

Radcliffe-on-Trent Parish Council  
Minutes of the Amenities (inc Grange Hall) Committee Meeting, held in the Radcliffe Room  
at The Grange, on Monday 19 November 2018 at 7pm

Cllr John Thorn (Chairman)	Cllr Pam Thompson (Vice Chairman)	Cllr David Astill
Cllr Rod Brears (A)	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 (A)	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), Jacque Earp (Admin Assistant) RBC Cllr Roger Upton and one member of the public.

1. Apologies

Cllrs Georgia Moore, Rod Brears, Gillian Dunn, Keith Agar and Graham Leigh-Browne – Approved. It was noted this was the first amalgamated Amenities PC meeting (to include Grange Hall) on a trial basis.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Chairman's Announcements

At the NALC AGM meeting the PC received cheques for a total sum of £1,250 for Best Overall Category and 'Best in Notts' in the 'Best Kept Village' Competition. A Cemetery Working Group Meeting is taking place this Thursday to the ongoing headstone inspections in the Cemetery. It has been noticed that another Cremated Remains Section is required as there are only kerbs at the top and the PC can only offer full plots so it is suggested this money could be put towards a new Cremated Remains Section. This issue and any other ideas/proposals to spend the money will be brought back to the next Amenities Committee meeting in January 2019.

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 of the Radcliffe Conservation Group reported that a new 'Welcome to Dewberry Hill' sign went up this morning at Dewberry Hill, which looked good although there was sharp corner edges which made it difficult to handle. The Conservation Group are working on the interpretation panel details for the new signs at Dewberry Hill and Cliff Top. Phil Taylor also queried if the Signage Working Group were using a particular standard font size for the new signage. The Chairman confirmed the Signage Working Group would respond in due course.
- RBC Cllr Roger Upton reported that approximately 5 residents had asked him why there had been Christmas Motifs placed on the lampposts in October, then taken away.

Standing Orders were reinstated at 7.10pm.

Cllr Thompson confirmed the Christmas Lights had been put up too early, but will now be put back up this week.

5. Grange Hall

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 09 July 2018 for approval

These minutes were put before Full Council on the 10<sup>th</sup> September and accepted, and the Grange and Grange Hall meeting for the 24<sup>th</sup> September was cancelled due to lack of business to discuss.

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

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

M.5: Regarding the VIA infrastructure, the RCD and Commando Socket has been installed at Vicarage Lane for the Lights 'Switch On' this weekend.

M.9: The Grange bookings will be slightly down as the regular Thursday 'Thera' Group are finishing at Christmas. The Group were worth £3,000 per annum in income to the PC, however they have other venues and unfortunately are not reaching high levels of attendance at the Radcliffe venue.
7. Grange Hall and Grange Pricing Review

To Consider the Recommendation of No Change as large Groups will be eligible for 20% Discount as Opposed to 30% from February 2019 as previously Resolved.

Noted. This recommendation was previously considered, discussed, agreed and resolved earlier in the year. It was noted the reduction of discount will make a big difference for large groups who regularly use The Grange and Grange Hall and that ticket prices may be subsequently be affected at events. It was also noted there will be no further price increases next year, as the 10% decrease was previously deferred for 6 months and the changes will therefore be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> February next year. Further clarity regarding the effective new price start date from February 2019 was requested for the current Grange and Grange Hall price list. To avoid confusion, the Chairman suggested that when the new 20% discount price change becomes effective the form header should read 'From February 2019 until further notice'
8. Grange Hall Financial Update: April – Part November 2018

Discussed and accepted. It was noted the 15% over budget forecast was worse, due to the Thera Group whole day booking leaving The Grange at Christmas. It was also noted there had been extra maintenance expenses to sort out the Grange Hall Automatic Doors, being compatible with the Fire Alarm System.
9. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 October 2108 for approval

It was Resolved: "That the minutes are approved and signed by the Chairman."
10. Clerks Report on items arising from these minutes:

M.3: Blachere had put up the Christmas Light Motifs in mid-October. A discount from Blachere was requested if the Motifs were left, however Blachere had decided to take them down again until this week.

M.5: The Public Toilets Refurbishment works commenced today.

M.5: The Headstone Inspection work in the Cemetery has started, although there has been no acknowledgment or response from St Marys regarding a contribution towards costs.

