

## Radcliffe on Trent Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 17 April 2019, Grange Hall, 7.00pm

### Minutes

#### Radcliffe on Trent Parish Councillors Present on the Top Table

Cllr David Barton (Chairman) Cllr Georgia Moore (Vice Chairman)

Cllr Josephine Spencer (Chairman Finance and General Purposes Committee)

Cllr Martin Culshaw (Chairman Planning and Environment Committee)

Cllr John Thorn (Chairman Amenities Committee)

Cllr Sue Clegg (Chairman Grange and Grange Hall Committee)

#### 1. Chairman's Welcome

Cllr David Barton welcomed the Radcliffe Parishioners, Parish Councillors, Local Borough and County Councillors, Civic Award Winners and Stall Holders representing local Village Groups to the meeting.

#### 2. Housekeeping and Signposting to All Stalls

The Toilets and Fire Exits were pointed out and all attendees were encouraged to visit Stallholders to the back of the Hall at the end of tonight's meeting. The Stalls displayed information from various Village Groups, Organisations and there was also a Display Stand to preview the new Parish Council Signage Project Village History and Wildlife Boards. Cllrs will also be available to discuss any issues raised.

#### 3. Introduction of Panel

The Chairmen of the Standing Committees, Jacki Grice (Parish Clerk) and Lisa Simpson (Hall Manager) were introduced.

#### 4. Apologies

There were no apologies.

#### 5. Review and Acceptance of Minutes of last Parish Meeting on 18 April 2018

It was **Resolved**: "That the minutes be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council."

#### 6. Chairman's Report In Summary

The Parish Council Chairman updated the APM with a report of the last year's activities, and the following items were presented:

- ) A 'Four Year Plan' document was drawn up when Parish Councillors were first elected and Cllrs shared ideas for goals and achievements for their 4 year term of office.
- ) The PC was disappointed that additional leisure facilities were not provided for the village, as progress was held up by the urgent need to replace the Skatepark, which had been condemned as dangerous. It is hoped the new Council will address the need for leisure facilities in the village.
- ) One element of the Four year Plan was the installation of automatic opening doors to The Grange Hall and Policy Initiatives include adoption of The Living Wage and implementation of nationally negotiated pay scales for PC staff.
- ) Last year, these policy initiatives led to Radcliffe becoming the first Nottinghamshire Council to be awarded the National Quality Local Council Award.
- ) There has also been very significant income gained by successful grant applications to outside organisations submitted by the Parish Clerk Jacki Grice. These results could not have been achieved without Parish Council Staff who work ceaselessly to deliver all PC services and projects.

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- ) A big 'Thank You' to the multitude of Volunteer Groups in the village, whom the PC regard as partners, also NCC Cllrs and RBC Cllrs are always ready to offer practical support and advice. A current example of this has been the financial support given to the Skatepark and Signage Projects.
- ) Wished to pay tribute to fellow Parish Councillors who have spent hundreds of hours working for the community. Personal thanks also go to the teams of Chairs' and especially to the Vice Chairman Georgia Moore for her unstinting support. Cllr Penny Astill, Rodney Brears and Cllr Georgia Moore have given 20 years of service and Cllr Graham Leigh Browne an amazing 40 years as a Radcliffe on Trent Parish Councillor.
- ) Has been a happy, hardworking and productive Council over the past four years and wished the new Parish Council well.

