

BATHFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE BATHFORD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 16 APRIL 2007 AT 7.30PM IN THE PARISH ROOMS, CHURCH STREET, BATHFORD

Present: Councillor Shirley Beazer (Chair)
Councillor Stan Cherry
Councillor Hugh Baker
Councillor Susan Barclay
Councillor Wendy Chambers
Councillor Jan Hooker
Councillor Jean Vesey
Councillor Richard Wickham
Steve Mackerness (co-opted member of Planning Committee)
Ken Spencer (Speaker)
Nick Baker (Speaker)
PCSO Greg Doyle
Ruth Holding (Clerk)
21 members of the public

1. Apologies

- 1.1. Apologies were received from Cllr Sally Broadway, Cllr John Lloyd, Revd Tim Ling, Ward Councillor Ian Dewey and Judy Sharman.

2. Welcome and Introductions

- 2.1. Chair Shirley Beazer opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. She introduced the Parish Councillors present, the Clerk and the co-opted member of the Council's Planning and Environment Committee. She welcomed the speakers Ken Spencer and Nick Baker and thanked PCSO Greg Doyle for attending.
- 2.2. Chair Shirley Beazer said that copies of all the reports presented by the Committees, together with reports from the Church, the village shop and a report on the Lambridge Park & Ride could be found on the table near the door if people wished to take a copy away with them.
- 2.3. The Chair drew attention to the displays by village groups which had been put up around the room and she encouraged people to look at these during the coffee break.

3. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting

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

4. Matters arising

- 4.1. There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report

- 5.1. 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 parish council's website www.bathford.net or requested from the Clerk.
- 5.2. Items of particular note were the sale of Tyndale to BUPA, a reduction in the parish precept, the rise in the cost of green bins and green waste sacks which discouraged recycling and the change to the Act of Remembrance on Remembrance Sunday to enable the Parish Council's wreath to be laid at the war memorial in St Swithun's churchyard during the morning service.
- 5.3. The Chairman's report also included a reference to the future of the Post Office and the community shop. She made an appeal for volunteers to help out in the shop, making it clear that there was no requirement to make a commitment to regular hours.
- 5.4. The Chair reported that Ward Councillor Tony Cox had decided not to stand for re-election in May. She said that his many years of service and the support given to Bathford Parish Council were much appreciated.
- 5.5. The annual accounts of the Bathford Consolidated Charities were noted.
- 5.6. The election and membership of the Parish Hall Management Committee was proposed by Jenny Prall and seconded by Martin Wright. The election and membership of the Committee was confirmed by a show of hands. The Chairman of the Parish Hall Management Committee, Prof. Darryl Almond, gave a short report confirming that the hall was very well used by regular groups and for one-off bookings. This put the hall in a good financial position and charges would not need to rise. A number of improvements to the fabric of the hall had been made including a wider ramp for wheelchair access and redecorating.

6. Overview Report from Amenities Committee

- 6.1. Councillor Stan Cherry presented the report of the Amenities Committee. The full text of the report can be found on the parish council's website or requested from the Clerk.
- 6.2. An item of particular note was the completion of the footpath across the village green. The path had been steeper than anticipated at the end by the British Legion car park due to the need to protect tree roots and a handrail would be added shortly.
- 6.3. It was noted that the parish council had been successful in obtaining a grant from the Quartet Community Foundation to cover the cost of a loop system and sound system for the parish hall.

6.4. Cllr Stan Cherry also announced the annual charges for use of the recreation ground and allotment rents as follows:-

6.4.1. Recreation ground and allotment rent annual charges from September 2008

- 6.4.1.1. Rugby Club £338 per year
- 6.4.1.2. Other sports users £110 per year
- 6.4.1.3. Full allotments plot £10 (£5 for concessions)
- 6.4.1.4. Half allotment plot, £5 (£2.50 for concessions)
- 6.4.1.5. Water charge £3 per plot holder (increased from £2)

6.5. It was noted that although allotment rents had not increased this year, rents would rise in September 2008.

7. Overview Report from Planning and Environment Committee

7.1. Councillor Jan Hooker presented the report of the Planning and Environment Committee. The full text of the report can be found on the parish council's website or requested from the Clerk.

7.2. The main matters dealt with by the committee were the consideration of 33 planning applications. It was noted that several applications had been refused on the grounds of the detrimental effect on the green belt and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and it was considered reassuring that BANES took these matters into account when determining applications. There was evidence that there were changes in land use away from agriculture to other economic uses for the land such as light industrial use.

7.3. It was noted that T-Mobile had approached the parish council for their comments on a proposal to site a mast in Bathford on the field opposite the Crown. The parish council had not welcomed the proposal and BANES had advised of the flood risk. Mobile phone companies were obliged to provide sufficient network coverage and therefore it is likely that there will be a further approach from T-Mobile for a mast in Bathford, if not on this site, then somewhere else in the village.

7.4. Cllr Jan Hooker referred to the report prepared by Steve Mackerness on the status of the Park & Ride applications and related matters, a copy of which can be viewed on the council's website or requested from the Clerk.

7.5. Chair Shirley Beazer thanked both Jan Hooker and Sally Broadway, who had decided not to stand for re-election in May, for their contribution to the council and particularly for their work on the Planning and Environment Committee. She also thanked Maureen Breeze who had stood down from the parish council towards the end of 2006 to concentrate on her role as Chair of the village shop's management committee.

