

Radcliffe-on-Trent Parish Council
Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting, held in the Radcliffe Room
at The Grange, on Monday 22 January 2018 at 7pm

Cllr John Thorn (Chairman)(L)	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
Cllr Jean Robinson (A)	Cllr Josephine Spencer	Cllr Keith Agar
Cllr Gillian Dunn	Cllr Graham Leigh-Browne (A)	Cllr Sue Clegg

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

Also present Jacki Grice (Parish Clerk), Jacquie Earp (Admin Assistant), RBC Cllr Roger Upton, Jenny Ellis (Grounds Team Leader) Matt Williams (Grounds Staff) and 2 members of the public.

1. Apologies

Cllr Georgia Moore, Cllr Jean Robinson and Cllr Graham Leigh-Browne – Approved. The Chairman sent his apologies as he was running late due to traffic problems. In the Chairman's absence Vice Chairman Cllr Pam Thompson chaired tonight's meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

None received.

3. Chairman's Announcements

There were no Chairman's announcements.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 November 2017, for approval

Resolved: "That the minutes are approved and signed by the Chairman."

5. Clerk's report on items arising from these minutes:

M.5: The work at the Cliff Top Path is now finished and the banking will be seeded in the spring by Carnell.

M.5 (M.8): Moss removal will now be carried out 'in house' as contractor quotations were beyond PC budget restraints.

M.5 (M.11) There has still been no response from ROTSA regarding the installation of two new pieces of adult fitness equipment at Wharf Lane. Cllr Thompson advised there had been unexpected additional installation costs that ROTSA had not unbudgeted for.

M.5 (M.15): Specialist Contractors (Skillington's) have only been able to visit today to quote for the work required at St Mary's Church Memorial.

M.9 The PC has received and banked a donation of £300 from the 'Greening Campaign in Radcliffe' for the RCG. Previously there was a suggestion the PC could also hold funds for the Friends of the Railway Group, however the Clerk has heard nothing from the group to date.

6. Financial Update April – December 2017

Noted, discussed and accepted. It was noted there had been an additional expenditure of £4,000 for the Bungalow restoration. This money was drawn from the anticipated year end net budget of all PC Committees, and it was noted the current forecast would be at 100% if there had been no restoration required. An under spend in contract mowing was identified, which may now be available to fund other amenities. Cemetery expenditure was difficult to forecast as there has been a lot more burials than anticipated this year. Cllr Spencer requested that the forecast figures be separated more against the 'year to date figures,' by inserting an additional line. The Clerk agreed to look into this and the Chairman then joined the committee table and suggested this change be brought to the next F&GP Committee meeting for discussion and a decision on a general policy as to how this should be presented.

7. Open Session for members of the public to raise relevant matters, limited to 15 minutes
Standing Orders were suspended at 7.12pm

- A member of the public expressed his concern over the limited opening hours at Rockley Park, and the lack of consultation with residents, he also said there was concerns about this from other people in the village. The Chairman confirmed that consideration would be given to the request and he would receive a full written response.
RBC Cllr Roger Upton reported:
- He attended a meeting at Bingham TC with Robert Generic MP, Highways England and other representatives, regarding the difficulties of commuting and the increase of traffic along the A52 from Bingham through Radcliffe and into Nottingham. This issue could either go to the Radcliffe or Bingham Growth Board or a joint liaison.
- Was pleased Radcliffe was the first to receive the maximum amount of funding from RBC for the new Skatepark.
- There is a 'Tree fund' of £50,000 available over 3 years for Parishes, individuals and residents who would like to see one, or a group of trees in a public space.
- Single use plastic has been stopped at The Arena, and is being 'rolled out' for all RBC assets. All PC's will receive a letter asking them to debate single use plastic.
- STW are currently working on Bingham Road outside the school gates and it is a concern that lining is being used again as this collapses and causes blockages, when a new pipe should be installed instead. Adam Greest has been contacted and NCC Cllr Cutts has been copied into this correspondence.
- The path outside the church graveyard wall has now been hand swept of fallen leaves (end to end) by Streetwise and now looks a lot better.
- Philip Taylor from the RCG confirmed a few donated tools has been cleaned and marked up. It was requested that all tool donations be discussed with him first, as it takes time to assess all the items. There is a provisional date agreed of Sunday 8th July for an afternoon nature walk at Dewberry Hill, with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust. The Nottinghamshire Bat Group have agreed in principle to run a 'Bat Walk', this will probably be in May 18. Sometime in March there will be a small amphibian survey also with NWT. This Thursday 25th January 18, additional litter picking will take place near to Radcliffe Weir. Cllr Thompson noted that the Nature Walk planned for the 8th July coincided with the PC's 'Picnic in the Park' event at Rockley Park. Phil Taylor will make all aware of this. It was noted that not all people taking part in previous Nature Walks were Radcliffe residents.

