

Radcliffe-on-Trent Parish Council
Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting, held in the Radcliffe Room
at The Grange, on Monday 26 February 2018 at 7pm

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

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

Also present Jacki Grice (Parish Clerk), Jacquie Earp (Admin Assistant), and 6 members of the public.

1. Apologies
Cllr David Barton, Cllr David Astill, Cllr Keith Agar, Cllr Graham Leigh-Browne – Approved.
2. Declarations of Interest
None received.
3. Chairman's Announcements
There were no Chairman's announcements.
4. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 January 2018, 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: ROTSA have now ordered the two new pieces of adult fitness equipment for the Wharf Lane Recreation area. It will take 11 weeks for delivery for the new Rower and Exercise Bike.
M.7: Adam Greest from STW will be attending the next Planning & Environment meeting on Monday 5th March 18.
M.8: At a recent Cemetery Working Group meeting, it was agreed to move one of the two benches badly affected by pigeon droppings to a slightly different place in the paved memorial area to avoid the roosting birds.
M.9: The Friends of Rockley Park meet every last Thursday in the month, and it was confirmed four volunteers attended last week.
M.11: Photographs of the completed tree work at the Lily Ponds was shown to the Cllrs. EMEC took much less time than first thought, so there will be a reduction in the cost. The river could now be seen from the bank, and Cllrs agreed that a great job had been done.
M.16: RBC Tree Planting Scheme: Potentially hundreds of trees will be planted in Radcliffe, which in turn will make the RBC Tree Policy irrelevant i.e.: planting at least one tree if another is felled.
M.19: Radcliffe Olympic Football Club are in the process of clearing Wharf Lane Lock up. On Wednesday 28th February, there is a periodical Electrical Test and a Legionella Report, which is due after the refurbishment of the plumbing system.
M.21: The order for The Grange Lighting Columns has been placed, but the work has still not been carried out. This is being chased weekly by the Office.
M.24: The Cemetery PEAR mapping project has been delayed due to the wet weather since Christmas, however Marion Caunt from the Local History Society is still keen to continue with the project.
M.26: There has been no update with The Fields in Trust for Rockley Memorial Park, due to time constraints.
6. Financial Update April 2017 - January 2018
Noted and accepted.

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

Standing Orders were suspended at 7.08pm

- A resident referred to the current opening hours of Rockley Memorial Park, and it was his view that the Park Gates should be left open at all times and that the PC had not given any valid reason why this should not be done. He noted complaints about the opening hours had started in November 17 and it was now February 18, and still nothing had been decided. He confirmed that when the Park gates are closed, access to the Cliffs can only be made from Grandfield Avenue or Cliff Drive.
- Phil Taylor (RCG) thought the current Rockley Park Opening Hours were restrictive and that residents are deprived from an evening stroll in the summer if the gates are closed at 8pm.
- Greg Chapman from The Radcliffe Angling Society stated that a 4pm close time was inconvenient for his members, as the quickest access to the Lily Ponds is through the Park itself. He requested that closing restrictions should be at dusk.
- A resident had met a non-resident of Radcliffe walking down Grandfield Avenue looking how to get back to her car on Rockley Avenue, after the Park gates had closed before the specified time. The resident was concerned this had happened and confirmed the gates are not always locked or opened at the times specified.
- A resident confirmed there had been plenty of correspondence between himself and the PC concerning the current Rockley Park opening hours. Confirmation had arrived today from the City Council stating the Embankment Memorial Park is never closed and has 24-hour pedestrian access.
- Phil Taylor (RCG) agreed there should be set closing times due to vandalism issues and pointed out that PC Ground Staff who are living and working at the Park would have to deal with any vandalism late at night. It was also noted that during half term school holidays, brash and structures had been pulled apart and snowdrops had been hacked up from the ground around the area where RCG had worked at the Lily Ponds and it was confirmed there had been a few tool donations recently made to the group. A request was made to borrow PC wheelbarrows for transporting bigger items of litter after the litter pick and it was also confirmed that the flyer to hand out to volunteers for the Litter Pick this weekend was in hand.

Standing Orders were re-instated at 7.18pm

8. Grounds Staff Update Report and To Note Grange Hall Lighting Vandalism 16.02.18

In the absence of the Ground Staff from tonight's meeting, the Clerk provided an update. A Grounds Maintenance Working Group meeting will take place this Wednesday (28th February), and there had been no recent major incidents to report except four of the Grange Hall exterior building lights had been vandalised on the 16th February. The offenders were not captured on CCTV as unfortunately this area of the Hall/Grounds was not covered. Cllr Thompson suggested 'Positive Futures' are made aware of this vandalism.

