

Radcliffe-on-Trent Parish Council
 Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting, held in the Radcliffe Room
 at The Grange, on Monday 03 April 2017 at 7pm

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

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, Jenny Ellis (Grounds Team Leader) and two 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 John Thorn, Cllr Spencer, Cllr Graham Leigh-Browne and Cllr Alice Tomlinson, – Approved. In the absence of the Chairman of the Amenities Committee Cllr Thompson (Vice Chairman) chaired tonight's meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

None received.

3. Chairman's Announcements

A resident has contacted the office to report her older child had picked up two canisters at the children's play area in the Grange Grounds. One was found near the see-saw and another was on the grass. Although the age limit at the play area is five and under, teenagers do come into the grounds after school. The Clerk confirmed the Caretaking Staff are aware of teenagers congregating and using these canisters in the bike shed area and that the Police have been called, but have not attended. It was noted that the canisters have also been found at Wharf Lane Recreation Ground. The Chairman suggested this incident be reported to the 'Positive Futures' Group. The Clerk confirmed that following a staff meeting this morning, two incident books have been created, one for Jenny at the park and one for the Grange and Grange Hall. Cllr Agar suggested that if an incident was recorded, then it should be included in Committee Meeting Agendas.

At the Litter Pick sessions one of the residents identified a lot of rubbish under the hedge at the A52 Bingham Road Playing Fields. The Chairman mentioned this to Frank at Burleys who is the Chairman of ROTSA, who has arranged for strimming all around the hedges and to clear all the litter. ROTSA are also appointing a new Caretaker who will maintain it from then. Cllr Dunn confirmed the area has now been cleared by Streetwise and that the resident has now come forward as a Litter Pick Volunteer. At the Lily Ponds there were only a few cans and bottles to clear, and that elderly residents with thermos flasks were now using the benches. A Lily Ponds Working Group will be convened in due course.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 February 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.5 Wall Damage

Ongoing: Two quotes to repair the wall have been sent to London Victoria Insurers. They have now requested a detailed breakdown from the supplier of the cheapest quote, not received to date.

6. M.13 (1) Cliff Top Walk

The Office are currently awaiting a quote from Kent Services who provide a cleaning service via a ride-on scrubbing machine for the Cliff Walk path.

7. M.13 (3) Memorial Park Security

In Hand: A quote has been submitted after the Grounds Maintenance Working Party had met up at the park and agreed various points require Security Led lighting & PIR Detectors.

8. M.22 Redhill Academy Trust

RO TSA have already had one meeting with the Redhill Academy and are now waiting for an offer. The next meeting is on the 18th April 17. The Chairman suggested the PC should go ahead with a separate meeting to arrange when Cllr Thorn is available. It was noted that the PC represents the community and has a valid reason for a discussion with the Redhill Academy Trust.

9. M.18 Village & Lily Ponds Litter Pick Sessions: Update

Regarding the litter picking sessions over the weekend of 4th and 5th March 17, Cllr Dunn reported that there had been an excellent response from the groups and volunteers and good comments from residents in the village to say how much better the village is looking.

10. Financial Update

Noted and discussed. The village signage will be discussed later in the agenda.

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

Standing orders suspended at 7.10pm.

- Phil Taylor from RCV reported a very successful albeit very wet litter pick over the weekend of 4th & 5th March 17. Two bad areas of litter were cleared and toad count surveys had been carried out at the Lily Ponds area on the 15th March. There was approximately 120+ toads found, but not many frogs. The Group also went to Brackenhurst College on Saturday and heard the Freshwater Habitats Trust (formerly known as Pond Conservation) ask local groups to get involved providing online survey's for them over a three year period. The RCV will now do more work over the next couple of months at the Lily Ponds, the next one to be in late April. Phil Taylor will pass on these details to the Clerk when arranged.

Standing Orders resumed at 7.15pm.

