

**Annual General Meeting of Save Radley Lakes**  
**7.30pm – Friday 27 June 2008**  
**Hadland Road Community Centre**

Present: Officers  
          B Crowley                   Chairman  
          D Guyoncourt           Vice Chairman  
          J Cartmell               Secretary  
          L Pasquire             Treasurer  
Present 18 members.

**1. Welcome and Apologies.**

The Chairman welcomed those present. Apologies had been received from Peter Harbour, Elizabeth Edgecombe, Alison Prewett, Judith Hoskin and Annabel Eyres.

**2. Minutes of the last AGM held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2007.**

These were taken as read.

**3. Report by the Chairman.**

In January 2007, RWE npower received planning permission to fill Thrupp Lake with PFA.

In June 2007, Tony Juniper Director of Friends of the Earth visited the Lakes, which were a childhood haunt of his. In a statement, he said

*“RWE npower should find more responsible and appropriate ways of dealing with its waste .Filling these lakes with ash is a lazy and outdated practice. They would not be able to do this in Germany where they are based. Why do they think they can do it here?”*

*“These lakes are of enormous importance for both local people and wildlife and the company needs to respect that or it will forever be in the environmental hall of shame.”*

The Town Green Public inquiry, which had started on 2 April 2007 resumed for 3 further days in June, and finally wound up after a total of 7 days and after hearing evidence from 39 witnesses, 36 for claimant and 3 for the objectors.

In September 2007, after formulating all the conditions, OCC finally gave npower full planning permission to proceed with their proposed development of Thrupp Lake. On 21 September npower started work at Thrupp Lake and carried out the construction of a causeway and laid pipework under the byway. They also put a new barrier most of the way round the lake. Then they went away. A protest by cyclists (Cycle to Recycle) had taken place just a week before.

On 23 Sept, a 10 km run was held to raise money for the Town Green legal action. 64 people entered and 60 completed.

On 13 October, Mr Chapman QC delivered his verdict ('No') on the basis of an argument that any use of the land was ancillary to the use of footpaths, and that therefore the evidence amounted to creating rights of way rather than a town green.

This view was challenged by our lawyers and a contradictory opinion was submitted by George Laurence QC in December 2007.

Nevertheless, after getting a rebuttal from Mr Chapman, OCC were quick to reject the application, which they did on 14 January.

Since then, after seeking Counsel's opinion, Radley Parish Council has taken up the cudgels and is now seeking a judicial review of the decision.

On 9<sup>th</sup> February this year, an appeal was launched to raise money to pay for this. At a well attended public meeting in Abingdon, parliamentary candidates and MP from all 4 main political parties stood shoulder to shoulder on the same issue and spoke against npower's plans and in support of the JR. Over £4,000 was raised that day in donations and pledges.

The judicial review was launched in March this year, and an application to seek permission for the judicial review was made by Radley PC.

In February npower announced that it had deferred its plan to fill Thrupp Lake with coal ash from Didcot Power Station. In a statement it said that the recent successes of its ash recycling and reuse programme meant the Thrupp Lake scheme is not needed in the short term.

In May Waste Recycling Group applied for planning permission to increase the surcharge on the Sutton Courtenay Landfill site, and that, as part of this, they are making provision to store up to 400,000 tonnes of PFA from the power station for use after the power station closes, as it must do, under the European Large Combustion Plant Directive, by 2015.

While the prospects for the future of Thrupp Lake are looking much better, nothing is yet certain. We must remain vigilant and keep the pressure on npower.

### **3. Report by the Treasurer.**

The Treasurer reported that, due to the commendable efforts of Marjorie White, the Campaign had continued to raise funds at a steady rate. It had discharged the legal fees debts, which had built up during the Town Green Inquiry, and had ended the year with a healthy balance, particularly due to one anonymous donation of £7,500, which had helped enormously in settling the legal fees for the previous year. The Public Meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> February had raised over £4000 and events tended to bring in amounts between £300 and £1000 depending upon the venue and event being staged.