M.6: There was a query on the financial report at the last meeting. This was due to an administrative error whereby there was one actual Cemetery Rates payment of £409 and the forecast of £409 was not extracted from the figures.

M.8: The sign at Dewberry Hill has now been put up.

M.11: The new Rockley Park Mess Room Flat Roof has been completed and there was an £800 under budget saving.

M.12: The Pine Tree in the Grange Grounds that was intruding on a neighbour's window has now been cut back.

M.13: The Clerk will leave it to residents to ask the PC for permission to put brass memorial plaque on logs along the Cliff Top. This issue will be referred to the next Working Group Meeting for further consideration.

M.14: Jacquie Earp has sent off a Grant Pre-Application to the War Memorials Trust for the remedial work required at St Marys War Memorial and an acknowledgment has been received.

M.16: There was a heating issue in the Grange Hall. Engineers attended for a day & referred to the heating plans. The fault was eventually traced back to the Plant Room and the heating is now working fine.

Cllrs referred to previous minutes and are now more concerned about the overgrown hedges at the corner of Oaktree Avenue/Fernwood Road. A resident was walking round that corner, when a car overtook a car that was on the pavement and the wing mirror just missed her. Something needs to be done. The Clerk confirmed the office has a generic letter that was sent to the home occupiers, however

the cutting back of hedges can only be enforced by NCC Highways. An email will now be sent to NCC Highways to report this problem.

11. Amenities Financial Update: April – Part November 2018

Noted and accepted.

12. Radcliffe Conservation Group: Update

Cllr Barton confirmed the sizing of the font for the 12/13 different types of signs will be a standard font size that will be legible from a distance. The Conservation Group has also had a very useful work session putting chippings down at the bottom of the Hallow well steps and this area has now become accessible. Signage differs massively in font and type size from area to area in the UK, and it was noted a lot of thought is needed into the type of font and pictures for the new Radcliffe Village signage in order to achieve an acceptable format.

13. Play Areas

Recent Incidents: Bingham Road (Galley Ship Damage), Wharf Lane (Toilet Doors Damage and Littering), The Grange (Littering and Chain Damage)

- The panels to the Galley Ship are being kicked out all the time at Bingham Road, as they are not part of the structure it has been decided to remove them.
- 'Check List' posters which was an idea from Social Media have been put up in the Grange Grounds to tackle the littering problem. There appears to be less litter now, however this could also be because the nights are dark and colder and there are fewer people out.
- The white plastic chain that runs from post to post in the Grange Grounds is broken daily, it is £50 a box to replace the chain link and is expensive over time.
- The Wharf Lane Toilet Doors are very thin and one had been kicked in, however with the help of a local Joiner it was forced back into shape and is now shut and locked. It was noted that heavier toilet doors could not be installed as the building structure is too flimsy to withstand the weight. There are three sets of locks to the door and the bottom set had been kicked so hard, they had sprung off. It was suggested that a Working Party be formed to discuss these issues and to look at other options in the future for a more efficient and effective type of facility, as it would appear futile to be spending money on the toilets as they are now. It has been advised that new toilets are installed at the time of installing the new concrete Skatepark, although some Cllrs felt that toilets should not be at this site, although other Cllrs preferred that a new brick built permanent building be installed with cess pit.

14. Report from the Play Areas Working Group Meeting held on 07 November 2018

The Group looked at the 'Matters Arising' and looked at the running repairs. Work had now been done to complete the running repairs, and it was also confirmed the basket swing was back in use at Wharf Lane. It was anticipated that the current wooden Skatepark would be closed down at some point, however after repairs it was still being used and was felt that closing it down would attract more vandalism to the site and the Skatepark Committee were happy to monitor it. Neighbours have raised their complaints concerning the lighting at the Skatepark. An electrician adjusted the timings of the lights, however they are in poor condition and have been switching on and off intermittently at random times. The PC and Skatepark Committee Group felt that if they were switched off completely, this would attract more negative behaviour to this area. As new Skatepark works are planned, in the meantime current lighting is monitored and regular risk assessments are carried out by the Skatepark Committee. Lighting times have been previously agreed, and these times will be applied when the new facility is installed. PC office staff are also still completing weekly visual play area reports. The zip wire also needs attention, and the suppliers have been asked to come out, but have never made a visit. A local company have been approached, but have proved too expensive. Streetwise have now been invited to inspect and quote for any outstanding play area repairs. Future developments were discussed which included: an estimate of £11,000 from Wicksteed for a new slide at the Wharf Lane 'Mound' (which includes remedial work of the Mound). Costs for this new facility would be put forward for a grant, and is an outstanding item from the Playground Development Plan. The paintwork on the metal Rocking Horse is poor and requires sand blasting and a new application of weather resistant finish. There was also a suggestion of a spinning disc (approx. 6 foot in diameter) piece of play equipment that children seem to love and to decide if this would be installed at Wharf Lane or Valley Road Park. The total price quoted