12. Grounds Staff Update Report, ,

Jenny Ellis joined the committee table to present her report.

a) Wharf Lane Composting Toilets

Photographs of the composting toilets in their current state were passed round the table to assist Jenny with her report. These toilets are currently closed as there is a design fault with a flap on the toilet, which in turn makes it very difficult to clean. Also as it is a contained area if water goes in to clean, this cannot be taken out. Following a site meeting with the Chair of Amenities a number of ideas were suggested ie: the composting bins should be emptied more regularly, and an additional composting bin be purchased for human waste, this to be in one contained area. This bin is currently on order and the toilets will be potentially re-opened after this is received and the toilets are cleaned. There was concerns that there was a design fault so soon and whether the Manufacturers should be contacted. The Clerk confirmed this had been done and was advised that the tension in the spring for the flap can be adjusted. The Clerk is of the opinion that because of high usage and where the toilets are sited, the bins need to be emptied twice a week. Comparisons were made with Rushcliffe Country Park composting toilets, however this is a different 'underground' type and that it is dug out by a member of staff and sent away with the dog waste. Jenny was concerned the toilets would be used more in the summer holidays, which will add to the existing problems. Cllrs agreed it was totally unsatisfactory and unpleasant for the PC Ground Staff to manage the toilets. Toilet paper disposal is also an issue, as Ground Staff are having to remove it from the urinals on a daily basis. In view of these problems it was suggested the toilets should remain closed and a septic tank be installed. Cllr Barton asked that the Chairman of Amenities arrange a meeting with the manufacturer to discuss design faults, solutions and whether or not a septic tank can be installed to the existing system. The Clerk confirmed that NATSOL had been contacted regarding underground design who had advised that it would cost £3,500 to install. Environmental Health has also been contacted and the Clerk is currently waiting for a reply. It was agreed the safety of the staff comes first before the toilets are re-opened.

b) Valley Road Sink Hole

The tarmac is starting to lift again at the site of the Valley Road sink hole, when heavy rain and debris gushes down the slope from Valley Road. Jenny suggested that a drain be installed at the gate to drain off to the wooded area at the side. Cllr Culshaw agrees this is a sensible idea, however he is concerned about the water source and pipe drainage beneath the surface. The boundary needs to be confirmed and the residents of Valley Road will be contacted in the first instance then a quote will be sourced for the work.

13. Skatepark Update

The Skate Park users are hoping to complete their repairs by Sunday May 28th, and are having a 'Jam' to celebrate the re-opening of the Skate Park. There will be more details coming soon. Cllr Moore confirmed that a funding request letter had been sent to RBC after a meeting with the Skate Park users, statements from the users were also enclosed with the letter, but there had not been a reply to date. The 'Jam' is an opportunity for experienced Skate boarders to demonstrate their skills, and for less experienced users to have a go.

14. Beech Tree Valley Road: To Consider Quotations and Action

Noted and discussed. The Clerk confirmed the PC can only claim vat if the contractor is vat registered. Jenny confirmed that she had met with all three contractors and that they had all agreed that the beech tree aged 150 years old is already dying on the inside, so to inject a tree of this style to test if it is dead would be a waste of time. Jenny also advised on the methods the companies would use according to its size.

It was Resolved: "It was agreed that Contractor A remove the compromised Valley Road Beech Tree according to their specification for a total cost of £1,450 plus vat".

15. Christmas Lights: Update from Working Group

The 6th March report from the Christmas Lights Working Group was noted and discussed. The electrician who puts the Christmas lights up at the Grange has reported the current Christmas lights at the Grange are on a limited life. However, the report suggests the entrance at the bottom of the drive to have lighting on both sides. The Clerk confirmed that there is only £400 in the budget to cover any additional lights. Also, if the PC were to purchase Christmas trees for the village businesses this would use up the available £400. It was suggested that a bigger Christmas tree be placed in the grounds this year as it was too small last year. Again the PC is constrained by budget, and any additional funding would be reliant upon County and Borough Councillors. Cllr Moore will arrange a further meeting between the PC and Business Forum via Harry Hughes to discuss further in particular with a view to contact Tesco for decorating the cherry trees in their grounds with lights. The Clerk will also speak to Tesco concerning their wall that has been damaged for a long time.