The year had finished with £14,500.00 in hand, which was an excellent basis compared with the year previous which closed with £2,500 in hand.

Michael Bloom proposed a vote of thanks to Marjorie White for all her efforts in ensuring that the events calendar was populated and for turning out week on week with her stall in the market place. Thanks were also due to those volunteers who supported the various events and provided their time to 'man' the stall. The meeting agreed with this proposal unanimously.

### **4. Proposed Amendment to the Constitution.**

The Chairman advised that the constitution, which had been written in 2005 and had been designed for the then existing small membership, was out of date because of the membership campaign had resulted in there being over 600 members of the Group. Some of these were not active members but were sympathizers, and were entitled to vote at General Meetings.

There was tabled a series of proposed amendments to the Constitution as detailed in annexe B to these minutes, which includes explanatory notes. These amendments were discussed in some detail. In particular, in regard to the amendment to clause 48, it was suggested that the quorum at general meetings should be increased.

(Note: in the following, a 'sufficient majority' is two thirds or more of those present voting in favour.)

The proposed changes were taken as follows:

**1. Clause 16: The division of responsibility between the Treasurer and Secretary shall be amended as follows:**

*Secretary whose duties shall be to administer the day-to-day business of the Group, to record the minutes of meetings, to arrange meetings and to distribute agendas of forthcoming meetings to members. The secretary is also responsible for ~~maintaining a membership mailing list and for~~ official communication between the Executive and the General Membership.*

*Treasurer whose duties shall be to administer the financial and legal affairs of the Group and to provide the Group with a regular Statement of Account. The treasurer shall also be responsible for maintaining the membership list.*

It was proposed by Basil Crowley to adopt the change to clause 16. This was seconded by Lynda Pasquire. A vote was taken. There were no votes against and one abstention and the motion was carried by a sufficient majority voting in favour.

**2. Clause 47 shall be deleted and replaced by the following new Clause 47:**

*Any uncommitted funds remaining at dissolution shall be donated to one or more charities, or asset-locked organisations, with similar or comparable aims to those of The Group, as shall be decided by the Group at the time.*

It was proposed by Basil Crowley to adopt the change to Clause 47. This was seconded by Lynda Pasquire. A vote was taken. There was one vote against. The motion was carried by a sufficient majority voting in favour.

**3. Clause 48 shall be amended as follows:**

*The provisions contained within the Constitution may be revoked or altered by a majority of not less than two thirds of the members of the Group present at a General Meeting where there is a quorum, provided the following procedure is observed:*

It was proposed by Basil Crowley to adopt the change to Clause 48. This was seconded by Lynda Pasquire. A vote was taken. There were two votes against. The motion was carried by a sufficient majority voting in favour.

**5. Election of Officers.**

The Chairman advised that David Guyoncourt was standing down as Vice-Chairman and thanked him for his efforts and loyal support over the last three years. Mr Roger Thomas had agreed to take the position of Vice Chairman, and the Chairman asked if there were any nominations from the floor for any of the posts.

There were no nominations from the floor.

Marjorie White proposed that Basil Crowley continue as Chairman. This was seconded by Eleanor Dangerfield and carried unanimously.

Basil Crowley proposed Roger Thomas be appointed as Vice Chairman. This was seconded by Steve Stephens and carried unanimously.

Roger Thomas proposed Lynda Pasquire continue as Treasurer. This was seconded by Rosie Ryder and carried unanimously.

Michael Bloom proposed that Jo Cartmell continue as Secretary. This was seconded by Steve Stephens and carried unanimously.

Steve Stevens proposed that Marjorie White, Peter Harbour, Elizabeth Edgecombe, Alison Prewett and Annabel Eyres continue as Executive members. This was seconded by Rosie Ryder and carried unanimously.

## **7. The Future of the Campaign**

Roger Thomas was asked by the Chairman to give a presentation on the future of the campaign, given his experience in legal matters.