Standing Orders were re-instated at 7.30pm

8. Grounds Staff Update Report - Notice Board, Bed Designs & Other Matters
To Consider Pigeon Issues at the Cemetery

The Chairman invited Jenny Ellis to join the Committee table.

Jenny confirmed that pigeons are roosting in the large trees to the right of the Cemetery driveway, and that the paved memorial area and benches beneath the trees were constantly being damaged by acidic pigeon droppings. This area is having to be cleaned up every two weeks as it looks unpleasant and is thick with bird droppings. Previously spikes were placed in the trees as a deterrent but have all fell out over time. It has also been noticed the amount of roosting birds have increased from last year and Jenny asked the Cllrs for solutions. Cllr Banner recalled the spikes being placed in the trees, and confirmed that although the spikes were not costly it is time consuming in labour to fix them to branches. The Chairman noted this and this problem will now be raised at a future Cemetery Working Group meeting.

9. Friends of Rockley Park Update

There will be a first meeting for the Friends of Rockley Park this Thursday 25th January. There has been a good response and there are currently 22 volunteers listed. 3 'Friends' have definitely confirmed

they will attend on Thursday and abilities will be assessed for the variety of jobs to work on. Jenny will provide an update for the next Amenities meeting. The Chairman suggested volunteers should confirm with Jenny if they are attending work sessions and that one of the volunteers should represent the group for ease of contact.

10. Other Matters Arising

A meeting has been held with Notts Wildlife Trust who advised Jenny of the types of plants to plant to reduce brambles following the Cliff viewing gallery clearance. An application for bird box funding at Rockley Park and Cliff Top Walk will also be applied for via the Wildlife Trust. The Rockley Park Notice Board is being refurbished at the moment and the flower beds will also be raised with extra top soil. It was noted there is an increased amount of dog fouling on PC land at Rockley Park, and Cliff Walk. It may appear worse this year because the fallen leaves at Cliff Walk have been left, however dog mess is also left in other areas. Cllrs agree this is becoming a serious issue and that Social Media such as 'The Fountain', PC Newsletter and PC Website should be used to bring this problem to the attention of dog owners. In order to obtain a Public Spaces Protection Order, evidence is required in the form of photographs and recorded complaints. Cllr Tomlinson reported she had already seen complaints about dog fouling in Radcliffe on 'The Fountain' and suggested that resident complaints need to be directed at RBC and not just through Social Media. The Chairman agreed to write a statement about the increased dog fouling in the village for the Clerk to publish via the PC Newsletter, The Fountain and PC Website. Cllrs then referred back to the issue of opening hours of Rockley Park and agreed that they should close at dusk, or 8pm whichever is the earliest. There is a PC policy of park opening hours, however the gates were kept open for a long period of time when the Bungalow was not occupied. Cllr Barton confirmed the opening hour's large sign had been moved from the main gates out of sight, so requested 3 signs for all three gates should be put back. The Chairman agreed the opening hours should be consistent with the Cemetery opening hours, however this issue will be discussed further at the next Amenities Committee meeting.