9. Rockley Memorial Park: Opening/Closing Times & Signage – To Consider

Noted and discussed. The discussion included:

- Whether the Park should be open 24 hours
- Whether there should be definite specific opening and closing times
- Historic vandalism and Police call out issues to vandalism - if no specific gate closure times
- The potential of flexible working hours for Grounds Staff
- Consideration and Duty of Care to the Ground Staff who live in the PC Bungalow and work at the Park
- The definition of dawn, dusk and sunset and the period of time it takes for all three to occur.
- Insurance issues
- The uniqueness of the Park i.e. PC Ground Staff living on the premises

- New signs to all Park entrances, and signs that have gone missing from Cliff Walk
- Comparisons of the Cemetery opening hours with the Park

After noting the comments of all Cllrs, the Chairman proposed the closing times should be based on sunset hours and the "Rockley Memorial Park be opened at 8am and closed at 9pm or sunset (if earlier) for all year" was not carried.

After further discussion and debate it was Resolved: "That from November until January, Rockley Memorial Park is opened at 8am in the morning and closed 4.30pm, from February until March, opened at 8am and closed at 6.00pm, from April until August opened from 8am and closed at 9pm, and from September until October opened at 8am and closed at 6pm. These opening times will be reviewed after being tried out for a year."

10. Wharf Lane

Skatepark Update & Public Consultation Event – Saturday 3rd March 10-4pm

Cllr Tomlinson reported that a Public Consultation Event will take place this Saturday at Grange Hall from 10am – 4pm regarding the design of the new Radcliffe Skatepark. There will be free refreshments for all those attending and a chance for everybody to put forward their ideas. Although the Skatepark Committee have ideas in mind for the new facility, it is important that all views are included. STW are still yet to respond regarding the logistics of the culvert beneath the current SkatePark for the new concrete facility.

11. Pavilion Health & Safety Update

The Clerk confirmed that a full Health & Safety Fire Risk Assessment does not need to be carried out at the Pavilion as this criteria only applies to a workplace.

12. Cemetery: Report from The Working Group Meeting Held 16 February 2018 and to Consider Policy, Enforcement and Noticeboards

Noted and discussed. Following the Cemetery Working Group meeting, the Chairman confirmed that all the work required at the Cemetery is a long term project, and it is the responsibility of the PC to systematically approach this. It was also confirmed that Marion Caunt from the Local History Society was helping to map the Cemetery. Members were advised that approx 90 graves were contravening Cemetery Rules and Regulations which are provided to purchasers and a copy is present at the Watering Station. Photographs showed unidentified pots, bags of dumped cannabis, pigeon damaged benches, old Headstone rubble, wreaths held with tent pegs and graves not in keeping with the Cemetery lawn regulations. The Clerk also confirmed there had been a 50% increase of pots on plots this year. Cllrs were sympathetic and agreed it was an emotive subject and that many grave owners were still grieving. It was suggested therefore that they are contacted and invited to a meeting so that the rules and regulations can be explained in person instead of a graveside notice. The Clerk confirmed this task would be time consuming and lengthy for PC staff as only records are kept on owners and often they are already in the plot. Another suggestion was for the local undertaker to contact the owners or relatives instead. The Clerk asked the Chairman for clarity in Ground Staff duties in the present circumstances, as some issues are more urgent than others. It was suggested that those pots already moved to the Watering Station be moved after a couple of weeks, a notice will advise this. Other issues will be considered at the next Strategic meeting.

13. Leisure Hub: Report from the Working Group Meeting Held on 06 February 2018

There was no progress update available, however the next Leisure Hub Working Group Meeting will be held on March 6th and an update will be provided after that time.

14. Lamp Column Poppies for Remembrance Sunday & WW1 Group Wreath Project: To Consider

Noted and discussed. The Clerk confirmed other villages in Rushcliffe had large lamp column poppies for last year's Remembrance Sunday, and that Radcliffe has the opportunity to purchase the poppies at a cost of £3.00 each. It was confirmed that approximately 20 poppies would be required to cover all four entrances to the village. Cllr Spencer suggested the poppies could be sponsored/purchased by individuals and was happy to sponsor/purchase a poppy in memory of her grandfather. It was also suggested this idea could also be raised at the APM in April.

It was Resolved: "That the PC purchase 20 Lamp Column Poppies for Remembrance Sunday & WW1 Group Wreath Project at a cost of £3.00 per poppy to be placed on lampposts from Walkers Yard to the British Legion and for Cllr Spencer to be responsible for the Poppy Sponsorships."

15. RO TSA Bingham Road Lease: Update

Cllr Thompson who is the PC Representative went to the last ROTSA Bingham Road Lease meeting, however there was no further progress to report. The draft Lease application is still under review by the Education Funding Agency.

16. RBC Tree Promotion Scheme: Update and Considerations

RBC is investing £50,000 into the scheme. Initial suggestions will be considered early autumn. Cllr Upton has put forward the following areas for Radcliffe so far. Upper Saxondale, Wharf Lane Railway Line Boundary, Vicarage Lane, Bottom of Cliffs, Brickyard Lane and Dewberry Hill.

