

Radcliffe-on-Trent Parish Council
Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee inclusive of Amenities Committee
held in the Grange Hall on Monday 24 May 2021 at 7pm

Cllr Harry Curtis
Cllr Barbara Deavin (A)
Cllr Gillian Dunn

Cllr Matthew Douglas-Kirk
Cllr Diane Farthing (A)
Cllr Lorraine Foster
Cllr David Graham

Cllr Tracy James
Cllr Anne McLeod
Cllr Alice Tomlinson (A)
Cllr Phil Thomas

Cllr Josephine Spencer (PC Chairman) (A), Cllr Sue Clegg (PC Vice-Chairman)

Also present Jacki Grice (Parish Clerk), Lisa Simpson (Hall Manager) Jacquie Earp (Admin Assistant), NCC Cllr Roger Upton and four members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Josephine Spencer, Cllr Barbara Deavin, Cllr Alice Tomlinson and Cllr Diane Farthing – Approved. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman Cllr Sue Clegg welcomed NCC Cllr Upton and members of the public and chaired tonight's meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Chairman's Announcements

) Cllrs were made aware that the next Full Council (inc Planning and Environment) meeting would take place on Tuesday 8th June at the Grange Hall.

4. Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes/Amenities Meeting held 26 April 2021 for Approval

Cllr Curtis confirmed the new bench outside Birds required levelling, not the bench outside Leslie Cree's. It was Resolved: "That the minutes are approved and signed by the Chairman, save for the amendment to M.28 "The street bench outside Birds Bakery (and NOT Lesley Cree Opticians) will be levelled off by Streetwise."

Re: M.24 Cllr Dunn also confirmed that a Working Group had met to consider a CIL aspirations listing and will report back to the next Full Council (inc Planning and Environment) Meeting.

5. Clerks Report on Previous Minutes

M.11: The PC street name of "Elvin Close" at the Grooms Cottage Development has been rejected by RBC. 'Bemrose' has been submitted instead

M.15: An application has been submitted to RBC for consent to begin the restoration of The Fountain as it is a listed building.

M.16: It was confirmed that the two Lifebuoys are still in place at the Lily Ponds.

M.19: Quotations are still being sourced for the Grange Grounds improvements.

M.20: The Play Area maintenance list has been addressed and some work has already been carried out.

6. Open Session for Members of the Public to Raise Matters of Council Business, Limited to 15 Minutes

Standing Orders were suspended at 7.04pm:

) A member of the public had measured pot holes along Shelford Road noting the whole road is dangerous. It was confirmed the pot holes have to be a certain depth before they are filled and should be individually reported. Some pot holes are now marked up for repair and the PC were then asked if there were any plans to substantially repair the whole of the road.

) NCC Cllr Upton agreed that the whole of the Shelford Road surface is very bad. There is a view the construction traffic from developers at the top of the road is not helping matters and so it is questioned whether 'patching' would be a current solution until the construction traffic decreases, and when would be the appropriate time to carry out more permanent repairs. Will be meeting the NCC Highways Officer within the next month and report back.

- J The same member of the public also reported how difficult and dangerous it is to drive out of Cliff Drive into Shelford Road because of the overgrown hedges.
- J NCC Cllr Upton advised that the overgrown hedge/visibility splay issue can be reported via the RBC and NCC website, and be escalated with the hedge owner. Cllr Upton will now investigate further.
- J Ex PC Chairman Cllr Barton referred to agenda item (10) 'Picnic in the Park' and spoke to current Cllr members about the highly successful annual free event held at Rockley Park from 2017 until 2019. The Picnic audience were also entertained by the Omega Jazz Band and the SNA School Band and became part of yearly village events. The event was cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic, and although it was hoped the event can still go ahead it may be that the event takes place in the Grange Grounds this year where there are more facilities. Any decisions will be made according to updated Government Guidelines available from the 21st June.

