

RAINWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9TH JANUARY 2014

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllrs V Stephenson, S Jones, M Buttery, I Speller, B Hardy, J Saunders, J Bradbury,
M Jefferies, J Middleton, P Cullen.

Parish Clerk - D Jones.

County Councillor - Y Woodhead.

8 members of the public.

APOLOGIES

Cllr's L Tift and J Stephenson.

The meeting was chaired by Cllr M Buttery.

The meeting was taped from 7pm.

Prior to the start of the agenda items the Chairman requested that Precept be added to the agenda under Finance & Accounts. Moved by Cllr M Jefferies, seconded by Cllr J Saunders. All in favour - UNANIMOUS.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr J Bradbury - Agenda item 7 - Precept under Finance & Accounts.

Cllr J Bradbury - Agenda item 13 - Planning

Signed..... Date.....

INAPPROPRIATE COMMENTS MADE BY A MEMBER ON A BLOG SPOT AND ANOTHER SOCIAL MEDIA SITE THAT MAY BRING THE PARISH COUNCIL INTO DISREPUTE

For information: Standing Order No.96 states: "Where members engage in informal/formal conversations with individuals or groups, they must take care to differentiate clearly between the views which are the agreed policy of the Council and those which are their own personal views".

The Chairman informed the meeting that this section of the agenda would be discussed in open session as the information was contained within the public domain.

The Chairman asked Cllr J Bradbury if he had put his own personal comments pertaining to Rainworth Parish Council on blog spots. Cllr J Bradbury replied that he had.

The Chairman invited Cllr J Bradbury to comment.

Cllr J Bradbury said that he initially put his comments on his Newark & Sherwood District Council blog spot regarding the proposed boundary review without first checking that he had all the appropriate information regarding Rainworth Parish Council's stance on the matter. Cllr J Bradbury said that after double checking the Council's actual views and actions he felt obliged to make a correction to the inaccurate information he had put on his NSDC blog. The Chairman stated that Cllr J Bradbury had broken RPC's Standing Order No96 by misleading the public by stating that RPC had not made their views known or made any comments regarding the boundary review, of which they had. The Chairman then read a list of all RPC's views and objections to the boundary review to the meeting.

Cllr J Bradbury stated that he had not been present at the Sept 2013 meeting. The Chairman pointed out that Cllr J Bradbury had been furnished with a full copy of the minutes of the Sept 2013 meeting at the beginning of October and therefore was totally aware of RPC's views and objections to the boundary proposals prior to him putting his contradicting comments on his NSDC blog in December.

The Chairman asked Cllr J Bradbury if he had created the following two websites which included Rainworth Parish Council's name.

Rainworth Parish Council - a personal viewpoint rainworth-pc-personal.blogspot.com and rainworth-pc-personal.blogspot.co.uk Cllr J Bradbury stated that he had.

The Chairman asked Cllr J Bradbury if Rainworth Parish Council had discussed agreed and voted to allow him to create these websites. Cllr J Bradbury replied that they had not.

Cllr J Bradbury stated that it was a private website.

Signed..... Date.....

INAPPROPRIATE COMMENTS MADE BY A MEMBER ON A BLOG SPOT AND ANOTHER SOCIAL MEDIA SITE THAT MAY BRING THE PARISH COUNCIL INTO DISREPUTE... Continued

The Chairman asked Cllr J Bradbury if on the 15th December 2013 he had misled the public by quoting inaccurate figures pertaining to the cost of the 2012/13 Christmas lights. Cllr J Bradbury stated that his were estimated figures. The Clerk as the Responsible Financial Officer confirmed that Cllr J Bradbury had been given the true, correct confirmed figures during the budget discussions at the November 2013 meeting, five weeks prior to Cllr J Bradbury's estimated figures appearing on his blog. Cllr J Bradbury said he would apologise publicly if he had misquoted the figures. The Chairman asked Cllr J Bradbury where he had got his figures from, Cllr J Bradbury declined to comment as he did not have his figures to hand.

The Chairman asked Cllr J Bradbury if on 19th December 2013 on Facebook he had made the comment that he did not vote at the 2012 budget meeting. Cllr J Bradbury said that it was true, he had not. The Chairman confirmed that Cllr J Bradbury did take part and vote at the 2012 budget meeting.

Cllr J Bradbury again stated that he did not vote on the 2012 budget. The Chairman reminded Cllr J Bradbury that he didn't vote at the 2013 budget but he did vote at the 2012 meeting. Cllr J Bradbury stated again that he did not vote in 2012 budget meeting as the Parish Council had refused him a dispensation.

The Clerk clarified that Cllr J Bradbury was in attendance at the October 2012 budget meeting, did take part and voted to accept the budget. The Clerk also stated that Cllr J Bradbury was only exempt from discussing and voting on the precept not the budget. Cllr J Bradbury said that if that is what the minutes said, but he was under the impression that he had not taken any part in it.