### Committee Chairman's Reports of the Last years Activities

#### 7. The Grange and Grange Hall – Cllr Sue Clegg

The Chairman updated the APM with a report of the last year's activities for The Grange and Grange Hall, and the following items were presented:

- ) Has come to the end of The Grange and Grange Hall committee's 4 year guardianship of one of Radcliffe's fantastic assets and events which the Parish Council promotes. These facilities continue to be used by many organisations and private individuals.
- ) As well as these bookings, the Parish Council runs: Silver Cinema, Kids Cinema, Picnic in the Park, Funday, Village Show, Christmas Lights Switch on, Christmas Band Concerts, Over 65's Christmas Party.
- ) Over the last four years the PC have achieved: the introduction of the Silver Cinema and Kids Cinema in the school holidays, restructure of the pricing schedule for The Grange and Grange Hall, boiler replacement, automatic doors, upgraded lighting and the purchase of new floor cleaning equipment for the Grange Hall and replacement lighting in all the offices. Reviews of Risk and Health & Safety Assessments have also been carried out to comply with the latest legislation.
- ) Sincere thanks to the staff that manage grant applications, functions and events on a daily basis and for the commitment of fellow Cllrs as without their generous offers of help the Parish Council and village would be a poorer place to live.

#### 8. Amenities – Cllr John Thorn

The Chairman updated the APM with a report of the last year's activities for Amenities, and the following items were presented:

- ) The Amenities Committee has supported a number of major projects over the past year, all of which have involved a considerable amount of work for Parish Council staff and major involvement from village community volunteers. The Chairman thanked them all for their achievements.
- ) **Skatepark:** The PC has been successful in raising £300,000 from a wide range of sources and the Skatepark User Group have been heavily involved in the design and tender process. Later this year the Skatepark will be completely rebuilt in concrete and will be a major long term facility for the young people in the village.
- ) **The Signage Project:** New History Boards are being installed at key places around the village which are full of fascinating information about Radcliffe's past. They are also about the present and future as they contribute to the sense of village identity. The PC are indebted to the Local History Society who have provided all information and photographs for the boards, Graham Fowell who drew the beautiful pictorial map of the village, now on the back of the

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Notice Board in the Village centre and to NCC who contributed towards the funding of the project. In due course, 'History Trail' leaflets will be made available around the village. A blue plaque will also be fixed to the wall of The Grange in honour of Hilda Dowson, Secretary of the Nottingham Federation of The Women's Suffrage Societies, who lived in The Grange for many years.

- ) **Cemetery:** This is a major village asset and a major Parish Council responsibility. There is much work involved and it is a long term project to ensure the cemetery is a beautiful and fittingly maintained memorial to the villages past residents. Over the past year the PC along with a member of the Local History Society has conducted a survey of all the graves to ensure records are correct and comprehensive. An expert has also completed a safety survey of all the monuments. These actions ensure that over the next few years the cemetery is made as safe as possible and to clear up any graves that are derelict to further the 'lawn' feature of the cemetery's design.
- ) **Wharf Lane Football Ground:** Rented out to Radcliffe Olympic Football Club who provide sports facilities for Juniors up to Seniors. There are problems with dog owners using the football ground as a dog exercise field and unfortunately some dog owners allow their dogs to defecate the pitch, so this has become a big problem for the club. Dog mess has to be removed before every match and on occasion football referees have been close to calling off matches. New fencing around the perimeter of the pitch would be very expensive, so dog owners are encouraged to keep their dogs off the field. Radcliffe Olympic are having a Social media campaign on this issue and it is hoped that 'word of mouth' amongst dog owners will help to stop the problem.
- ) Looking back over the past four years of the current Council some of the major improvements in village amenities included: resurfacing of the Cliff Walk, ongoing clearance and opening of Dewberry Hill and Lily Ponds wildlife areas through development of the strong partnership with the Radcliffe Conservation Volunteers, refurbishment of the public toilets in the village centre and winning the Nottinghamshire 'Best Kept Village' award in 2016 and 2018.
- ) Wished the new Cllrs well and hope they will enjoy looking after and developing the village's amenities as much as the current Chairman and Cllrs have.