Standing Orders re-instated at 7.15pm

7. Finance and General Purposes

Income/Expenditure Figures Reserves and Accruals Year End 31 March 2021

An F&GP Working Group had convened last week and included discussions regarding current reserves and accruals, free reserves and potential costs yet to be incurred at the Skatepark, Play equipment and the current trading position of The Grange and Grange Hall.

It was Resolved: "To accrue and allocate funds from the 2020/2021 to increase the expenditure for Skatepark Works: An increase of current accruals from £6,700 by £8,215, to a total of £15,000

Play Equipment Maintenance: An increase of current designated reserves from £8,500 by £6,510, to a total of £15,010.

It was also approved to set up a new designated reserve of £20,000 for Covid Impact Trading Losses and the current building reserve of £6,000 and Grange Hall reserve of £10,000 will be combined and named a Building Maintenance Reserve (total of £16,000)".

It was noted that there was still £117,000 in free reserves and these figures will be monitored throughout the year. It was also noted that the income figures for the Grange and Grange Hall were very low.

8. Income/Expenditure Figures and Payments April 2021

Noted and discussed. It was Resolved: "The Income/Expenditure Figures and Payments were approved."

9. Amenities

Grange Hall Managers Report

The Hall Manager has received numerous enquiries for new Hall bookings, and many regular groups are now keen to return to the Hall and Grange. Certain groups are now back and there will be others returning in June. There will be a meeting tomorrow with the Health & Safety Working Group regarding future bookings as there are concerns for the increase in group numbers, the operation of the track and trace system and the lack of clarity for social distancing. It was also noted that cinema groups can now go ahead under Government Guidelines and with PC advice.

10. 2021 Events to Consider

Picnic in the Memorial Park

Cllr Graham advised Cllrs to form a small events committee as soon as possible to consider all potential 2021 events and asked Cllrs to arrange this with him over the next few days. A main consideration for The Picnic in the Park event is cost, however was in agreement the event had successfully evolved for the village at the Rockley Park venue.

11. Picnic in the Grange Grounds

It may be an opportunity for this year to stage a similar event in the Grange grounds as it is more central and there are more amenities and a play park. Has also approached bands who are willing to entertain the picnic audience for free.

Other considerations for the events committee included: As there is money available via a 'Welcome Back' fund, there is an opportunity to stage two Picnic in the Park events, one at Rockley Park and one in the Grange grounds.

All suggestions will now be discussed at the events working group meeting.

12. Classic Car Meet

Noted: To be discussed at the Events Working Group meeting

13. Market Grange Grounds

Noted: To be discussed at the Events Working Group meeting

14. Play Equipment

Zipwire Update – Repair in Hand

Two wooden posts have been replaced and the concrete footings will take two weeks to dry out. The Contractor will then return with the refurbished seats and it is hoped the Zip Wire will be up and running very soon.

15. Grange Wooden Seesaw – end of lifespan

The Grange Wooden Seesaw is now very worn, rotten and at the end of its lifespan. A quote had been received just to remove the seesaw and make good to the ground but was considered excessive. It was noted that it may be more cost efficient to remove and replace at the same time.

It was Resolved: "It was approved for the office to obtain quotations for removal of the old seesaw and source quotes for a replacement item".

16. Skatepark Update & Any Actions

Lighting: Although Abacus have made a visit to inspect and correct any issues, the Skatepark lighting columns still appear to be staying on past 9pm at weekends. Cllr Graham confirmed that the override switch is difficult to find in the columns and questioned whether the timers were initially set incorrectly. The Clerk confirmed a quote is awaited from VIA to improve security and in order to prevent any tampering in the future with the lighting timers.

Barriers: There have been quotations of between £3,000 up to £5,000 for new barriers. There is a meeting arranged this week with CANVAS to discuss and come to an agreement on the two ROSPA reports and whether they will agree to a contribution towards the work. The PC are holding a retention back until the issues have been resolved.

17. Litter Signage

Noted and discussed. Cllrs were requested to consider the purchase of the new signage for Radcliffe. Current examples of the signage is displayed at West Bridgford Skatepark. It was noted the signage design is taken from the National 'Keep Britain Tidy' Campaign.

