

Radcliffe-on-Trent Parish Council
Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting, held in the Radcliffe Room
at The Grange, on Monday 02 September 2019 at 7pm

Cllr Alice Tomlinson (Chairman)	Cllr Barbara Deavin (Vice Chairman) (A)	Cllr Tracy James (A)
Cllr Norman Bradley (A)	Cllr Gillian Dunn (A)	Cllr Anne Mcleod
Cllr Abby Brennan	Cllr Diane Farthing	Cllr Sonal Modhvadia (A)
Cllr Maggie Clamp (A)	Cllr Lorraine Foster (Ab)	Cllr Alan R Harvey
Cllr Harry Curtis (A)	Cllr David Graham (A)	

Ex-officio: Cllr Josephine Spencer (PC Chairman) Cllr Sue Clegg (PC Vice Chairman)

Also present Sally Horn (Acting Parish Clerk), Lisa Simpson (Hall Manager) Jacque Earp (Admin Assistant) and three members of the public.

1. Apologies

Cllr Norman Bradley, Cllr Maggie Clamp, Cllr Barbara Deavin, Cllr Gillian Dunn, Cllr David Graham, Cllr Sonal Modhvadia, Cllr Harry Curtis and Cllr Tracy James – Approved.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Chairman's Announcements

- The top finial of the Water Fountain has disappeared and is a sad loss. The finial is a heavy structure and an historical part of the village and its disappearance will need further investigation via CCTV. A request for its return via Social Media will also be made and the PC Office is currently confirming who has the responsibility to replace it.
- Attended the Hilda Dowson Plaque unveiling at The Grange on the 24th August. This was very interesting and a large number attended. A big 'thank you' goes to members of the Local History Group and the WI for their arrangements for the event.
- The Radcliffe Train Station is now looking amazing, with new train signs, herb garden, Mosaic and wild flowers. Thank you to the 'Friends of Radcliffe Station' and all involved.

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

Standing Orders were suspended at 7.04pm

- *Phil Taylor from the Radcliffe Conservation Group confirmed the PC Mower Contractor previously did a good job at Dewberry Hill with good equipment and that the cut was a substantial improvement on the previous Contractor (EMEC). Felt that the latest quote was rather high, however it was difficult to 'size' areas needing attention. A Management Plan focusing on key issues also needs to be discussed for the area.*
- *A Volunteer from the Radcliffe Conservation Group is in full support of Phil Taylor and would be concerned if there was no budget available to manage and mow Dewberry Hill. Confirmed Dewberry Hill was beautiful many years ago and had various wild grasses growing. Over the years building rubble has been dumped and it is overgrown with thistles, nettles and scrub.*
- *Another volunteer was of the view that the PC would not be looked on favourably if the PC 'let Dewberry Hill go' and is in agreement that Dewberry Hill should have improved access.*

Standing Orders were reinstated at 7.12pm

5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 June 2019 for approval

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

6. Clerk's Report on items arising from these minutes

M.3: The owners of the house adjacent to the Cemetery (with the crack in the side) have not made any further contact with the PC.

M.3: There have been no further reports of the man sleeping at Rockley Park Pavilion.

M.4: There has been no further action regarding the Notice Board near to the RSPCA as the PC do not own the Notice Boards.

M.4: There was a Cllrs site visit to review Dewberry Hill on Wednesday 28th August.

M.6: The Portable Projector for the Hall has not been ordered due to Staff Annual Leave. The Hall Manager will be also writing a report regarding the Grange Hall Sound System.

M.6: The recent Hilda Dowson Plaque Unveiling Ceremony at The Grange went very well, as reported by the Chairman.

M.6: Cllr Spencer, Cllr McLeod and Cllr Farthing will arrange a meeting for the 5 year management Plan of both the Lily Ponds and Dewberry Hill site.

M.6: The bowed plastic panels are currently being monitored in the Public toilets during the cooler weather.

M.6: The heating pipes at the Bungalow are now working correctly.

M.9: The PC has received a quote for opening windows for one of the Radcliffe Room windows. This will be discussed at the next F&GP meeting.

M.18: VIA are arriving tomorrow to carry out the Wharf Lane Track Lighting repairs. The Football Club will liaise with the PC and VIA.

M.20: The Mower is currently being serviced and valued for its subsequent sale.

