

**MINUTES OF THE BATHFORD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD AT 7.30PM ON 8 MAY 2006 IN THE PARISH ROOMS, CHURCH STREET,
BATHFORD**

Present: Councillor Shirley Beazer (Chair)
Councillor Stan Cherry (Vice Chair)
Councillor Hugh Baker
Councillor Susan Barclay
Councillor Sally Broadway
Councillor Maureen Breeze
Councillor Wendy Chambers
Councillor Jean Vesey
Councillor John Lloyd
Councillor Richard Wickham

Also present: Ruth Holding (Clerk)
35 members of the public

Apologies were received from Cllr Jan Hooker, Revd Tim Ling and Ken Tatem.

1. Welcome and Introductions

- 1.1. Chair Shirley Beazer opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. She welcomed Acting Inspector Deryck Rees and PC Roger Parker.
- 1.2. The Chairman gave a brief overview of the new format of the Annual Parish Meeting which would comprise short reports from the Parish Council's Committees and a brief presentation from Acting Inspector Rees followed by a coffee break and a question and answer session.
- 1.3. Cllr Shirley Beazer said that copies of the all the reports to be presented by the Committees could be found near the door if people wished to take a copy away with them.
- 1.4. The Chair drew attention to the displays by various village groups which had been put up around the room and she encouraged people to look at these during the coffee break.
- 1.5. One member of the public announced that he was leaving the meeting because he was unable to hear the speakers and gave a written list of questions to the Council.

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 18 April 2005

- 2.1. Chair Shirley Beazer reported that the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting had been signed by the Council as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and had been published on the council's website.

3. Matters arising

- 3.1. There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report

- 4.1. Chair Shirley Beazer made a report covering a number of issues which had arisen during the past 12 months. The full text of the Chairman's report can be found on the council's website www.bathford.net or a copy can be requested from the Clerk.
- 4.2. The annual accounts of the Consolidated Charities were noted.
- 4.3. The membership of the Parish Hall Management Committee was confirmed by a show of hands.

5. Committee Reports

5.1. Amenities Committee

- 5.1.1. Cllr Stan Cherry presented the report of the Amenities Committee. The full text of the Amenities Committee report can be found on the council's website or a copy can be requested from the Clerk.

5.2. Finance and Administration Committee

- 5.2.1. Cllr Wendy Chambers introduced the annual report from the Finance and Administration Committee. The full text of the Committee's report can be found on the council's website or a copy can be requested from the Clerk.

5.3. Highways, Footpaths and Lighting Committee

- 5.3.1. Chair Shirley Beazer presented the report on behalf of the Committee. The full text of the Highways, Footpaths and Lighting Committee report can be found on the council's website or a copy can be requested from the Clerk.

5.4. Planning and Environment Committee

- 5.4.1. Cllr Hugh Baker presented the report on behalf of the Planning and Environment Committee in the absence of Cllr Jan Hooker. The full text of the Planning and Environment Committee report can be found on the council's website or a copy can be requested from the Clerk.

5.5. Parish Plan

- 5.5.1. Cllr Stan Cherry presented the report on the completion of Bathford's Parish Plan and the next steps. The full text of the report can be found on the council's website or a copy can be requested from the Clerk.

6. Presentation on Neighbourhood Policing

- 6.1.1. Acting Inspector Rees gave a short presentation on neighbourhood policing. He said that beats were going to be aligned with wards and the aim was to improve delivery of police services on those issues considered most important to the local community as different areas of the city had different priorities. 50 Police

Community Support Officers were to be recruited and they would provide visibility and assurance around each beat.

- 6.1.2. An information sheet about the changes had been issued by the police and he invited people to talk to him in the coffee break about any particular concerns.

The presentation on changes to policing was followed by a coffee break of 30 minutes.

7. Question and Answer session

- 7.1. The Chair reconvened the meeting after the coffee break and invited questions from the floor. The following matters were raised:-
- 7.2. Proposal to narrow junction of Ashley Road with the High Street – Cllr Shirley Beazer said that she had received the plans earlier in the day which formed part of the Safer Routes to School initiative. There was concern about the loss of parking if the road was narrowed. Cllr Shirley Beazer said that she had been unable to get a commitment from the local authority that the priority point would be moved as part of this scheme. There was general agreement that the priority point was situated in the wrong place.
- 7.3. New speed limit on A363 – Acting Inspector Rees said that civilians could be trained to use speed camera equipment. Cllr Shirley Beazer said that this option had been considered previously but there had been no volunteers. It appeared that the police are automatically consulted about significant changes to a road layout when TRO are required for restricted speed limits, weight limits etc. The information goes initially to the police headquarters in Portishead. The police confirmed that BANES now had responsibility for enforcing parking restrictions following the decriminalisation of parking offences.
- 7.4. Proposed cuts to No.13 bus service – Cllr Wendy Chambers said that the parish council was organising a letter writing campaign in protest against the proposal to withdraw the No.13 bus service after 6pm on Sunday and on Bank Holidays. Letters for parishioners to sign would be available from various locations in the village. The campaign would be coordinated with Batheaston parish council.
- 7.5. New bus service to Melksham – a member of the public reported that a new bus service to Melksham would be going through Bathford hourly and a timetable could be found on the bus stop by the Crown. Bus passes were accepted and parishioners were encouraged to use the new service.
- 7.6. Cleanliness of Bus Shelter – a resident said that although enclosing one side of the bus shelter had made it warmer, rubbish now gathered in the shelter. Cllr Stan Cherry reported that sweeping of the bus shelter should be carried out by BANES during cleaning of the village on Tuesday mornings. If this was not carried out then a report could be made to the Council Connect helpline on 01225 394041.
- 7.7. Parish Citizen of the Year Award – the idea had been put forward of setting up a parish Citizen of the Year Award to be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting. It was agreed that the parish council would look at this idea in more detail.

- 7.8. Evaluation sheet – Cllr Wendy Chambers said that the parish council would welcome people's views on the new format of the meeting and any suggestions for improvements. An Evaluation Sheet had been prepared and she asked people to complete it and return it to the parish council with comments.
- 7.9. Thanks were given to Mrs Margaret Hawkins and Mrs Joyce Helps for making the tea and coffee during the break.
- 7.10. Thanks were given from the floor to Councillors and the Clerk for the work they did.

8. Proposals for which written notice has been given

- 8.1. No proposals had been received.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.