

**Radcliffe on Trent Annual Parish Meeting  
Wednesday 22 April 2016, 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 Bill Banner (Vice 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)**

**Chairman's Welcome**

- 1.** Cllr Georgia Moore advised that she would be chairing the meeting, she welcomed the Radcliffe parishioners to the meeting, Parish Councillors and Local Borough and County Councillors. 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 were introduced (Cllr Bill Banner was standing in for Cllr Jo Spencer) PCSO Sally Charles was also welcomed to the meeting.

**Apologies**

- 4.** Cllrs Josephine Spencer and Penny Astill.

**Review & Acceptance of Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 22 April 2015**

- 5.** Proposed by Mel McKechie and seconded by Danny Brennan 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 Chair reported a change in members of the Parish Council last May and welcomed 11 new Parish Councillors, who have worked with existing Councillors to form a new team. The new Council has brought along new ideas, two examples being the very successful Silver Screen Cinema and Children's films during the school holidays. There is a four year plan of aspirations and ideas, and the Council have already secured £10,000 from Tesco for the installation of public toilets at Wharf Lane Recreation Ground, and £4,000 from Fields in Trust for the Wharf Lane Play Area. As there is an urgent need for village sporting facilities the Parish Council have been lobbying the Borough Council for new facilities, and will continue to do so. Also, the Village Business Community have developed a Business Forum and is fully supported by the Parish Council. Together, bids to the local Economic Growth Board have been submitted for a rejuvenation of the village centre, a purpose built Leisure and Community Hub and secure car parking at the Railway Station. The Chair also acknowledged and paid tribute to the large number of voluntary groups who freely give so much to the community, one example being the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee. The Committee chaired by Cllr Roger Upton have done an excellent job

producing a Neighbourhood Plan which is recognised and adhered to by Rushcliffe Borough Council when making decisions on Radcliffe's future. This plan means everyone in the village can have a say in the way they wish to see the village develop over future years.

Thanks were given to all Councillors and Chairs of Committee's for their dedication and support, with special thanks to Cllr Dave Barton, the Grounds and Caretaking Staff and Jacki Grice the Clerk and her team Lisa, Sally and Jacquie for their dedication and loyalty which enables the smooth and efficient running of the Parish Office.

### **Presentation of Civic Awards**

- 7.** Civic Awards 2016 were presented by the Chairman Georgia Moore to; Bob Jones, Stephen Sugden and Philip Taylor for their work in the community.

The winner of the Young Achievers Awards 2016 was Emma Redgate for bringing back a haul of medals from the World Transplant games in Argentina

The Chairman's Group Awards presented by Chairman Georgia Moore were received by The Radcliffe Olympic Junior Football Club and The Radcliffe Speedwatch Team.

### **Committee Chairman's Reports of the Last Years Activities**

#### **8. Amenities – Cllr John Thorn**

The Amenities Committee are responsible for a large range of facilities within the village. During the last term, the Council took responsibility for two wildlife areas, namely the Lily Ponds and the Dewberry Hill area for which Management Plans have been developed. The Amenities Committee have had to balance nature conservation, whilst ensuring their community value as Leisure Amenities, and continue to improve the Woodland Walks and have installed some interesting wood sculptures for children at Rockley Park. The Streetwise Team have used the redundant greenhouses at Rockley Park for a young person's training scheme. The team have refurbished greenhouses and have grown bedding plants from seed to assist the Park Groundsmen. Improvements have been made to the safety surfaces at Valley Road playground in the village and following a bid for funding from the Fields in Trust organisation, Wharf Lane will also benefit from safety surfacing. A grant from Tesco for a 'green toilet' at the Wharf Lane playground is to be installed following further research into the most effective installation. The Council now have responsibility for the Skate Park, taken over from the voluntary group who founded and managed it for many years. As the Skate Park is used by children and young people from outside as well as locally, advice has also been sought from Rushcliffe Borough Council on how to maintain it. Streetwise have already carried out a condition survey, with a view to planning medium to long term maintenance and repair which the Parish funds. Looking after the Skate Park is a community responsibility and the Parish Council are grateful to parents and young people who are doing that.

Cllr Thorn thanked the many volunteers who have supported amenities, and the small team of Grounds Maintenance staff who keep the planting beautiful and the other facilities neat and tidy. Thanks also go to the Office Team who have managed amenities and obtained the grant funding for all the various projects.

#### **9. Finance and General Purposes – Cllr Bill Banner**

Cllr Banner reported that the Grange Hall was opened for business in 2004, and costly extensive refurbishment work for the Grange was completed a few years later. Although the Council at that time had to borrow over £700k by means of a Public Works Loan, after 12 years the debt has now been successfully reduced to some £230k.