It was Resolved: "It was approved to make enquiries as to the cost of the litter signs discussed, before purchasing them."

18. Policy on Benches and Requests

The Clerk has been inundated with requests from residents to purchase memorial benches. It was suggested that a small group of Cllrs should make a tour of the village and indicate on pre-printed maps if there are any appropriate places for additional benches. There are currently approximately 40 benches placed at the Cliff Top, and there are people waiting for available plots for various PC areas. After the village tour a decision can then be reached for a finite plot maximum. It was noted that it is PC policy to contact bench owners in the first instance for the upkeep or replacement if at the end of its lifespan. Cllrs also agreed picnic tables would be a good idea to use as an alternative to benches. Cllrs interested in identifying appropriate PC land bench plots to speak to Cllr Graham at the end of tonight's meeting.

19. Wharf Lane Car Parking

The Chairman had provided Cllrs with information regarding the potential of additional parking by widening the access track. The surface disrepair of the Wharf Lane Car Park was also noted. These areas may be considered as a CIL aspiration depending on the urgency of the work to be done. It is a priority for the repairs to go ahead, however it would be too costly for the PC to undertake without CIL funding.

20. CorrespondenceResident: Cliff Top Fencing

Noted and discussed. Many Cllrs agreed that a major problem along the Cliff Walk was that overgrowth obscured views of the Valley below. Originally there was three view vantage point (seats) along the walk. Two of the indentations where the seats had been are too overgrown to restore, however the one nearest to Rockley Park may be a viable place to restore the view point. It was also noted that the hedges are cut to fence height after the nesting season, usually in September. The freehold for the first part of the Cliff Walk nearest to Park homes is owned by Wildecrest Homes, and it is their responsibility to manage their woodland. The Clerk will also forward the residents issues to the RBC Rights of Way Officer.

Resolved: "The Clerk will contact a Tree Surgeon for confirmation that the third indentation along the Cliff Top Walk can be made available again for a view point."

21. Resident: Park Homes Fencing

Noted and discussed. Questions were raised as to where the responsibility boundary is for Wildecrest Homes as it is thought Wildcrest land begins from entering the site from underneath the bridge. A Land Registry search should be able to confirm this. The office will now make further investigations to clarify land ownership.

22. Resident: Erection of Gazebo- Memorial Park for Party

Noted and discussed. Members considered a number of points including:

-)] PC preference / suitability of having a children's party in a Memorial park
-)] PC policy / enforcement
-)] Setting a precedence for all ages and any future parties/gatherings in the park
-)] Neighbour disturbance
-)] Lack of public conveniences, as they are locked at the weekends
-)] Where to place the party gazebo
-)] Opportunity to use the pavilion if bad weather
-)] Alternative venues i.e. Wharf Lane, Grange Grounds, Bingham Rd Playing Fields

After further discussion, it was Resolved: "The PC approved that a children's party could take place in the grounds of Rockley Park with the undertaking that a gazebo would not be erected."

23. RCG: Dogs in Rockley Park

Noted and discussed. The PC have signage up at the Rockley Park and Cliff Top to keep dogs on leads. From past experience it was felt any more signage would be removed and so members were requested to challenge dog owners and a notice regarding this issue will also be placed on social media.

24. Resident: Policy on Use of metal Detectors on P.C. Land

Noted and Cllrs were made aware of 'The Code of practice.' There are two types of metal detectors and one type means that if anything is found up to a metre of earth can be dug up.

It was Resolved: "The PC do not approve the individual use of metal detectors on PC land"

The Clerk will now contact the resident with the response.

25. Cllrs Reports

There were no Cllr reports.

"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"

26. To Accept the Minutes of the Personnel and Wages Sub Committee Meeting Held 06 May 2021
Resolved: "To accept the minutes and refer back to the subcommittee."

27. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 21 June 2021
There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed: ChairmanDate

Draft Unapproved