for this play equipment is £4080, plus installation and safety surface fees. The Rubber Crumb surface at Wharf Lane also needs to be redone and is expensive. All future developments totals between £25,000 and £30,000, however this year's budget and a limited budget for next year does not cover these proposals. Quotes from Wicksteed for the new rubber crumb safety surfaces and refurbishment of the painted metal play equipment are awaited and other options and quotes are also being looked into. After further discussions it was Resolved: "The PC express an initial interest to submit a NCC Local Improvement Scheme Application for approval and to itemise items of Play Equipment with an estimate".

15. The Grange Grounds: Single Use Plastic – To Consider Options with Plastic Chain Link

The white plastic chain that is draped from post to post in the Grange Grounds is broken/vandalised on a daily basis. Although the chain has a line of demarcation for the plant beds and for events, the removal and vandalism has become an ongoing problem and is costing the PC £50 a box to replace. Further discussions included whether the chain should remain, to have a different type of chain (ie metal) and whether the existing chain should also be taken down from the driveway, monitored and reviewed at a later date. It was Resolved: "That the existing white plastic chain is removed from the two sides of the Grange Grounds driveway and to retain the plastic chain to the immediate outside perimeter to The Grange and The Grange Hall".

16. Cemetery

Pricing Chart: To Review and Consider the Recommendation of a Revised Price for Plaques

Noted and discussed. There is now a new brass coloured material available for the memorial plaques that costs half the price of brass itself: the Clerk handed the Cllrs an example of the new type . It is proposed that these cost savings are now passed onto the Customer. It was Resolved: "That the PC accept the Clerks recommendations to reduce the price of Memorial Kerb Plaques from £120 to £60 each."

17. Headstones Inspections Update

There are approximately 1850 headstones in total for inspection at the Cemetery and St Marys Church. TYo date 420 have been tested and 67 have failed inspection. A Cemetery Working Group Meeting is scheduled for this Thursday and it is intended that the Memsafe Inspector is invited to the meeting to discuss the issues. There will be a lot more work involved for the office staff to contact families regarding maintenance however it was agreed the PC is taking its responsibilities seriously and that any income Cemetery generated income is being re-invested back into the site. It is hoped that a full report from the Cemetery Working Group will come back to the next Amenities Committee meeting in January 2019.

18. Skatepark: Update

Since the agenda item Report the Skatepark committee has received a large windfall donation from the Radcliffe Co-op. They have offered another £2,000 towards the new project, so effectively the construction tender is £280,000. The total project funding is now £304,600. There is an anticipated timeline for the work, which will be within a week or two of this projection. The Clerk then explained the breakdown of funding to Cllrs, which will be donated from 10 different sources. The publication of the tender will be in approximately 2 weeks, and Companies are required to work within 'ESPO Framework' standards. VIA have contacted 4 Companies and 3 of them have indicated that if the contract was awarded to them in January/February, then they would be able to start work in March 2019. It was noted that Cllr Culshaws son who was involved with the original Radcliffe Skatepark and has also been working with the Lady Bay Skatepark Group is happy to lend his experience and advice to the Skatepark Committee. The Clerk is happy to circulate the final tender from VIA before it is sent out to Contractors to the Skatepark Committee, there will then be a week to sift through the tenders on their completed return thereafter.