Both buildings have been a tremendous investment and provide some of the best facilities for miles around. Their use is as popular as ever and now have an asset value nearer to £2 million today. The committee are confident that the excellent income forecast is realistic for years to come.

In addition to paying down debt, the budget is managed well, always spending within means. Former Cllr Gordon Moore is thanked for his stewardship of the Finance Committee until he stepped down last year.

The Council has not raised the precept for the last 6 years, but this year it has been increased by a very moderate £4 per annum for a Band D property.

The increase is because of a change in how the tax base is calculated. For the last 3 years a reducing transitional grant from the Borough Council has provided £18k, £15k, and £13k. However this year there is no support, therefore the £4 per annum increase replaces the £13k that is lost.

For the last 7 years the total income from the precept plus the Borough Council grant has been static at approx. £278k. For 2016/17 the budgeted income from the precept without the grant is virtually unchanged at £280k

The Statement of Activities (provided on the seats) was referred to as to which items the Parish Council are responsible for and how the money is spent. Cllr Banner invited the public to submit any queries or comments to the Parish Clerk.

#### **10. Grange and Grange Hall – Cllr Sue Clegg**

This was Cllr Clegg's first report on another busy year for both the Grange and Grange Hall. Many successful events have been held at the two buildings, one of the biggest attractions being the Silver Cinema, often needing two showings due to its popularity at the Hall. Other very successful events include a 'Youth Gig', the Village Show and 'Proms in the Grange Grounds.' Throughout the year other Parish Council events were held as usual, Cinema Nights, Children's Cinema and Fun Day, Christmas Lights Switch On, Christmas Concert and Christmas Coffee Morning. Nearly every Monday evening the Parish Council hold meetings in the Grange Radcliffe Room, to which the public is always welcome. The upgrades and maintenance for the buildings continue within budgets, and all facilities are up to date on Health and Safety and Fire and Water checks and any licences needed for Music Entertainment and the bar. There are now Suggestion Boxes in the Grange and Grange Hall and Cllr Clegg asks that the public make use of the facility as all feedback is important. In the Hall additional facilities include a projector and Gantry Lights now accessible from the Main Hall, switches to the Fans and a better Fridge Freezer. In the Grange there is a Large Screen TV in the Radcliffe Room and new Dishwasher. In the Grounds there will soon be a specially built frame to hold larger banners for one week prior to an event. For 2016/17 further maintenance and repairs to the Grange Hall are scheduled: Floor Preservation, replacement of Main Hall lights, Painting and Decorating, and the addition of a Picture Rail. Other scheduled items include Festive Bunting for the village, Cinema Shows for children in the summer holidays, and the continuation of the Silver Screen Cinema. For the last two years and the next year the Grange and Grange Hall Committees have and will work within the set budgets and the facilities the Radcliffe Parish Council offers are a great asset to the village.

#### **11. Planning and Environment – Cllr Martin Culshaw**

Cllr Culshaw reported Parish Council Planning Matters.

Planning Applications: Over 70 planning applications have been considered, most applications are not controversial, and the final decision as to whether permission is granted is down to the Rushcliffe Borough Council. Of particular interest are the ten possible sites to accommodate the minimum of 400 houses to be built in Radcliffe over the next ten years or

so. The Parish Council prefers that the houses are spread and recommends sites east to the village up Shelford Road and along Bingham Road and west of the village near the RSPCA. The Neighbourhood Plan is an important document for Radcliffe as it gives the Parish Council some control over how the village is developed in the future from a land-use perspective. The Plan is valid until 2028 and the Council is very grateful to Roger Upton and the rest of the Steering Group for preparing the document with such care and dedication. The Plan has sixteen policies covering the Village Core Recreation and Environment, Transport and Connectivity, Housing and Development and Design and Heritage. Regarding Train and Bus Services residents have ‘adopted’ the Railway Station and the Working Group are striving to improve the frequency of the train service from around six trains a day to an hourly service. There is a petition for this and for bus commuters that is available for signing tonight at this meeting. A grant has also been applied for to the Economic Growth Board to resurface, mark spaces and provide lighting and security at the Train Station Carpark. The Parish Council have also lobbied to have the bus service down Shelford Road improved back to what it was previous.

Rushcliffe Borough Council has been lobbied to change the parking regulations in the Walkers Yard and Health Centre Car Park’s. The changes have just come into effect and there is now increased parking availability at the Health Centre site. The Parish Council has approached Notts County Council about resident’s concerns of the lack of safe crossing points along Shelford Road. The Parish Council also want to see a safe road crossing installed on the A52 near the junction with Saxondale Drive for residents of Upper Saxondale.