M.26: A covering letter and Arborist Report has been sent to residents who are concerned about the PC trees at Valley Road.

M.27: The PC are still waiting for a faculty via St Marys Church to carry out the repairs on the War Memorial.

M.28: The Clerk has asked the resident that the Police contact the PC if necessary regarding the anti-social behaviour on PC benches at Cliff Top.

M.29: The Clerk has not received a response from ROTSA regarding the formal request for a 1/3 contribution towards the recent clean-up of Bingham Road Playing Fields.

**7. Grange and Grange Hall
Hall Manager Report (Sound System)**

The Grange Hall has now been open for 15 years and the sound system needs updating. The lighting system also needs looking at and professional advice has been sought. Both the sound and lighting systems need addressing before failing. There has also been some complaints that the Hearing Loop in the Grange Hall is not working. The Hearing Loop system is analogue and it may be that some users hearing systems are digital, therefore making it incompatible with the Hall analogue system. A digital Hearing Loop System for the Hall may be an option for the future, however it was noted that a dual analogue and digital system is not available. The Grange Hall have had a lot of bookings and although a regular Tuesday customer has had to discontinue, there are two more baby groups who have become regular users.

The Hall also has parties on Friday nights. A large amount of staff preparation and organisation means that the same families return to the Hall time after time.

8. Events Planned 2019 – Working Group Verbal Report (meeting held 19 August)

The Christmas Light Switch on event is planned for Sunday 24th November 2019 which will take place after the Christmas Food & Gift Fayre at the Grange Hall. It was suggested that the day of the Christmas Light Switch on be changed to a Friday evening to allow late night opening hours for local shops and businesses, and for a Santa's Grotto to be set up for children however this can be monitored as the general consensus is for the Christmas Light Switch on to remain on a Sunday for this year. It is hoped that there will be a big turnout for the Village Show this Sunday 8th September, which will be bigger and better than ever. There will be a 'Feedback' meeting for this year's Village Show on Thursday 19th September at 7.30pm. This will also be an opportunity to raise ideas and suggestions for next year's show, it is hoped there will be an Events Group meeting in week beginning 16th September, and a Newsletter meeting will be discussed at the next F&GP meeting.

9. Events Financial Forecast April – Part August 2019

Noted and accepted. The Hall Manager thanked all the sponsors of the Village Show.

10. Grange and Grange Hall Financial Forecast April- Part August 2019

Noted and accepted. The Grange and Grange Hall business is good. It was suggested that if there was any financial surplus, this should be reinvested in painting maintenance and a new veranda area to the back of the Trent Room. This would be a lovely enhancement of the current room, which is often used for small parties and afternoon teas.

11. Amenities Financial Forecast April- Part August 2019

Noted and accepted. It was also noted that the Cemetery is still doing very well.

12. Radcliffe Conservation Group: Update & Consider 2nd Pocket of Land for Mowing – Arrange a Working Group meeting to Review the 5 year plans for Lily Ponds and Dewberry Hill

There had been a 'Walkabout' at Dewberry Hill on Wednesday the 28th August and the issue of 're-wilding' and the budget for Dewberry Hill were considered. Some Cllrs felt that if the 2nd pocket of land was not managed and mown with the cuttings taken away, then in time the area would become overgrown with brambles, nettles or birch forest. It is essential to keep the area accessible and a pleasant place to walk, and it was noted there is a budget to manage the site. Cllr Spencer, Cllr Farthing and Cllr McLeod agreed to arrange a Working Group meeting to review the 5 year plans for both Dewberry Hill and the Lily Ponds. It was **Resolved**: "That the 2nd pocket of land be mown by the regular PC Mowing Contractor and for the cuttings to be taken away within the next few weeks at a maximum cost of £690 subject to the size of the area after a meeting with the Mowing Contractor and to arrange a Working Group meeting to review the 5 year plans for the Lily Ponds and Dewberry Hill"

13. Wharf Lane Recreation Ground Recycling Bins: To Receive and Consider a Report

Cllr McLeod had recently visited Veolia regarding the issue of recycling. Veolia accepted there is usually 5% contamination for recycling, however it had been reported that the recycling bins in the village centre were contaminated between 10-20%. Although it was felt that Radcliffe is doing its best to address this issue, Cllr McLeod will make further investigations as more information is required. It was also agreed that the Skatepark project be finished before assessing the recycling requirements at Wharf Lane.