Mr Thomas said that we have done tremendously well and could not have done so well without the support of the Town and the people. It is difficult at the moment because of the state of limbo and it important that we have the contact. It looks as if Waste Recycling Group Planning Application is going to solve the problem. This application had been the direct result of lobbying by Save Radley Lakes. SRL had pointed out that Waste Recycling Group would have no source of daily cover once the Power Station closed and they would have to transport aggregate in at even greater cost, both economically and environmentally. nPower are unlikely to admit that the problem has been solved by other means. If it does come about that this new facility to store ash at Sutton Courtenay is agreed with NPower and Waste Recycling Group, we are home and dry. In the meantime, we have to be ready to act.

The Judicial Review is a very helpful element of the strategy to keep the pressure on nPower.

If in the event that the lake is save, then what will happen to it. How do we look after it, and stop it being sold off. If the Sutton Courtenay development is resolved, then perhaps we can discuss the future with nPower

The Chairman reported that NPower told the Radley Parish Council that when they have no further use for Thrupp Lake they will give it to the public for nature conservation but not the use of Sandles.

Discussion took place about the gravel which remains in and around Thrupp Lake. Michael Bloom asked if this would be removed. The Chairman replied that there were old mineral permissions going on and the OCC Planning Application lists some as a stalled "ROMP" requiring an Environmental Assessment, but Mr Curtis has not done this for the land which he has permission and will have until November 2008 to apply for permission otherwise the permission will be rescinded.

## **8. Future Events**

Marjorie White outlined the various events which were on the calendar and for which she needed volunteers to help:

5 <sup>th</sup> July	Family Dog Show	Radley Village Hall and Playing Fields
13 <sup>th</sup> September	Race Night	Radley Village Hall
18 <sup>th</sup> October	Dinner with Colin Dexter	Radley College New Pavillion.

## **9. Any other Business**

It was suggested by the Treasurer that there should be a £5.00 membership charge. The question of whether we contact each member and ask if they would like to renew their membership on this basis was discussed.

MW felt this would be a detrimental course of action. The cost of sending out 600 letters would unlikely to be covered by the income generated from renewals. It would be best to stay as we are at present.

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**Annex A: To be Made Available at the Meeting**

**Treasurer's Report**

## Annex B: Proposed changes to constitution:

**Clause 16: The division of responsibility between the Treasurer and Secretary shall be amended as follows [See note 1]:**

*Secretary whose duties shall be to administer the day-to-day business of the Group, to record the minutes of meetings, to arrange meetings and to distribute agendas of forthcoming meetings to members. The secretary is also responsible for ~~maintaining a membership mailing list~~ ~~and for~~ official communication between the Executive and the General Membership.*

*Treasurer whose duties shall be to administer the financial and legal affairs of the Group and to provide the Group with a regular Statement of Account. The treasurer shall also be responsible for maintaining the membership list.*

**Clause 47 shall be deleted and replaced by the following new Clause 47**

**[See note 2]:**

*Any uncommitted funds remaining at dissolution shall be donated to one or more charities, or asset-locked organisations, with similar or comparable aims to those of The Group, as shall be decided by the Group at the time.*

**Clause 48 shall be amended as follows [See note 3:]**

*The provisions contained within the Constitution may be revoked or altered by a majority of not less than two thirds of the members of the Group present at a General Meeting where there is a quorum, provided the following procedure is observed:*

**Proposed by:  
The current Executive Committee**

### Explanatory notes:

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<sup>1</sup> This now specifies that the treasurer is responsible for administering the legal (as well as financial) affairs of the Group. Note that this does not confer on the treasurer a power to take decisions on these matters. The responsibility is principally one of communication and oversight, and to ensure that the Group meets its legal and financial responsibilities. This is in line with current practice. The membership list is linked to the payment of subscriptions, so it is logical that the Treasurer should maintain the master copy.

<sup>2</sup> This replaces a previous clause to denote residual funds to the Thrupp Conservation Group, which currently does not even exist. The new clause is fairly standard and provides greater flexibility. Note that there could be tax implications if any such donation is not made to a charity. "Asset-locked" means that the money can lawfully only be spent on furthering the aims of the organisation to which it is donated.

<sup>3</sup> For clarification.