#### 9. **Planning and Environment – Cllr Martin Culshaw**

The Chairman updated the APM with a report of the last year's activities for Planning and Environment, and the following items were presented:

- ) **Planning Decisions:** Over the last year approximately 100 planning applications have been considered. The PC may make comments however the legal responsibility lies with RBC. This year has also seen the start of the submissions for outline planning for new housing sites around Radcliffe. Two sites both at the top of Shelford Road for William Davis and Savills, have received outline planning permission, meaning 400 and 50 new houses for Radcliffe respectively. A planning application for the site off Nottingham Road, near to the RSPCA was turned down as the number of houses exceed the maximum that RBC had specified, however it is expected that it will be resubmitted in due course and another application for a fourth large site on Grantham Road is also expected.
- ) **Local Development Plan Part 2, Greenbelt Review and Community Infrastructure Levy Consultations:** Are important parts of the RBC Development Plan, still under consideration. All three are likely to be approved and adopted later in the year. Radcliffe's target for new housing was increased to 920 partly because the RBC had not met its Government target for new houses. Cllrs attended many RBC Planning meetings as well as the Inspectors meeting

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relating to Radcliffe's part of the Local Development plan Part 2. The PC was concerned to discover that the Radcliffe Neighbourhood Plan could be partly superseded by the Local Plan Part 2 because the latter post-dates the former. This could mean parts of the Neighbourhood Plan being re-written and then the revised Plan would then have to go to another referendum.

- ) **Health Centre, Schools and Traffic Congestion:** One of the consequences of the new housing sites for Radcliffe is that the population will increase 25-30% over the next ten years. Whilst good for shops and social activities, it will increase pressure on the schools and health facilities that are already close to capacity. The PC has made it clear they would prefer to expand Radcliffe's schools at the same site, the Health Centre to be in the centre of the village. Not to locate new schools at the top of Shelford Road or relocate the Health Centre to Gamston. The PC is also concerned about traffic congestion as during rush hours the A52 and Shelford Road are already close to capacity. Additional traffic from the new Radcliffe housing plus East Bridgford, Newton and Bingham will make matters considerably worse. To place speed bumps on Shelford Road, Traffic Lights at the Main Road junction and spending large sums of money on A52 junctions are unlikely to make much difference.
- ) **Trains Working Group:** This group consists of PC Cllrs and other Radcliffe residents who lobby for improvements to the Poacher Line (Nottingham to Skegness) as part of the new franchise for Rail Services in the East Midlands. A decision for the new operator of Rail Services in the East Midlands has been delayed to August 19. The 'Friends of Radcliffe Station' Volunteer Group (part of the Line Community Rail Partnership) work to improve the look of the Railway Station and its surroundings. The Group has won The Association of Community Rail Partnerships Award for new groups and pupils at Radcliffe Junior School have created a permanent mosaic which is on the wall on the Grantham Platform. The local TV news was at the Station to witness the unveiling of the mosaic by the Mayor of Rushcliffe.
- ) **Road Crossings:** Concern has been expressed about the A52 road crossing at the bottom of Hillside Drive. Highways England are responsible for the road and have turned down the option of a crossing with traffic lights. They are however, still considering other options to make the road safer.
- ) **Water and Sewerage:** Adam Greest who is the Customer Experience Manager-East for Severn Trent reports to the PC approximately every 4 months. This enables him to highlight any problems identified by the PC and to deal with them promptly.
- ) **Bingham Leisure Centre:** Reference was made to the new proposed Bingham Leisure Centre and its funding sources.

The Chairman then thanked all Cllr Colleagues on the Planning and Environment Committee for their contributions and commitment. Everyone has taken a full part in the Committee and has fully supported the decisions taken. The Chairman wished his successors well for the challenging times ahead.

#### **10. Finance and General Purposes – Cllr Josephine Spencer**

The Chairman updated the APM with a report of the last year's activities for Finance and General Purposes, and the following items were presented:

- ) Finance is extremely important and challenging with tight budgets and fellow Committee Chairmen requesting money for PC projects, all worthwhile.
- ) Have succeeded again this year to keep within budget, with all current projects completed and with no increase in the Precept.