The Chairman said that yet again Cllr J Bradbury had misled the public.

The Chairman asked Cllr J Bradbury if he had made the following statement on Facebook "The danger is that the Parish Council's decisions' not being according to law"

Cllr J Bradbury replied yes.

The Chairman said that this statement could bring the Parish Council into disrepute.

The Chairman invited Cllr J Bradbury to explain himself.

Cllr J Bradbury said that in his opinion Rainworth Parish Council did not follow actual legal procedures when they came to bring things to the council, stating that there was no set motion in the 9-1-2014 agenda.

The Clerk pointed out that she had not received any requests by Councillors to include any motions on the agenda.

The Chairman asked Cllr J Bradbury to state what illegal activities in his opinion Rainworth Parish Council were doing.

Cllr J Bradbury reiterated his comments regarding motions.

Signed..... Date.....

INAPPROPRIATE COMMENTS MADE BY A MEMBER ON A BLOG SPOT AND ANOTHER SOCIAL MEDIA SITE THAT MAY BRING THE PARISH COUNCIL INTO DISREPUTE..... continued

The Chairman asked Cllr J Bradbury if he had put a link to his newly created blog sites on a Rainworth Community page when he had been specifically asked not to by the group who had created it and, did he disregard this request and go onto further repost the same information after the community group had deleted the original link put on by him.

Cllr J Bradbury replied that he had not.

The Clerk read aloud to the meeting an email received from Rainworth Skate Park which confirmed that Cllr J Bradbury had ignored their request and reposted the link again. The group felt that Cllr J Bradbury was using their official site for his own personal issues not community issues. (Further comments from the group can be found within the full copy of the email contained within the office copy of the minutes).

The Chairman asked Cllr J Bradbury if he wished to respond to the email. Cllr J Bradbury declined.

To conclude the Chairman asked Cllr J Bradbury if he took full responsibility for all his comments made on the NSDC blog spot and Facebook community pages.

Cllr J Bradbury stated that he did.

The Chairman asked Cllr J Bradbury to remove any of the personal blog spots he had created with Rainworth Parish Council within its title and that any further personal blogs he creates should be in John Bradbury's name only.

Cllr J Bradbury stated that he would check the legal position.

The Chairman requested that Cllr John Bradbury remove all untrue and misleading comments that he had put on blog spots and other Facebook community sites. The Chairman asked Cllr J Bradbury to publically apologise to the electorate, Rainworth Parish Council and the Clerk for his inappropriate comments accusing the Parish Council of acting improperly and that they were making decisions not in accordance with the law.

Cllr J Bradbury stated that he could not because he did not believe they did.

Signed..... Date.....

INAPPROPRIATE COMMENTS MADE BY A MEMBER ON A BLOG SPOT AND ANOTHER SOCIAL MEDIA SITE THAT MAY BRING THE PARISH COUNCIL INTO DISREPUTE..... continued

Cllr M Jefferies proposed that Rainworth Parish Council give a vote of no confidence for a period of at least six months to Cllr J Bradbury for inappropriate comments made by him on a blog spot and another social media site that may bring the Parish Council into disrepute and that a complaint and all supporting evidence be sent to the Standards Committee at NSDC. Cllr M Jefferies also said he would ask the Chairman not to allow Cllr J Bradbury to speak at meetings whilst the vote of no confidence was in place.

Seconded by Cllr J Saunders.

Cllr J Bradbury asked the Chairman to clarify the motion before the vote was taken so that all members clearly understood the motion. The Chairman clarified the motion to the satisfaction of the Council.

Cllr M Jefferies requested a recorded named vote.

In favour

Cllr M BATTERY
Cllr M Jefferies
Cllr J Saunders
Cllr V Stephenson
Cllr S Jones
Cllr I Speller
Cllr B Hardy

Against

Cllr J Bradbury
Cllr J Middleton

Abstention

Cllr P Cullen

Motion carried.

Signed..... Date.....

INAPPROPRIATE COMMENTS MADE BY A MEMBER ON A BLOG SPOT AND ANOTHER SOCIAL MEDIA SITE THAT MAY BRING THE PARISH COUNCIL INTO DISREPUTE..... continued.

The Chairman invited Peter Zakarian-Ball to make his comments following a request to speak at the meeting.

PZB commented that he had observed the comments on Facebook and was not impressed with Cllr J Bradbury's remarks and he stated that he supported the Council's vote of no confidence given to Cllr J Bradbury.

Cllr J Bradbury stated that this was a bone of contention between himself and the Parish Council.

PZB asked Cllr J Bradbury how frequently he visited the parish office to enquire about parish matters. Cllr J Bradbury stated that he was disabled and found it difficult to get there.

PZB pointed out that the Village Hall was a fully disabled friendly accessed building.

Cllr J Bradbury requested that the Chairman move progress - granted.

The Chairman reminded Cllr J Bradbury that he had received a vote of no confidence and therefore requested that he did not speak further on the matter.