11. Lily Ponds

Tree Work: To Consider Work Required and Designated Funds

It was proposed to contract EMEC to carry out a full day's clearance. Discussions took place on the merits of day rates and fixed price quotes. The Clerk confirmed that funds of £2,093 were available in restricted reserves to carry out the work at the Lily Ponds

Cllr Culshaw proposed an amendment to the motion, seconded by Cllr Thompson to contract EMEC for a full 3 days clearance. It was

Resolved: "That the PC take up the professional advice and service offer in accordance with the schedule provided by Dave Sutton at EMEC Ecology at a total cost of £2,481.00 plus vat for 3 days work, funded from the Canal and River Trust Donation and the remaining balance from the Grounds Maintenance Budget."

12. Four Bench Area – Clearance Considerations – Grass Cutting / Weed Killer

Noted and discussed. The Chairman noted this is a large area that was cut twice last season. The professional advice received from Dave Sutton at EMEC Ecology is that unless this area is cut continuously, then a chemical treatment could be used, however this space would still need cutting. Cllrs generally agreed this area is not being effective as a picnic area, there are not good views of the river and that it is best for it to go back to nature. It was Resolved: "That the Four Bench area at the Lily Ponds should not be cleared back by grass cutting or weed killing, and therefore be left to return back to nature"

13. Radcliffe Conservation Group

Litter Pick 04 March 2018

There is a Village Litter Pick on Saturday 3rd March 2018 10am – 12noon and at the Lily Ponds on Sunday 4th March 2018, 10am – 12noon.

14. Update on Recent Work

There had been a work session carried out by the RCG earlier this month whereby bark chippings had been placed at the bottom of Hallowell steps, which has made it passable. Attractive fencing has also been created in that area, using the cut back branches. The next work session is on Sunday 4th February and the group will meet at 10am at the Pavilion.

15. To Consider Insurance Implications of Using Power Tools.

Noted and discussed. It was noted that the RCG had been looking into the potential of RBC grant funding for power tools so that the RCG can do more with their time. If the RCG was added to PC Insurance, then Risk Assessments would have to be carried out and the volunteers be trained which is costly. The PC is also currently undergoing its own risk assessment and requires compliance for its PC staff which is a big commitment alone. The PC however appreciated and thanked the RCG for all their work.

Standing Orders suspended at 8.10pm

- Philip Taylor commented that EMEC may do simple training in the use of power tools, and suggested that he would make an application to RBC for grant funding.

Standing Orders were re-instated at 8.15pm

It was Resolved: "The PC will not allow volunteers to use power tools on PC land without previous conversation with the Clerk"

16. General Tree Policy: To Consider

Noted and considered. It was Resolved: "The PC made a policy 'in principle' to replant at least one new tree in Radcliffe if a tree was felled and for the Clerk to apply to the tree fund to fill the empty gap with new trees at the boundary of Dewberry Hill and Radcliffe Golf Club."

17. Wharf Lane SkatePark Update

Cllr Thompson thanked RBC for the contribution of £125,000 to build a new skatepark at Wharf Lane, and bids have now be applied by the Skatepark Working Group to other funders, that equates to an overall total of £275,000. The British Legion also had a joint fundraising night for the Skatepark and Macmillan on Saturday 20th January which was a good event and very well attended.

18. Christmas Lights: Report & Recommendation from the Working Group

Noted and discussed. It was agreed that another meeting is needed and that the Clerk should attend as there are still outstanding issues to deal with for the 2018 Christmas Lights.

19. Radcliffe Olympic Football Club: Report & Recommendation from the Working Group

The Clerk noted that although reviewed, the Pavilion lease had remained at £400 since 2011. Regarding the pitch rental, the 'regular user' element has stopped, so has increased 10% in the past year. A summary of how Radcliffe Olympic Football Club input funds and work since 2011 has also not been forthcoming. It has been difficult to compare Radcliffe with other neighbouring Parishes, as most have purpose built /staffed facilities. If the Leisure Hub also comes to Wharf Lane, then circumstances will change, until then the payment terms are reviewed every 3 years and the current lease expires in February 2020.