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- ) For the last four years of the PC has achieved their objectives to refurbish Public Toilets, carry out a Cemetery Headstones Inspection, carry out tree Inspections and set in motion plans to achieve more such as the new Skatepark plans, improvement of the toilets at Wharf Lane, upgrade of the Bungalow at Rockley Park and to refurbish play equipment at Wharf Lane.
- ) The financing of these projects is difficult on the Precept Income alone, so the Clerk explores all grants and support opportunities which helps boost spending power.
- ) The PC has many responsibilities to Radcliffe however the Health Centre and policing are not despite comments in local social media and can only influence and encourage these powers that be and do so most ferociously.
- ) The increased housing will require much investment in the infrastructure and the PC will strive to be a part of all decisions that affect the community and are striving to access the building levy generated by these new developments to deliver increased facilities that are much needed in Radcliffe.
- ) Will continue to explore a building facility for sport, dance and leisure.

Finally the Chairman would like to thank Deputy Finance Chairman Cllr Banner and the F&GP Committee for their valued contributions throughout the year. The PC are fortunate to have Sally Horn (Accounts) who is meticulous in her work and Jacki Grice the PC Clerk, thank you to you both for making the Finance Committee's job a little easier and enjoyable.

#### **11. Presentation of the Accounts of The Trustees of the Parochial Charities**

The Jeffery Limmer Charity started in 1671 with a £10 donation from Jeffrey Limmer who was a Wheelwright and Church Warden. It has nine trustees who all live or work within the village. The remit is to provide for sick and needy and a small allowance for educational needs for anyone that lives within the Parish Boundary. The current trustees are in consultation with the Charity Commission to enable The Trust to widen its limited remit to support various projects within Radcliffe.

In 2018 The Trust provided gifts to local organisations totalling £5750 and a further 49 individual gifts to those in need. This totalled £8950.

#### **12. Presentation of Civic Awards**

Civic Awards 2019 were presented by the Chairman David Barton. The Chairman's Award was presented to Radcliffe on Trent Male Voice Choir. Group Civic Awards (inc Youth) was presented to The Junior School Eco Committee (Youth), Playdays and The Friends of Radcliffe Station. Individual Civic Awards were presented to Steve Phair, Marion Caunt and Jenny Hudson.

#### **13. General Question Time**

##### **Questions / Comments from the Audience**

Before the Questions/Comments from the audience the PC Chairman read out an extract from the Radcliffe Link magazine 14<sup>th</sup> July 1948 that included an article on dog fouling and hooligans, not dissimilar to village topics of today!

- ) *Stuart Jones has been a Radcliffe resident for 50 years and is very pleased to hear that the History Boards are going up for the village. He asked whether there was any alternative for visually impaired people who cannot read the History Boards?*

The PC Chairman confirmed a 'walking guide' will be produced that includes some information taken from the Radcliffe History Boards and it is hoped that a braille version can also be

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produced. Alternative versions of the History Boards would be difficult, but perhaps an audio guide could be considered.

- ) *Jean Smith noted the very disturbing planning news from this evening's meeting and is concerned about the changes at Radcliffe Co-op. Does the changes include a greater loading/unloading bay for the Co-op on Shelford Road? Currently there is a big obstruction for traffic and is greatly concerned about pedestrians using mobility scooters, guide dogs, and prams.*

The Planning & Environment Chairman confirmed it was a difficult to answer these concerns as the Co-op Lorries have to unload somewhere and currently unload at the bottom of Shelford Road at the rear entrance to the store. It is hard to see how they could make deliveries elsewhere without creating difficulties in moving the goods from a parked Lorry to the rear entrance. Parking issues are serious for Radcliffe and there are no facilities to allow Lorries to unload for shops.

To limit pedestrian/traffic disruption, Cllr Leigh-Browne suggested the PC write to the Co-op to request that unloading should be carried out at night-time.