16. Leisure Facilities Working Group: Update & Confirmation of Working Group Membership

Cllr Barton attended the last Leisure Facilities Working Group meeting and provided an update. It was a very positive meeting that brought together members of the PC, the Football Club, Skate Park, Scouts and public. Architects and designers also attended and provided ideas as to what form the Leisure Hub could take. The Clerk has contacted the Planning Department at RBC for advice on outlining planning /pre planning applications. The Experts at the meeting were very keen to do the work involved at this stage, however their fees are above the PC budget. There is still further clarification to be done. It was noted that Cllr Spencer had previously approached ROTSA, who were happy to be part of the working Group membership. The Clerk confirmed that there had only been one quote of £3,500 from one group of Architects to date, this cost cannot be measured until the PC receive advice from RBC Planning Department. Cllr Agar confirmed that whilst outline planning detail is minimal, there is a requirement for a Transport Survey and an Environmental Impact Statement which take work and are expensive. It was agreed that further clarification is required before any planning application is submitted. It was agreed the members of the PC Working Group will be Cllr Thorn, Cllr Spencer Cllr Thompson, Cllr Barton and Cllr Agar and the Clerk will now contact RBC Liaison Officer Dave Mitchell to arrange a Planning Application clarification meeting.

17. Rockley Park Anniversary Events: Update

An Events meeting has been held and the Chairman reported South Notts Academy are able to provide a 'Swing Band' made up of year 7-9 age group for the Picnic in the Park event. The Swing Band are keen to get involved however they only have a 15-20 minute repertoire. Cllr Barton has also asked the U3a Ukulele band to attend. Both are dependent on availability. Cllr Barton also suggested 'ensemble' bands taken from the larger Nottingham Silver Band and the Gedling Band attend the picnic. The Clerk and Grange Hall Manager will investigate the possibility of a Headline Act for the event asap. Regarding the commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the death of William Rockley and the 90th year of the opening of Rockley Park, a decedent of William Rockley's sister has been found and will be attending on

Sunday 15th October 17. The family member will allow the PC to display the Military Cross that was awarded to William Rockley, the first to be awarded to a Nottinghamshire Soldier. The ceremony sword worn when receiving the Military Cross will also be allowed to be displayed and a scrapbook containing stories, photographs and national newspaper cuttings about the opening of Rockley Park will be loaned to the PC for the exhibition. Copies will be taken for Radcliffe history records. It is also hoped that Jenny will speak about future PC plans for the park.

18. Best Kept Village Competition 2017: To Consider Entry

It was agreed that Radcliffe enter the Best Kept Village 2017 Competition. It is proposed that a litter pick will be organised for Saturday 3rd June, however another Litter Pick Working Group will convene and decide definite dates.

19. Supporting Local Communities: Outcome of Signposting Radcliffe Bid

Noted and discussed. As the application request of £10,000 for Supporting Local Communities Grant for Radcliffe Signage was refused it was still hoped the match funding figure of £6,790 would be spent on essential village signage. The signage Group will therefore reconvene to discuss costings and details of the exact signage required for Radcliffe.

20. Councillors' Reports

- Whilst litter picking, the Chairman witnessed horses trotting fast in bad weather along Cliff Walk which is not allowed. This is being pursued by the PC, although numbers are unclear, the time and the day this happened is known.
- Cllr Budworth confirmed that the underside of the bridge at Wharf lane has now been painted in dark green today.

21. Correspondence:

- The Guide Leader and two Girl Guides came to the Litter Pick and asked if they could something in the summer months for the PC Litter Pick as part of their badge work. The Clerk has been contacted by the Guides who have confirmed they would like to do a Wednesday after the half term holiday. This may fall later than the proposed litter pick at the beginning of June, so Cllr Dunn requested they Guides be re contacted to arrange a mutually convenient date.
- A resident has asked if a fence can be placed around the Grange Play Park to ensure the safety of any 5 year and under aged children whilst playing. The Resident will be contacted to advise this issue will now be referred to the next Play Working Group meeting.
- Cllr Dunn asked if a request for a new litter bin at Hudson Way had been actioned. The Clerk confirmed this will be raised on the next Amenities agenda, quotes to be sourced.

Resolved: The chairman to move that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of item 18 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960.

22. Staffing Matters: Update

Members received an update from Cllr Barton on recent Staffing issues. The Personnel and Wages Sub Committee have yet to meet to consider in detail.

23. Date of Next Meeting 19 June 2017

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

Signed: Chairman Date