20. Village Signage: Report & Recommendation from the Working Group

It was noted that an application has been submitted to the NCC Local Improvement Scheme for £10,000 as a contribution to village signage and walking trail leaflets.

21. The Grange: Lighting Columns continuing failures: To Consider LED

Noted and discussed. A quote has been received from NCC with the option of replacing the lanterns in the Grange Grounds 'like for like' (option 1) or to replace with LED lanterns (option 2).

It was Resolved: "The PC agreed for NCC to replace the Grange Grounds faulty existing lanterns with LED lanterns at a lump sum price quotation of £895.79 plus vat (funds vired from Grounds Mowing budget)."

22. Bingham Road Playing Fields: To Arrange a Meeting with ROTSA

Noted and discussed. The Chairman confirmed that at the last meeting ROTSA had not been able to progress the lease position, therefore another meeting is required to discuss further options. It was Resolved: "The Clerk will now arrange a meeting between ROTSA representatives and PC Cllrs, namely Cllr Thorn, Cllr Barton, Cllr Spencer and Cllr Thompson."

23. Cemetery

To Arrange a Working Group Meeting

The Cemetery Working Group will arrange to convene at the end of tonight's meeting.

24. To Consider Audit and Mapping Proposal

The PC invested in PEAR digital mapping some time ago, in order to map the Cemetery. A spread sheet has been produced from all the old records, but this cannot be digitised until the PC is sure all information is correct. It is painstaking, detailed methodical work that will have to be done section by section to ensure all information is correct. Because of the extent of the work, the office cannot undertake this task, so it is suggested this is carried out as a 'one off' project with somebody who has an interest and an eye for detail. The PC has approached Marion Caunt from the Local History Society informally, and the project may take 4-6 weeks in total. The Cemetery Working Group recently met and it was agreed in principle that the digital Cemetery mapping be a paid 'one off' project. It was noted that the Chairman and Cllrs were in strong support of the Cemetery Working Group decision and also that Cllr Culshaw and Cllr Spencer agreed to be involved in the project. The F&GP Committee would finalise the budget decision.

25. Leisure Hub: Update

Cllr Spencer confirmed that a large amount of work had already been done, and it was important that another meeting was arranged for Cllrs Thorn, Thompson, Barton, Agar, Budworth, and Spencer to attend. This will be arranged after tonight's meeting.

26. Correspondence For Action

Fields in Trust: Centenary Fields (Rockley Memorial Park)

Noted and discussed. It was noted that if land is designated then it is forbidden to build on this land and that may be an issue for Wharf Lane which has been previously designated by Fields in Trust. It was agreed that a follow up email be sent to Angela Lewis requesting further details and information and to discuss Wharf Lane land via the Clerk.

27. Councillors' Reports

- Cllr Thompson noted 'Danger' signs whilst carrying out a litter pick on the Cliff Path. Jenny Ellis confirmed these were left over by the contractors, and they have now been disposed of.
- Cllr Culshaw has had photographs sent to him regarding the work on the sewer outside the Infant School on Bingham Road. This is a 'trigger' to ask Adam Greest from STW to send a report. The Clerk confirmed she has not been successful in contacting him after two weeks, but will keep trying.
- Cllr Banner attended a joint Cllr Surgery morning on the 13th January. There was only one caller and his view is that the Surgeries should be 'By Appointment Only' via the PC website or Noticeboard. The Chairman advised Cllr Banner should make this proposal to Full Council.
- Cllr Bailey reported that he removed the old rotten Whipping Post last Tuesday, and that a new Whipping Post will be in place tomorrow morning.
- Cllr Clegg confirmed that all Cllrs should have the minutes from the Nottinghamshire Police Setting meeting, and that crime is down.

28. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 26 February 2018 There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed: ChairmanDate