Cllr J Bradbury asked by what authority the Chairman wished him to remain silent; the

Chairman replied that he was speaking as the Chairman of Rainworth Parish Council.

Cllr J Bradbury disputed the validity of this.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 14-11-2013 were unanimously confirmed as a true & correct record by all in attendance at the 14-11-2013 meeting.

The Chairman signed the minutes.

POLICE

Cllrs discussed speeding problems on various roads in Rainworth; these were reported to CC Yvonne Woodhead who said that the police were aware of the problems.

CC Yvonne Woodhead said she had asked Blidworth Parish Council to produce an alternative route to prevent HGV's travelling through Blidworth's main roads to reach Blidworth's industrial estate. Blidworth Parish Council has suggested that the HGV's travel through Rainworth along Warsop Lane and exit the same way thus avoiding HGV's travelling through Blidworth. The Chairman stated that RPC were unaware of any of this and had not received any information or requests to reply from NCC or CC Yvonne Woodhead. RPC will respond when they receive the relevant information and a request for their views.

Although not a matter relevant to agenda item No.6 - Police, Cllr J Middleton wished to congratulate Yvonne Woodhead on becoming Rainworth/Blidworth's County Councillor and welcomed her to the meeting.

Signed..... Date.....

FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

A schedule of accounts from 1st November 2013 to 31st December 2013 including payments of £5,427.74 and remittance of £24.24 was presented to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr V Stephenson seconded by Cllr J Bradbury to approve the accounts and payments up to 31-12-2013. 9 in favour. Cllr S Jones abstained - Motion carried.

Notification from NSDC that Rainworth Parish Council will receive £3,038 of council tax support funding for 2014/15. Received and noted.

PLAYING FIELDS & OPEN SPACES

It was noted that fly tipping has been removed from the Amber Close field.

An update regarding the skate park/play area was given to the meeting. The Chairman thanked Clare Salmon for all her hard work with the project.

TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS, FOOTWAYS AND LIGHTING

CC Yvonne Woodhead stated that she would look into the possibility of obtaining a grit bin for the junction of Thoresby Rd/Hardwick Ave as a previous request by RPC had been turned down by NCC who had stated that the area did not meet the required criteria.

Cllrs raised concerns regarding the new Tesco Express including the vehicle entrance, congestion and the location of the cash point machine. CC Yvonne Woodhead stated that NCC are aware of the concerns, they will look at all the problems and report back to the Parish Council.

Notification of proposed 40mph speed limit on sections of Blidworth Lane and Cross Lane received and noted. CC Yvonne Woodhead will pass Rainworth Parish Council's views of the proposals to NCC.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Nothing to report.

DONATIONS

Thank you letter received and noted from the Royal British Legion re: 2013 Poppy Appeal.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

O.A.P Christmas Party 2014

Following discussions it was unanimously agreed:

Date - Monday 8th December 2014

Venue - Rainworth Village Hall

Raffle Prize Fund £200 limit

Bingo Prize Fund 3 games @ £5 line, £20 full house total £75

Artist - Karl Howard

Hot meal.

CC Yvonne Woodhead suggested asking the local Army Cadets to help serve the meal.

Signed..... Date.....

PLANNING

13/01427/FUL Joseph Whitaker School - re-cladding works NSDC Approve
13/01293/FULM Davidsons development - substitution of house types NSDC Approve

Notification re: variation of condition 2 of planning permission 3/12/00100/CMM to allow for an extension of time for mineral extraction operations at Rufford Sand Quarry - received & noted.

Review of NCC guidance notes on the validation of planning applications - received & noted.

Emails from Bilsthorpe Parish Council and Bobby Baguley regarding a proposed plasma gasification incinerator for Bilsthorpe. The Clerk read aloud the websites that contained further information. It was agreed to put this item in abeyance to allow Councillors time to view the information. CC Yvonne Woodhead wished to be kept informed of any further developments.

VILLAGE HALL REPS REPORT

Cllr B Hardy reported that everything was fine and quiet at the moment.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lucy Ward, review officer for the Boundary Review (Newark & Sherwood) - Notification that she had received Rainworth Parish Council's response to the proposed changes to the electoral arrangements for Rainworth.

NSDC - Draft Wind Energy Supplementary Planning Document - received and noted. The Chairman will ask Cllr L Tift to attend the briefing session and put forward views on behalf of Rainworth Parish Council.

Graham D Scott - FOI request - received & noted. The Information Commissioner's Office will be contacted due to ongoing issues regarding the use of pseudonyms within FOI requests made to Rainworth Parish Council.

NCC - Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire - received & noted.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

13th February 2014

It was proposed and resolved unanimously to move the Annual Parish Assembly and the Annual Parish Meeting to 15th May 2014 to avoid the possibility of the number of Councillors present falling below the quorum required on the original date of 8th May.

Following Private and Confidential the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Signed..... Date.....

