

Radcliffe-on-Trent Parish Council  
 Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting, held in the Radcliffe Room  
 at The Grange, on Monday 27 February 2017 at 7pm

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

Cllr Pam Thompson (Vice Chairman)  
 Cllr Joe Bailey  
 Cllr Graham Budworth  
 Cllr Josephine Spencer  
 Cllr Graham Leigh-Browne (A)

Cllr David Astill  
 Cllr Bill Banner  
 Cllr Alice Tomlinson  
 Cllr Keith Agar

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

Also present Jacki Grice (Parish Clerk) Jacquie Earp (Admin Assistant), RBC Cllr Upton, Primo Rose (Grounds Person) Jenny Ellis (Grounds Team Leader) and three members 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 Graham Leigh-Browne – Approved. It was noted Cllr Thorn (Chairman) would be a little late for the meeting. In his absence it was Resolved “that Cllr Barton chaired the meeting until his arrival”

2. Declarations of Interest

None received.

3. Chairman’s Announcements

The Clerk reported that the recent storms did not damage the trees in the village too badly. Residents praised the PC Ground Staff who did an excellent job in dealing with the clearance of fallen trees and branches.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 January 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.3 Wall Damage

Two quotes to repair the wall have been passed onto the London Victoria Insurers. A reply is still awaited.

6. M.6 Round Border on Front Lawn at Rockley Park

The borders raised stone work is now built and work is progressing well.

7. M.11 Play Area Working Group

No more progress has been made to date regarding the Junior School Survey’s.

8. M.20 (a) Rockley Park

There was vandalism during the half term break at Wharf Lane and Rockley Park. The new bird bath at Rockley Park was knocked over and the donator has requested that it now be kept in store until the bungalow is occupied.

9. M.20 (c) Rockley Park

The Clerk confirmed there was no problem with PC insurance regarding the formation of a Garden Volunteers Group at the Park.

10. Financial Update & To Vire Funds Within Budget: 19 Rockley Avenue

This item was deferred until later in the agenda.

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

No items raised.

12. Grass Cutting Tenders 2017-19 or 2017-21 to Consider

At this point Cllr Thorn joined the committee, expressed his apologies for being late and took over Cllr Barton as Chairman of the meeting. Three Grass Cutting Tenders were considered and the Clerk confirmed that there may be more grass cutting required at the cemetery over the year. It was decided that the three year tender option was preferable to the five year tender option.

It was Resolved: "Clerk to arrange Contractor A to provide the PC with Grass Cutting Service on a three year contract from 2017 for a total annual cost of £13,483.93, noting more Cemetery cuts may be required."

13. Grounds Staff Update Report, ,

Jenny Ellis joined the committee table to present her report.

1) Cliff Top Walk

The mud and leaves at the Cliff Top walk is currently an issue and suggestions and ideas are requested from PC Cllrs on how to best manage this area. At the moment the leaf blowers are used to direct fallen leaves through to the Cliffs, however due to the amount this is having to be done approximately twice a week which is time consuming and not a long term solution. The majority of the tree types at the Cliff Walk are beech, which release tanning that prevents grass growth beneath them. This in turn makes the area constantly muddy during the bad weather. To improve the area, Jenny suggested the beech trees be pruned back and viewing areas overlooking the River be opened up. The Chairman and Cllrs agreed this is a long term issue and will arrange the Grounds Maintenance Working Party to meet up at the Cliff Top Walk area to discuss potential solutions.

2) Wharf Lane Composting Toilet

The Composting Toilets are working ok, however there are issues concerning the cleaning. There is no running water so water has to be transported to site. The Ground Staff have dealt with some 'grim' situations and are concerned on what happens to the waste when the composting buckets are full. The Chairman confirmed that the waste should decompose over a year and a lid be placed on the bucket, and that this issue and cleaning issues should be discussed with potential solutions at a site visit following this meeting.

3) Memorial Park Security

General security at the park was discussed. Jenny was concerned there are no security lights at the park and is a struggle to see to lock up in the dark winter months. Also, following a complaint by a neighbour that his fence panel was being used for access to the park, the gates are currently left open all night. Cllrs agreed that Ground staff safety is most important during working hours, although there are no simple answers to current security problems. The Chairman suggested the Grounds Maintenance Working Party also meet at the park to discuss security and lighting.

14. Skatepark Update

Cllr Moore confirmed that she and Cllr Tomlinson, Cllr Thorn, and Cllr Barton met up with Skate Park users to discuss the temporary repairs made to the Skate Park. The repairs to the surface had revealed that the framework itself was worn and rotten. RBC has now included all Borough Skate Parks in their Leisure Strategy and funding will be available to bid for. A budget meeting has already been held but the minutes are not available as yet. The PC and Skate Park Users will put together a business case to apply for some of this funding for a new concrete Skate Park.