14. Christmas Lights: To Consider the Report and Recommendation of the Working Group

The Clerk and Sally Horn met up with the 'Christmas Decorators' last week. Preliminary costings have now been received and are as follows:

"Installation of a 15ft fresh Christmas tree, fully lit in multi-coloured LED lights with a star or snowflake topper: 3 year Rental -£1,750.00 (including storage), Purchase - £2,140 and 1 Year Rental - £1,950. The tree to be installed using a heavy duty commercial grade stand and metal stakes into the ground on each of the four sides".

It was also noted that if the tree was to be placed at the 'Best Kept Village' sign area in the Grange Grounds, the tree should be sited 3 metres away from the wall and barriers should be placed around the tree. MA Mills maybe willing to sponsor the Christmas tree, and it was suggested that barriers be purchased instead of hired as these could be used at the Village Show and other PC events. Also if the tree was to be placed in a regular site, Cllrs considered a dug out pit to house the trunk base as an alternative to a stand/stakes. As the seasonal licence application to the RBC for this year is imminent all options were considered and it was **Resolved**: "That a 15ft fresh fully lit and topped Christmas tree is installed at a total cost of £1,750 per year on a 3 year rental basis (including storage) with the proviso that the PC can specify to move the Christmas tree to a different location the next year if they choose to, and for the metal barriers to be investigated further".

15. RBC Tree Scheme: To Consider the Recommendation of the Working Group

The Working Group recommendations for the RBC Tree Scheme was discussed. Cllrs agreed it was a good idea to place the 10 free trees for the PC at the Lily Ponds area, in order to break up the vast area of nettles and help reduce flooding. A mixture of Alder, Aspen, Wild Cherry and English Oak trees are preferred which will be installed and maintained for a year by Streetwise. It was **Resolved**: "That the recommendations of the Working Group for the RBC Tree Scheme are approved and adopted by the Amenities Committee members."

16. Play Area Inspections: To Note Actions Required (Quotes being sourced)

The Play Area Inspections report was considered and the quote for a new second gate and closures for both gates at Bingham Road Play area was discussed. Cllrs felt that the quote of £650 was too high and asked that this item is deferred to the next Amenities meeting in order to obtain two further quotes for comparison.

17. Skatepark Update

The current wooden Skatepark is rotten and dangerous. It is still being used and Cllrs were of the strong view this should be officially closed down for Health and Safety reasons and in anticipation of the start of the new concrete Skatepark. The Chairman is concerned about this and is aware of the design issues and time constraints for funding of the new Skatepark build. The Chairman will therefore talk to the committee at a meeting tomorrow as it may be easy to take the wooden structure down to lessen the risk. It was noted this would be a good time to take action as children had now returned to Schools after the summer break. The Chairman will also update the Clerk next week.

18. 19 Rockley Avenue (Bungalow) Update

Cllrs discussed the bungalow update and the Amenities Chairman strongly endorsed the previous Council decision that a letting agent be used on a Full management basis for the PC Bungalow at Rockley Park. It was also noted that use of a letting agent legally protects the landlord as well as any potential tenant. It was also agreed that a Working Group meeting be arranged to discuss criteria and Cllr Tomlinson, Cllr Brennan and Cllr Clegg volunteered to be members of this Working Party. The Clerk had highlighted that a Working Group site visit was required with the Clerk in attendance for week commencing 9th September.

19. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

20. Councillor's Reports

- Cllr McLeod had recently visited Veolia as part of the Eco Group. Representatives from Veolia will attend and share a gazebo with the Eco Group at the Village Show this Sunday to discuss and educate residents about recycling issues.
- Cllr Spencer had attended the Public Information session at Radcliffe British Legion last Saturday regarding the A52 junction improvements. The whole session was a disappointment, no answers were forthcoming and it was felt that Radcliffe residents were being disregarded. Was of the view that the improvement proposals were a detriment to Radcliffe and would block up roads if there was no left turn at Carter Avenue. The RBC Cllrs will be meeting to devise a letter to the Highways Agency and the letter should then be considered at the next Planning & Environment meeting on the 16th September.

Resolved: "The Chairman moved 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.

21. To Receive Letters from a Resident

The resident's latest letter was discussed and considered. It was **Resolved:** "That the Clerk draft a response to the resident next week."

22. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 14 October 2019

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed: ChairmanDate