ride. Over time the number of volunteers managing the park have dwindled to such a degree, the group handed over management to the Parish Council. However, after 25 years of good use the Parish Council found holes were developing in the plywood surface so could not keep up with the rate of repairs. The park had also become a

Health and Safety problem and the Council were advised to temporarily close it. This crisis generated a new group of keen and committed users and parents who wanted to work with the Parish Council to ensure a new durable Skatepark was obtained suitable for current and future years to come. The group were also able to demonstrate to the Rushcliffe Borough Council the Skatepark was a facility that needed its support. As a result the Amenities Committee are reasonably confident the existing wooden structures will be replaced with a relatively maintenance free and modern concrete park that will last a long time. Although this will take time to achieve, the Borough Council have made a specific 2017/18 budget allocation for Skatepark development. In the meantime with the support of the Parish Council, the new user group have removed certain parts of the old structure and renovated other parts to ensure a temporary arrangement that will keep the park functioning through the summer period until a long term solution is in place. The new user group is publicly thanked for its support in taking both these solutions forward and a Skate 'Jam' is planned to re-open the repaired park. For years residents have relayed the need for toilets at the Wharf Lane Recreation Ground. The Council have struggled with this idea due to the lack of water on site, so with support from Tesco funding a 'green' waterless solution was installed. These toilets however, have not lived up to expectations despite research and site visits to other areas. Unfortunately therefore, one side of the toilet block has temporarily closed until further advice from the manufacturer is obtained and all options are considered. The Council have not given up on this project and are trying to find a solution as quickly as possible. This year is important for Rockley Park as it is the centenary of William Rockley's death at the 3rd Battle of Ypres. A new lead gardener has had fresh ideas for the park and has proposed to open up the entrance of the park by clearing overgrown trees and new planting ideas. A comparison of archived photographs of when the park was first established has shown how much it has grown and developed over the years and a special mention goes to gardeners Jenny & Primo for the way they are breathing new life into the park, and as it goes forward into the second century. Although it is very early days for the project, the Parish Council are working closely with a number of sports and youth organisations in the village to develop a proposed 'Sports and Leisure Hub' at the Wharf lane Recreation Ground to provide improved changing facilities, a gym, dance facilities and multi-use spaces. The Parish Council have some initial architectural ideas and sufficient support from Parish organisations to think this is a feasible proposal to take forward with planners at Rushcliffe Borough Council. It is hoped that the Committee will be able to report further and in more detail at the next Parish meeting.

13. Radcliffe Village Centre Economic Masterplan

Cllr Barton: The Radcliffe Parish Council and Radcliffe Business Forum are bringing together new ideas for the benefit of the village. One of the most positive developments in recent years has been the move to partnership working, a recognition that so much more can be achieved by organisations working together, sharing their knowledge, expertise and resources. An excellent recent example of this is the Radcliffe Village Centre Economic Master Plan. This proposal is aiming to identify ways of creating a thriving village centre. It was developed by a partnership of the Parish Council and Radcliffe Business Forum, and submitted successfully as a bid to RBC Economic Growth Board, and is being delivered by a steering group made up of representatives by the Business Forum, Parish Council, Borough Council and the Notts County Council. It is a strong broad partnership of organisations who are all committed to the future of the village.

Abby Brennan, Radcliffe Business Forum: This is the first time partnership project between the Business Forum and the Council, and are extremely excited at the findings of research

that has been undertaken. Essentially a significant grant has been secured from the RBC Growth fund, which is a government funded set of projects to help stimulate and help grow a range of areas across the Rushcliffe Borough. This is the first amount of funding for Radcliffe, and the Forum are currently in the process of producing a document which will set out a strategic context for the type of bids to improve the region, such as The Leisure Hub. This document will set out aspirations for the village, to put forward to all the funding partners to secure additional investment in Radcliffe. The projects are primarily aimed at supporting local businesses, what is needed to encourage them to succeed, and how to attract new businesses to the village. Retail space and Office space availability is being looked at for new businesses to set up locally and importantly, ways of keeping people coming into the village to shop, to use local services and generating local employment in the village for local residents. The Forum are also very keen to improve the look of the Main Street, such as improving traffic flow, (slowing down traffic), making pedestrianised areas in the Main Street enabling people to stay longer, have a cup of coffee and spend more money at the shops and enjoy their time in the village centre. Other initiatives is for more pedestrian crossings and wider pavements in the village centre and are keen to support start-up businesses, located in light industrial units, pop up shops, markets, farmers markets, and seasonal events. Earlier this year consultation events were held at The Grange, whereby local people were asked to look at proposals and give opinions on what might be useful. Overall 100 people attended and a significant number of people completed surveys from the local and business community. The results are currently being updated into the document that will be produced to act as a strategic context for bidding for further funding. Ideas are still being asked for and the project is still being developed. Summaries from the Consultation events and some of the suggestions are listed on the boards at the back of the Hall, for all to look at the end of tonight's APM.