19. Radcliffe Olympic Football Club

Dog Fouling on Wharf Lane Pitch: To Consider Options

The dog fouling has been going on a long time at the Wharf Lane Football Pitch and has got more serious for the Football Club and the players. One match had a delayed start, as the visiting club had refused to play on the pitch as there was so much dog mess on it. There was also serious concerns that

the Football League would take action against Radcliffe and they wouldn't be allowed to play there. The PC does not allow dogs on play areas, for danger to health reasons. It was noted in the last minutes That "most dog owners are responsible and pick up their own dogs mess" however this is not sufficient because the dog mess remains in the ground after it has been picked up, which is a serious health issue and can lead to blindness. The PC has had informal discussions with Radcliffe Football Club and the Chairman of the Senior Club was hoping to attend tonight's meeting to voice his serious concerns for the players, but unfortunately he could not attend. Through the informal discussions, it was clear that displaying public notices do not work as they are either ripped down or ignored. Also the application of Bylaws will not be effective as they are another form of having a notice and requires specific evidence of the owner letting their dog foul the site. It has been concluded that the only way to keep dogs off the pitch, is to place a fence barrier around it. There are currently posts and a rail in place to keep football spectators back and it was hoped these could be utilised by attaching plasticised chain link to the top and bottom. A local Company was invited to assess the practicality of this idea. Unfortunately this cannot be done as tension is needed at the top and bottom of the rails. The Company supplied another quote for high quality new posts, new rails and new fencing for the pitch, however this was too expensive at £19,600 plus vat. The PC and Football Club were disappointed however the Club have contacts and may be sponsored from Building Companies for the new fencing. It is important this issue is dealt with quickly and it is hoped there would be contributions from the PC, the Football Club, Grant Aid from the Football Foundation, a possible grant from the Local Improvement Scheme, and help from friendly Building Companies. After further discussion it was Resolved: "That the PC arrange to erect temporary fencing to the edge of the Football Pitch and to place 'No Dogs Allowed' notices to it, whilst the Football club and PC are in the process of sourcing a more permanent fencing solution to prevent dogs fouling on the pitch."

20. Park Homes Footpath (Cllr Budworth)

Noted and discussed. There is a footpath notice at the bottom of Wharf Lane that states 'To the river only'. The original footpath was in the wrong area for many years and the owners of Park Homes have developed the original footpath site. Residents and walkers questioned Cllrs Budworth as to why the old footpath had disappeared, and he also received letters to this effect. The NCC Countryside Access Team were contacted and inspected the new footpath which ran over a mound down to the river. The Site owners made a decision to dig out a path and the dimensions for wheelchairs and pushchairs were provided by Cllr Budworth. The NCC inspected the path and confirmed it was complete, however it has not been finished off to a high standard. People have now twisted ankles and fallen over and have complained about the state of the path to Cllr Budworth. It is requested that a Cllr with building knowledge now meets with Cllr Budworth at the new footpath to inspect and report back to NCC. There was a difference of opinion as the Chairman agreed the footpath surface is not a quality surface, and another view was that the 40mm compacted road stone surface was adequate and better than the minimum requirements. The NCC have the right of way rights on the private land, however the difficulty is that the footpath surface is not required to be a particular standard just as long there is a clear right of way. It was confirmed the Area Rights of Way Officer provided information for the path to be maintained, therefore Cllr Budworth will now refer the Officer to the Chairman of Amenities however this issue is between NCC and the landowners.

21. Correspondence

Tree Surgeon: Recommendations for Future Reference

Noted. This matter will be referred to the Grounds Maintenance Working Party Group meeting which will be arranged after tonight's PC meeting.

22. St Marys Church: Architects Inspection

Noted. The PC may have to take action regarding the Beech Trees in St Marys Churchyard and should monitor them for now. It was also agreed for the At2 Tree Surgeon to inspect the Beech Trees/roots and report back to committee.

23. Zurich Topic Updates: Tree Liabilities and Cemetery/Memorial Safety

The Chairman feels that the PC is taking action on the issues raised by Zurich Insurance. The Clerk confirmed the last tree inspection was in 2014, and Zurich are stating it is not enough to have a 5 year

plan and there should be different times/years for different risks. This is something to address for next year.

24. Councillors' Reports

- Cllr Clegg attended the NALC Annual Report meeting and it was nice to note that Quality Status for Radcliffe had been recognised by means of a printed notice on the back of the Report Booklet itself.
- A resident had asked Cllr Bailey if there are any plans to replace the vandalised memorial bench recently removed by the donator from the Grange Grounds. The Clerk confirmed there were no plans to reinstate a replacement bench.
- Cllr Barton reported that this year there was a place for the PC in the Remembrance Day Parade.

25. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 21 January 2019

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm

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