

Radcliffe-on-Trent Parish Council
Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting, held in the Radcliffe Room
at The Grange, on Monday 25 July 2016 at 7pm

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

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

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

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

Also Present Sally Horn (Accounts Clerk) Lisa Simpson (Grange Hall Manager) Jacquie Earp (Admin Assistant)) and Cllr Roger Upton (RBC).

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 Sue Clegg, Cllr Martin Culshaw - Approved. (Cllr David Astill (Ab))

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Spencer declared an interest at item 12 of the Agenda. (Cemetery Wall Renovations)

3. **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman confirms that just over a year ago the Parish Council inherited the 20 year old Skate Park structure along with its obvious deterioration and damage. A site meeting with Senior Members of the Borough Council and Streetwise had previously taken place, maintenance and repairs had been discussed. However through escalating damage that appears to have been caused by scooters, the park had become unsafe. Although Streetwise have made repairs, the damage had become so bad the Skate Park was closed. Along with advice from our insurers, the decision to close the Skate Park was taken by the Parish Council Office as a matter of emergency for Health & Safety reasons. This is not a permanent closure, and the Council have been looking at all the issues very seriously. There is a meeting tomorrow with the Skate Park users, also the Clerk will be obtaining professional advice on the long term solutions. It is not the intention of the Council to permanently close the park, but we now have to seek professional advice and find a way forward.

4. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 20 June 2016**

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

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

M. 7 Funding Application for Wharf Lane Rubber Crumb Safety Surface

Ongoing – The funding application for the rubber crumb was successful and the Council was awarded £4,000 for Wharf Lane.

6. **M.9 Financial Update**

-The Planters are on order.

-The CCTV for the Grange Hall and The Grange is now complete.

The Chair has concerns over the current CCTV signs which he feels are advertising the installers of the CCTV rather than warning there is CCTV in the area. Cllr Spencer suggests this is a good time to flag up the fact that two CCTV cameras are operating in the village, and further signs should be provided. The office will chase up the CCTV installers and look into providing additional signs for the village CCTV.

7. **M. 11 Lily Ponds: Relocation of Benches**

The relocation of benches at the Lily ponds has been deferred for the time being.

8. **M.16 Rockley Park – Sandstone Birdbath and Sun Dial - Payne**
Works are now complete.
9. **M. 17 Rockley Park – Ornamental Cherry Tree - Morris**
In Hand – there has been disease with the Cherry Trees in Rockley Park and four of them have had to be removed.
10. **M. 20 Radcliffe Conservation Volunteers - Update**
The shed at Rockley Park has now been built by Streetwise. The Clerk is waiting for a response from Jane Baines at NCC regarding the water drainage system at Hallow Well steps.
11. **M.23 Composting Toilet to approve specification and location and funding contribution (Tesco funding £10k)**
The grounds work for the composting toilets will be done in early August, and the toilets will be installed mid-August.
12. **M.25 Welcome Sign Planters: Shelford Road and Cropwell Road:**
The Welcome Sign Planters are on order.
13. **M.26 Report and Recommendation from the Play Area Working Group for new Equipment: To Consider**
The purchase of a Play Boat to replace the Elephant Slide at Grange Hall Grounds is in hand
14. **M.28 Other Expenditure Accrued & Approved -delegated powers to the Clerk to incur Expenditure to carry out Tasks**
All tasks are in hand. Quotes are being obtained and in some cases the works have already been done.
15. **M.29 Leisure Facilities Working Group: Update**
Cllr Jo Spencer confirms that another meeting for the Leisure Facilities Working Group will now take place after the summer holidays.
16. **Financial Update**
The Chair referred to the Amenities Financial Results table and this was discussed. Sally confirmed that April May and June are the actual figures and July onwards are the original budget, but adjusted for any real changes. Donations and budget appear to be on track. The repair bills regarding the skate park are being queried.
17. **Open Session for members of the public to raise relevant matters, limited to 15 minutes**
No items raised.
18. **Rockley Park Greenhouses Update & Formal Lease Agreement with Streetwise to Consider**
The 'Heads of Terms' document is discussed. The Chair confirms that the Clerk has a meeting with Streetwise on the 4th August, and asks this item is deferred until after this meeting. It is noted that Cllr Spencer is not happy with 'Terms (b) – that a minibus be parked adjacent to the glasshouse for a mini bus, and feels that the mini bus should left outside the park. Cllr Barton declares an interest and local knowledge, he states parking a minibus on Rockley Ave will cause traffic problems, and that the parking would be in the area the other side of the double gates – not inside the Park. Cllr Agar asks that the Heads of Terms be done by the Rushcliffe Borough Legal Department, and that a 'notional rent of £1 per year should be included to preserve the landlord and tenant relationship, otherwise it would not constitute a lease. Sally confirms that Streetwise empty the litter bins, but have now stopped litter picking at Wharf Lane and confirms Parish Council Staff now do this.
19. **Streetwise Play Area Inspections (Summary to Note)**
Noted - The Chair confirms to the Cllrs that there are a full set of Streetwise Play Area Inspections Reports and photographs in the office. The Chair confirms that after a meeting with the Clerk there should be no problems in addressing the relatively minor issues. The Cllrs note there is no date on the summary, the Chair confirms the reports were produced in May 16.