17. Dog Fouling Orders: To Note Current Status

Many areas in the village have been identified as designated areas, however Dewberry Hill has not been identified as there are no hard pathways running through the area. The RBC Dog Warden has sent the PC a quantity of self-adhesive 'dog fouling prohibited' notices for display on lampposts, however more hardwearing/permanent notices are needed. The Clerk will now email the RBC to clarify the areas designated in Radcliffe and to suggest adding Saxondale Play Area to the list.

18. Radcliffe Conservation Group: Update and Report on Meeting Held with Angling Society and PC on 20 February 2018

The Chairman confirmed that it was a very useful meeting on the 20th February; areas discussed included the use of power tools, insurance liability and risk assessments. It was agreed that Phil Taylor from the RCG would now make enquiries with other Conservation Groups on their arrangements for using power tools, and confirmation regarding the insurance is also expected from Greg Chapman at the Angling Society. In the meantime, the PC Ground Staff will be attending a Brush Cutting Course, so it was suggested they would be able to clear large areas of ground in advance of a Volunteers Work Session. A Welcome Pack is also being developed for new volunteers and the next meeting will be in March.

19. St Marys Churchyard Cenotaph: Restoration Information to Note & Consider Any Further Action

Noted and discussed. It was noted that Skillington's had quoted for the Cenotaph to be fully restored and cleaned. Cllrs agree that further quotes should be obtained for restoration work only, as it should be structurally sound but not cleaned as it would be in keeping with the rest of the churchyard masonry. The work should not just be funded by the PC but should be partnership project with other Radcliffe Groups. The War Memorial Trust and NCC Local Improvement Scheme were also suggested as funding sources. The Clerk would put the item on the Agenda again when all quotes are received.

20. Play Equipment Working Group: Results of Junior School Survey

Noted and discussed. The results of the Junior School Survey will be considered at the next Play Working Group meeting. Cllr Clegg also noted that ROTSA allows the use of its Brumfit Room for Radfest who are working on a project for a Youth Group for younger children.

21. Ride on Mower: To Revisit the Decision to Sell at the Request of Cllrs Barton, Spencer & Banner

Noted and discussed. The Clerk confirmed the Ride on Mower was now fully serviced. Although it had been previously suggested the Mower should be sold, Cllrs were now of the view that staff should be encouraged to use it for mulching up the leaves on the Cliff Path and other extra grass work. It was Resolved: "That the PC support keeping the Ride on Mower for one year, then for the Ground Staff to report back with an update on its usage and performance."

22. Safety Shield Health and Safety Consultants: To consider Email re: Moss

The Clerk confirmed the moss growth problem is getting worse and that there had been an insurance claim from a lady who had broken her wrist after slipping on it at Rockley Park 2 years ago. A quote to

clear the PC pathways affected by moss, had been previously received from Kent Services. They are experienced and use a hot pressure washer built into their own equipment/machine. It is proving back breaking and time consuming work for the Ground Staff to remove, so this issue will be now further discussed at the Grounds Maintenance Working Group meeting on Wednesday 28th February.

23. Christmas Lights: Report from the Working Group held 20 February 2018 and To Accrue Net Budget Funds of £2,000 for 2018/19 Scheme.

Cllr Clegg had revisited Businesses regarding this year's Christmas Lights and had a mixed response to the previous suggestion of lights in shop windows instead of lamppost motifs. There are available funds via the Year End Committee Net Budget to increase the overall 2018/19 budget as it was decided at the Christmas Lights Working Group meeting on the 20 February to look again at lamppost motif decorations for 2018. Meetings will be held with suppliers at the beginning of April, and a full proposal will be made for the next Amenities meeting on the 9th April 2018.

24. Whipping Post: To Note Refurbishment – To Consider Updating Plaque

Noted and discussed. Cllrs agreed the current plaque for the newly refurbished Whipping Post was now factually incorrect. Investigation would be made to acquire some historical interest information before organising a new one. Potential funders for the new plaque are RBC and Mills Undertakers.

25. Correspondence: To Consider Approving a Wellbeing Event at Rockley Park

Noted and discussed. The Clerk confirmed this was a commercial event booking and that the Grange Hall will also be used on the same day.

Resolved "Cllrs agreed Rockley Park was not a suitable venue for the Wellbeing Event, however it was suggested the user should be encouraged to use the Grange Grounds or Recreation Grounds as an alternative."

26. Councillors' Reports

- Cllr Clegg confirmed there would be a Residents Association meeting tomorrow at 1pm, and that strategic Bus Routes would be discussed.
- Cllr Spencer mentioned the Facebook article concerning the comments made about additional benches at the Cliff Top. This will be discussed at a Grounds Maintenance Working Party on Wednesday 28th February.
- Cllr Dunn advised that the litter pick on the 3rd & 4th March is weather dependant at the moment. It may be postponed to a later date, but litter pickers will be informed of this via an email.

27. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 09 April 2018

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9pm

Signed: ChairmanDate