- ) *Another resident commented that when drivers of vehicles are coming down Shelford Road when a delivery is being made, pedestrians on the crossing are virtually 'blind' to these oncoming vehicles.*
- ) *A pupil of Radcliffe Junior School asked how to become a Parish Councillor.*

The PC Chairman confirmed that it was volunteered, and to put your name forward for the Parish Council. Residents of the village then elect who they want to be on the Parish Council, a bit like electing a class rep at school.

- ) *Another pupil of the junior school asked if there was an age limit to become a parish Councillor.*

The PC Vice-Chairman said this was a very good question and that there was an age limit of 18.

- ) *Mari Langdon was incensed that Bingham had got 20 million funding for a new Leisure Centre, when Radcliffe is 'crying out' for one.*

The Planning and Environment Chairman only found out about the Bingham funding at a Town and Parish Council meeting at The Arena a few weeks ago. He also found out only a few days ago that Radcliffe's S.106 money seems to be supporting the new facility in Bingham and that Radcliffe had not received any money. It was advised to raise concerns with RBC Cllrs as to why this is happening, however the PC Chairman confirmed concerns could not be raised during the RBC elective Purdah period and tonight's public forum.

- ) *Phil Thomas confirmed that as far as S.106 money is concerned, what influence does the PC have where the money goes?*

The Planning and Environment Chairman was not informed that negotiations between William Davis and the RBC had taken place, and the allocation of S.106 money had been decided. It can be argued that a Leisure Centre and swimming pool would be used and be of benefit to Radcliffe residents. It was suggested this question should be taken up with RBC Cllrs outside this meeting, as the PC is not informed as readily as it should be.

#### **14. Signposting Radcliffe Launch**

The PC Chairman wanted to ensure residents were made aware of the hard work and contribution from specific people to make this project work. It was first envisaged four years ago when compiling

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the PC Four Year Plan by Cllrs. The Clerk then applied for Grant Funding for the project and an excellent application was made for a European Union Grant Fund. Unfortunately this funding application did not go ahead, due to the 2016 'Brexit' vote and therefore funding was identified and was successful via the NCC Local Improvement Scheme, for £10,000 with the support of NCC Cllr Kay Cutts and this funding was put together with the PC contribution. The project was then planned and material was gathered. Marion Caunt found the images and information for the 12 History Boards, which is a phenomenal achievement. The information revealed how much history there is in Radcliffe on Trent and how sad that many old buildings have been lost in the last 40-50 years. A volunteer, Nigel Cook came forward to compile the Boards presentation and gave hours and hours of his free time. If Marion and Nigel had not given their free time, the project would not have been feasible to do, so they deserve the thanks of the PC. There will also be two Wildlife Boards, to be situated at the Lily Ponds and Dewberry Hill. The text and images for the two Wildlife Boards were researched and created by three members of the Radcliffe Conservation Volunteers, namely Phil Taylor, Keith Waverley and Lizette Cartier Van Dissel, who are to be recognised for their hard work. The WW1 History Group also provided the photographs and information for the Rockley Memorial Park. All the Boards will be going up in the village in the next few weeks and it is the personal opinion of the PC Chairman, that the Boards will be an asset to Radcliffe for many years to come and are of great interest to residents and visitors. Congratulations to all who made this project possible and especially genuine thanks to Marion and Nigel for all their hard work.

**15. Male Voice Choir**

Radcliffe Male Voice Choir sang four songs, and they were very much appreciated by the audience. These were 'Gentlemen of Japan' (taken from The Mikado), 'Michelle' (The Beatles), 'Always Look on the Bright Side of Life' (by The Monty Python Team -Life of Brian) and 'Do You Hear the People Sing' (taken from Les Miserable's). The PC Chairman thanked the Male Voice Choir for their lovely renditions of these songs.

**16. Thank You's and Refreshments**

The Chairman thanked the audience for attending tonight's meeting and congratulated all the Civic Award Winners. Refreshments are available and residents now have the opportunity to visit the various stalls at the back of The Hall.

8.30pm Meeting Finish

Tea and Coffee now served

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