8. Overview Report from Highways, Footpaths and Lighting Committee

8.1. Councillor Shirley Beazer presented the report of the Highways, Footpaths and Lighting Committee. The full text of the report can be found on the parish council's website or requested from the Clerk.

- 8.2. The meeting noted with regret the fatal accident on the A363 in March. The parish council would push for further safety improvements such as speed cameras or flashing lights to warn of the dangers. Changes to the road layout on High Street were also proposed as part of the safe routes to school initiative including a reduction in the speed limit to 20 mph during school arrival and leaving times and the removal of the priority point at the Post Office.
- 8.3. Cllr Shirley Beazer reported that the milestones and turnpike trust markers in the parish had been repaired by BANES and thanked Phillip Harris and David Howells for their involvement in this project.

9. Overview Report from Finance, Administration and Communications Committee

- 9.1. Councillor Richard Wickham presented the report of the Finance, Administration and Communications Committee. The full text of the report can be found on the parish council's website or requested from the Clerk.
- 9.2. It was noted that the council's income and expenditure for the year had met its forecasts. A new budget had been set for this year, resulting in a reduction in the precept. Cllr Richard Wickham was pleased to report that the parish council had been successful in finding new sources of funding and had received grants totalling around £3,000 from the Quartet Community Foundation towards the cost of producing the Bathford Bulletin and installing a loop system in the parish hall.
- 9.3. A communications sub-group had met during the year to consider improvements to communications in the village and with the grant award the parish council would need to show that enhancements were being made to the Bulletin. With this in mind Cllr Richard Wickham introduced Ken Spencer and invited him to give his presentation on his thoughts for future changes to the Bulletin.

10. Presentation on changes to the Bathford Bulletin

- 10.1. Ken Spencer thanked the parish council for the opportunity to speak to the meeting. He said that following the award of a grant of around £1,500.00 from the Quartet Community Foundation towards the costs of producing the Bathford Bulletin, there was an opportunity for the Bulletin to be further increased in size and possibly printed professionally. He reminded the meeting that the Bulletin, although copied and put together by a volunteer team from St Swithun's, was a newsletter for the whole village and not just for one section of the community.
- 10.2. Ken outlined his vision for the Bulletin which included increasing the content to include regular contributions from the sports clubs in the village and articles from individuals on specific events or achievements. He said the increased use of photos in the Bulletin made professional printing desirable to improve the quality of the images and if it was made larger it would probably exceed the capacity of the copier and volunteer team at St Swithun's.

- 10.3. Costs had been obtained for printing and stapling the Bulletin and Ken said that he would be arranging to meet the parish council in the near future to discuss the options. He invited comments from parishioners during the coffee break about how they would like to see the Bulletin developed.
- 10.4. The report prepared by Ken Spencer about changes to the Bulletin can be viewed on the council's website or requested from the Clerk.

11. Presentation on Home Composting

- 11.1. Nick Baker, Home Composting Advisor, working with BANES gave an interesting talk promoting the benefits of home composting both for the environment and reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill. He gave advice on the types of waste suitable for composting and how to get the best mix of the different types of waste. He invited parishioners to look at the information on display in the hall and said he would be happy to answer any questions during the coffee break.

The presentation on home composting was followed by a coffee break of 25 minutes.

12. Proposals for which written notice has been given

- 12.1. A parishioner had written to the council asking for consideration to be given to the introduction of speed bumps on the High Street to slow traffic as the existing priority points were ineffective at reducing speeds. The proposer was not present at the meeting.
- 12.2. Chair Shirley Beazer said that the option of speed bumps was considered by the council when traffic calming measures on the High Street were first proposed, but these were rejected on the grounds of noise and disturbance to the residents. She confirmed that the council was continually looking for ways to reduce the speed of vehicles using High Street and the latest scheme was the safe routes to school initiative discussed under item 8.
- 12.3. There was no support from the floor for the introduction of speed bumps on the High Street.

13. Open Question and Answer Session

- 13.1. A parishioner was grateful for the removal of graffiti from the pedestrian underpass at Bathford roundabout and graffiti on the garages in Mountain Wood had also been removed.
- 13.2. A parishioner pointed out that branches from a Willow Tree by the By Brook were obscuring a road sign.
- 13.3. It was suggested that the School Governors should be invited to give a short report at next year's Annual Parish Meeting. The Chair of the School Governors, Janet Bilton, said that she had prepared a written report for this meeting. She was asked to email a copy to the Clerk and

arrangements would be made to publish it on the council's website. A copy could also be requested from the Clerk.

13.4. The Chair invited PCSO Greg Doyle to say a few words about his role. He said that the job of a PCSO was to be a "bobby on the beat" to deter and deal with low level street crime and road/traffic offences. PCSO Doyle said that he had a huge rural beat to cover and therefore he could not be in Bathford everyday, but he did hope to set up a regular rota of surgeries so that residents could drop in discuss any concerns. He confirmed that he would always be in a marked vehicle, but he might also patrol on foot or on a police bike. A parishioner raised the specific issue of noise affecting residents in Warleigh and PCSO Doyle said he would publicise his contact details to enable residents to get in touch with him direct with concerns such as this.

13.5. There were no further questions raised under this item.

14. Formal Closure of Meeting

14.1. Chair Shirley Beazer thanked Jenny, Marilyn and the Guides for preparing the refreshments and thanked Ken Spencer and Nick Baker for their presentations.

14.2. The meeting was formally closed at 9.05 pm.

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....