#### **12. Presentation of the Accounts of The Trustees of the Parochial Charities**

Mel McKechnie (Trustee) explained that the Jeffrey Limmer Trust (Jeffrey Dole) is run by Trustees that live or work in Radcliffe and charitable funds are only given to the residents of Radcliffe. A brief history of the charity was discussed, and Mel confirmed that a total of £19,200 was paid out in 2015, details of how this money was spent as follows:

61 single doles paid	£9,150
18 double doles paid	£4,500
Radcliffe Manor House	£1,500
Fish Scheme	£1,500
Craig Moray	£1,500
Junior School	£25
Infants & Nursey School	£25
Parish Council Festive Tea	£500
Parish Council Silver Cinema	£500

#### **13. Appeal for Volunteers: ROT Befriending Scheme for the Elderly**

Age UK have reported a large number of elderly residents living in need for volunteers in Radcliffe. Philipa Culshaw delivered an appeal for volunteers to befriend Radcliffe on Trent elderly residents who are alone and need company.

#### **14. Radcliffe Neighbourhood Watch**

David Griffin delivered a presentation on all the work and benefits that the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme can provide. He reminded the audience that when contacting the Police to report an incident that ‘999’ should only be used when reporting an emergency, all non-urgent matters ‘101’ should be used. Any health issues the contact number to use is ‘111’.

## **15. Radcliffe Swimming Pool Association – Surplus Funds**

Nigel Buck delivered a presentation and offered surplus money following the closure of Radcliffe Swimming Pool to individuals, groups or charities in Radcliffe. The money would be given if there was a genuine need, and only if based in Radcliffe.

### **General Question Time**

#### **16. There was one written question received; In brief:**

- *There is confusion about the new signage at the Health Centre, the regulations on the large sign appears to conflict with the 2 small signs. The Chair confirms that the signs to note are the smaller signs inside the car park, 7am – 6pm, three hours parking, no return two hours and no restrictions after 6pm, and all day parking on Saturdays and Sundays.*

#### **17. Questions / Comments from the Audience:**

- *A member of the public asked if anything will be done with the results of the recent train questionnaire. Cllr Culshaw replied now is the time to lobby and make an economic case for franchise. He confirmed the Parish Council have a very strong case and evidence trains will be used more in the village.*
- *A member of the public discussed the problems she and other visually impaired residents have in the village and confirmed that Radcliffe has the most amount of guide dogs per capita in the UK. She emphasised the need for additional crossings in Radcliffe particularly on Shelford Road and needs to hear when it is safe to cross the roads. She is concerned about the plans for a pedestrianised village centre, and asks that if this happens then no through traffic should be allowed at all, as guide dogs cannot decipher dropped kerbs.*
- *A member of the public questioned the honesty integrity and true independence of the Parish Council, and asks that it names and shames the four Labour members who stood as Independents at the last Parish Council Election. Cllr Barton replied he is bemused and disappointed by the comments as it goes against everything the Parish Council have succeeded in doing this past year, keeping politics out of the Parish Council. Cllr Barton is confident of village support, and confirms it is a happy Council which works together for the good of the village. He re-confirms that political parties are inappropriate at Parish Council level and that the Parish Council should stand for service in the Community.*
- *Another member of the public thanked Radcliffe Parish Council for all the good work done for the village.*
- *A question was raised about SpeedWatch and asked whether or not Shelford Road could have Speed Cameras? Cars are still speeding in this area and it is an accident waiting to happen. PCSO Sally Charles said that a bid for Speed Cameras should be directed to Notts County Council. The Chair confirmed this issue can be listed on the next Planning Agenda.*
- *Bob Flower confirmed that he has done his own survey on the volume of traffic travelling between 7.30am and 9.30am and recorded 2400 vehicles. He believes that heavy fines would be a deterrent for speeding along the road. He would also like to see double yellow lines outside the church to stop drivers parking in that area, as it is hazardous to drive when there are so many cars parked on that stretch of road.*

- *A member of the public and his wife – who are Health Professionals attended two separate accidents on Shelford Road. He was concerned that it took between 45 and 60 minutes for an Ambulance to arrive, and asked if the Parish Council could contact anyone regarding the slow response times. This was noted and would be dealt with by the office.*
- *PCSO Sally Charles provided an update of the policing in the village. Matt Adcock has left the village and PC Mathias is leaving in a month. The main PCSO contacts are Sally Charles and Dave Weston (Cotgrave). The main priorities are anti-social behaviour, the PCSO's are aware of anti-social behaviour happening on Friday nights in the village, and know of individuals with 'Acceptable Behaviour Contracts' currently in place. It was encouraged that residents should phone 101, if they witness any anti-social behaviour in the village.*
- *Brian Ball confirmed that St Mary's Church Bells will ring between 1.30-2pm tomorrow to celebrate the Queens 90<sup>th</sup> birthday*

**18. Thanks and Meeting Close**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

8.30pm Meeting Finish

Tea and Coffee now served.

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