20. **Skatepark: To Consider Rate of Expenditure for Repairs, Liaison with User Groups and Future Policy**
 The warning tape surrounding the closed skate park, is now being pulled down daily. Cllr Agar suggests that the Skate Park be fenced off with proper temporary fencing and warning notices. Cllr Moore confirms that advice was taken from our insurers and that the correct procedures were taken to close the park. Cllr Agar has concerns that we are adhering to the Occupational Liability Act & Defective Premises Act, so the Office will now ask for further clarification from the Legal Dept at the Borough Council and the insurers. Cllr Spencer suggests a fence would look more permanent, and is concerned this would be taken down also. Cllr Tomlinson & Cllr Budworth have recently visited the Skate Park and have spoken to the users, she feels a fence would aggravate the current situation and Skate Park is more closed to the users. Cllr Barton agrees we have a responsibility to protect the users and that a fence should be placed at the skate park with a clear message that this is a temporary measure because of the damage they can see we are taking steps to address the situation by meeting with representatives of the users, and getting professional advice as a matter of urgency of what needs to be done and what the options are for the future, but we as a Parish Council are committed to keeping the facility open. Along with the Chairman's announcements, Social Media be updated with this information. Legal Advice to be taken as to whether fencing should be erected. Sally confirms that the legal advice up to now has been followed exactly, and that the safety tape is being done every day including the weekend. A diary containing Skate Park issues is also kept at the Office.
 It was **Resolved**: "The Council endorses the action of the Office on Thursday 21st July 2016 in closing the Skate Park at Wharf Lane Recreation Ground on Safety Grounds"
21. **Leader Funding – Extension of Purdah Period: Signage Working Group to Reconvene**
 The Office has applied for an extension of the deadline to apply for leader funding – extension of the purdah period which was the 21st July, we are currently awaiting a reply. The Signage Working Group will reconvene at their convenience. Cllr Barton will coordinate this meeting.
22. **Cemetery Entrance and Boundary Walls Repairs: To Consider**
 Cllr Spencer left the room at this point and did not return until after the Cemetery Wall discussions. The Chair and Cllr Bailey recently went to look at the wall and upon advice concluded that it didn't make sense to take off the render and re-render the wall, and was now preferable to make good any damaged bricks and redo coping stones and clean the wall with brick acid. The original requirements however did not specify this and so the Chair asks the committee considers that the original companies re submits a quotation with the new different specification.
 It was **Resolved**: " Cllr Joe Bailey to write a new specification and for all three companies to re-quote for the cemetery wall"
23. **Budget Considerations for Next Year – Suggestions raised at the last Chairs Meeting-**
 Cemetery Markers, Christmas Lights for Grange Grounds Trees, New internal Christmas Decorations, Leisure Facilities Fund, Lily Ponds Path to Weir & Pollarding, Park Bungalow Renovations, Pavilion Boards and New Gates for Rockley Centenary, Village Signage, Youth Shelter and Skate Park
 Items discussed. Cllrs asked for estimates for permanent power points for businesses in the village so they can display external Xmas decorations. Cllr Clegg to update. The Chair believes that all of the budget considerations for next year need further discussion.
24. **Leisure Facilities Working Group: Update**
 No updates from the Leisure Facilities Working Group.
25. **Councillors' Reports**
 Cllr Spencer is concerned about the graffiti on the football stand and some under the railway bridge, and needs to be removed. The Chair suggests we notify Radcliffe Olympic in the first instance, and also Network Rail.
 Cllr Leigh-Browne confirms there is a team at the Borough Council that can be contacted to tackle graffiti.
 Cllr Barton reports on the buzzards nesting in Rockley Park, who had 3 young, and 2 have now fledged. There was one young bird that didn't survive. He believes the 2 adults are still up at the Park.
 Cllr Budworth reports he was walking at Cliff Top and how beautiful the area is looking. However he was speaking to a resident who states there was a motorbike along the walk that had nearly knocked her over, and wants people to be aware of this. The Clerk has reported this issue.
 Cllr Bailey and Tomlinson went to the Infant School recently and gave an assembly to all the year one and year two children about what they liked in the playgrounds, and their preferences when and if the Council buy new playground

equipment. The Cllrs also introduced the Parish Council and all the good work that is done. The children were very enthusiastic and responsive. Thanks goes to the school staff and teachers for allowing the Cllrs to do the assembly. The Chair refers to streetwise reports and comments on what a fantastic amount of playgrounds we have in the village.

26. **Correspondence**

a) Complimentary e-mail re: Rockley Park

The Chair reads out an e-mail from a lady visiting Rockley Park. The lady states the gardens are wonderful, and thanks the groundsmen for all their hard work in making it look so beautiful.

27. **Date of Next Meeting**

19 September 2016

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed: Chairman Date