15. Compromised Beech Tree Valley Road: To Consider any Action

The Chairman confirmed that advice had been received from two Tree Professional's regarding the beech tree at Valley Road. It has been confirmed that the tree has honey fungus to the outside of the trunk, which means the tree is rotting from the inside. As the current quote to remove the tree is priced at £2,000 Cllrs agreed that a further two quotes should now be obtained. It was confirmed the high cost of the tree removal is due to the amount of labour involved with the sheer size of the trunk and the branches. Cllrs requested that further investigations be made to prove the tree is rotting from the inside and it has a potential danger to fall.

It was Resolved: "It was agreed in principle that the tree should be removed subject to the sourcing of three quotations/investigations and a request to F& GP Committee after the end of the financial year to ascertain if any excess funds are available".

16. Van Replacement: Update from Working Group

It was confirmed that the Van Replacement Working Group had not yet convened.

17. Christmas Lights: Update from Working Group

The Christmas Lights Working Group are due to meet on the 6<sup>th</sup> March 17.

18. Village & Lily Ponds Litter Pick Sessions: Update

Cllr Dunn confirmed that the Working Group had recently met and all was in hand for the litter pick sessions in the village to take place over the weekend of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> March 17. All e-mails had been sent to the groups involved and litter picking equipment has been purchased. There had been positive responses from all and details of the litter pick have been registered onto the 'Great British Spring Clean' website.

19. Leisure Facilities Working Group: Update

Cllr Spencer confirmed that the Leisure Facilities Working Group had convened last week and that Ken Pollard who is Sports Development Manager from 'Sport Nottinghamshire' attended and provided advice. Before moving forward £2,000 is requested from PC funds for a basic Planning Outline and Architect. It was agreed this request for additional funds should be put forward at the next F& GP meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> March along with a full report as to precisely what is needed. It was Resolved: "That the Amenities Committee make a recommendation to F&GP committee to earmark funds of £2,000 for outline planning and Architect fees for the Leisure/Community Hub."

20. Rockley Park Anniversary: To Consider Event

Cllr Barton reported that it will be the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the death of Lisle Rockley and the 90<sup>th</sup> of the opening of Rockley Park. After liaising with the Radcliffe WW1 Group, these events will be commemorated on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October 17. The Events Working Group will be meeting tomorrow to discuss further details. RBC Cllr Upton then offered a donation of £200 to support the commemorations.

21. Councillors' Reports

- Cllr Spencer confirmed that there had been minor talks with ROTSA concerning the lease at Bingham Playing Fields, talks are still ongoing with regard to a meeting of all interested parties.
- Cllr Tomlinson thanked the PC for their ongoing support towards the Skate Park Users Committee.
- Cllr Banner discussed the banner that has been displayed by Slimming World for some time at Bingham Road Playing Fields and confirmed it is situated on private land. The Clerk however, has made enquiries with the RBC as to the banners validity and is waiting for a reply.
- Cllr Barton confirmed the Youth Music Festival preparations are progressing well.

22. Correspondence:

a) Redhill Academy Trust

Noted and discussed. Cllr Culshaw noted this was a very carefully worded letter and vague in content. Cllr Culshaw recommended however, that the PC take up their invitation for a meeting.

b) Wharf Lane Car Park Signage:

This correspondence was an oral request from a resident made through the PC Office to turn the Wharf Lane car park from just users of the Wharf Lane Recreation Grounds into a general car park in order to alleviate the current parking problems in the village. Public parking is RBC responsibility, however Cllrs agreed that if this was to be done then the PC would lose this facility, so no further action will be taken in this instance.

23. Financial Update & To Vire Funds Within Budget: 19 Rockley Avenue

The Clerk confirmed that wall paper had been stripped back in all rooms of the bungalow to reveal all the plaster walls and ceilings were in a bad state of repair. It was confirmed that maintenance has not been invested at the bungalow for several years. Three contractors have been asked for quotes to re-board and skim the walls and the Clerk is currently waiting for two more responses. The PC has been advised that if the plastering is not done properly, the work will not last, so investment to do all necessary work at this stage is important. It was Resolved: "The Clerk to arrange plastering work at Rockley Park Bungalow as advised, based on the return of contractors quotations funded via net budget underspend currently forecasted at £3,926."

24. Date of Next Meeting 03 April 2017

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.17pm

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

Draft Unapproved