14. Presentation of the Accounts of The Trustees of the Parochial Charities

Janet Maughan introduced herself as a Trustee and reported the Jeffrey Limmer Charity is the oldest charity in Radcliffe on Trent and is locally known as Jeffrey's Dole. It was originally started with a £10 legacy in the will of Geffrye Lymber, a poor Wheelwright in the village. The bequest was made in 1671 to help the 'poor, sick and needy.' Several other benefactors subsequently contributed to the charity and money was invested to provide an income. This income is still funding the distribution of an annual dole which is distributed personally at Christmas by the Trustees, of whom there are 9 in total. Recipients must reside in Radcliffe on Trent and they would benefit from a small financial gift. Since 1979 the charity has also provided a small gift for educational purposes. Janet confirmed details of how the money was spent in 2016, as follows:

56 single doles (of £150)	£8,400
18 double doles (of £250)	£4,500
Fish Scheme	£1,500
Craig Moray	£1,500
Junior School	£25
Infant & Nursey School	£25
Parish Council Festive Tea	£500

There were 3 additional requests during the year for emergency assistance amounting to £470 and the trustees were happy to agree to these. Therefore the total amount distributed in 2016 was £16,920.

General Question Time

15. **Questions / Comments from the Audience:**

- *Lisa Jones referred to the train line improvements between Nottingham and Grantham and asked that the train stops at other small stations on that route. East Midlands Trains need to look at the funding needed to make their Stations more accessible for pushchairs, prams, wheelchairs etc. At Radcliffe it is only completely accessible one side. Standard appeal to Laura and Abby Brennan is that there are a lot of visually impaired people in the village, so please do not take away kerbs so that we have to mingle with the traffic, it's awful.*
- *Jon Jones, Secretary of the Radcliffe on Trent Drama Group confirmed the group has used the Grange Hall for the past 13 years. The current inflation rate stands at 2%, and the rent for the Hall this year has gone up 61% Can anybody explain exactly why it has gone up quite so much? Cllr Sue Clegg confirmed that changes have had to be made, and Vat has been added onto the charges for the Hall. There has been some anomalies as when the Hall was first opened business was needed. However as time has moved on the pricing has been re-looked at and after six months of using the new rates, there will be a review. Cllr Barton noted that the Drama group should have been paying more rent over the years, that's the reason their rate has gone up much rather more than they might have expected. Although the rates were dramatically lower and this historical anomaly has now been picked up, the PC has not gone back to the Drama Group to retrieve the rent from the past number of years. Jon Jones was glad that the prices would be re-looked at.*
- *Sandra Thornley asked how often the CCTV cameras in the village are looked at, especially after the anti-social behaviour in the village last year, and also as so much money is being spent on the Skatepark will there be CCTV installed in that area? The Chairman confirms that the question to install CCTV at the Skatepark will be taken to a PC Committee and discussed. Sandra then confirmed that she is on the Neighbourhood Watch Team and whenever questions are raised about the CCTV in the village, vague answers are given. Residents want to know if the footage is ever looked at and is anything ever done about incidents with the Police and Council? The Chairman confirmed that as far as the PC are concerned CCTV footage is available to the Police and for them to view, and why it was installed in the first instance. PCSO Sally Charles confirmed that Police are able to look at CCTV when there has been an incident, but due to its location they are not always able to view the day after. The Police are not getting many calls from the public regarding anti-social behaviour, and are not currently aware of any.*
- *Mary Walker comments how much the Memorial Park and other areas of the village have been looked after so well by the Ground staff, both Jenny and Primo and Aiden before them. She is sure a lot of people appreciate this, as Mary does. It is always a pleasure to walk in Rockley Park once a week. Thank you. The Chairman notes this is lovely to hear and Rockley Park is a real gem, not only in Radcliffe, but the whole of Rushcliffe.*
- *David Griffiths – Neighbourhood Watch. Asked about Dewberry Hill and what it's all about. Cllr Thorn confirmed dewberry Hill is first and foremost a wildlife area and the PC is keeping paths open and are removing dangerous overhanging branches. Cutting back paths, to make them accessible, placing the cut brush together in clumps, so that wildlife may find their habitation. It isn't a Park like the other areas in the village it is a nature reserve and a nice walk for residents.*

David asks if the PC let the public know of this area and any accesses it has, as people have asked him various questions. The Chairman then explained the Dewberry Hill location to members of the audience and the new residents of Radcliffe, and that it used to be the eighteenth hole of Radcliffe on Trent Golf Club.

- *Janet Maughan appealed to all residents who have overgrown trees or hedges, which are a nuisance to all walkers and visually impaired people. There has been notices in previous PC magazines about people taking note of the hedges and overhanging trees and she re-enforces this, to be done/cut back in the autumn or early spring so they do not impair anybody walking on the pavements. Thank you.*
- *George Smith noted the proposed siting of the new pedestrian crossing is basically a 'death trap' as so many cars come round that corner without indicating or slowing down at the roundabout junction. The Chairman confirmed that original request was made for that location. Cllr Culshaw confirmed the PC has difficulties as there is a process, which assesses the cars travelling up and down the road and also the number of pedestrians. This determines whether a crossing at any particular location is priority. On Shelford Road the survey carried out meant the only place at the interaction and vehicles high enough to justify a crossing was at the bottom of Shelford Road. Cllr Culshaw understands that people do not agree with this location, however there is only a limited amount of funding to fund crossings in the County. These are prioritised on the basis of data collected and the formula which is used to determine which the highest priorities. This was done, and all the rest of Shelford Road was low priority apart from the proposed site at the roundabout.*

16. Thanks and Meeting Close

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting and advised Cllrs would be available for a chat and stalls available to look at for the next 30 minutes.

8.20pm Meeting Finish

Tea and Coffee now served.

Signed: Chairman..... Date.....