

**Minutes of Bathford Parish Council Meeting
held on Monday 14 May 2007 at 7.45pm in the Parish Office, Bathford
Hill, Bathford**

Present: Councillor Shirley Beazer (Chair)
Councillor Stan Cherry
Councillor Hugh Baker
Councillor Susan Barclay
Councillor John Lloyd
Councillor Ian Plain
Councillor Richard Wickham
Councillor Jean Vesey

Also Present: 1 Member of the public (from 8.30pm)
Ruth Holding (Clerk)

1. Public Five Minutes

No matters were raised.

2. Apologies

2.1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Wendy Chambers.

3. Declarations of Interest in any item on the Agenda

3.1. The Chair called for any declarations of interest. Cllr Stan Cherry declared an interest in item 6a as President of the Cricket Club.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting 16 April 2007

4.1. The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record of proceedings.

5. Matters Arising

5.1. Councillors reviewed the list of actions arising from the last meeting and confirmed where action was complete.

5.2. The following matters arising were discussed:-

5.2.1. Tree near light on recreation ground – concern was expressed about the safety of a tree close to the light as a branch has fallen from it some months ago. It was suggested that the council could write to the occupant of the property on which the tree stood asking for an assurance that the tree was safe in view of concerns about damage to the council's property and the safety of users of the playing field.

Action: Cllr Stan Cherry and Clerk

- 5.2.2. Asset Register – members noted that Cllr Stan Cherry would take a digital photograph of each item on the register for retention on disk to provide a visual record of each item.

Action: Cllr Stan Cherry

6. Committee Reports

6.1. Amenities Committee

- 6.1.1. Cllr Stan Cherry presented the Amenities Committee monthly report for May 2007. The following items were discussed:-

- 6.1.2. Allotment Rent – following the announcement at the Annual Parish Meeting that allotment rents would rise from September 2008, the allotment wardens had asked to see figures for income and expenditure relating to the allotments to consider what might be a fair rise. The present level of income was sufficient to meet the current running costs but additional services, such as the provision of a skip, had been requested by plot holders and therefore some increase in rent would be required to cover the additional costs. The actual level of increase was therefore still under consideration, pending feedback from the wardens and plot holders.
- 6.1.3. Playing field – it was noted that Wicksteed would be commencing work in the play area within the next 2 to 3 weeks and B&NES would reseed the goalmouth area as soon as weather permitted.
- 6.1.4. New container for Cricket Club – Cllr Stan Cherry reported that residents in Ashley Road had been notified about the positioning of the new container. One resident had requested a meeting, but there had been no significant objections. It was confirmed that the container would be painted dark green and appropriate plants used to conceal it.
- 6.1.5. Alteration to cricket pavilion – the cricket club had floated the idea of demolishing the existing lean-to and rebuilding it in bath stone, thereby extending the storage space and allowing room for a shelter for spectators. Funding had not been discussed but Cllr Stan Cherry suggested the cricket club would raise the funds, perhaps from sponsorship, and he acknowledged that there might be planning issues. The council agreed that the idea seemed to be a good one in principle and would await further details.
- 6.1.6. Tractor climbing frame – it had been reported that a child had pinched its fingers while using the steering wheel of the tractor climbing frame. The Amenities Committee would discuss this issue at its next meeting and decide what alterations were needed to the equipment to prevent this happening again.

Action: Amenities Committee

- 6.1.7. Prizes for scarecrow competition – the council was asked by Cllr Stan Cherry and Cllr Wendy Chambers, who had judged the scarecrow competition, whether it would consider awarding 3 prizes for the best scarecrow in each category. As this matter had not been included on

the agenda for this meeting no decision could be made. The Clerk was asked to put this matter on the agenda for the next meeting.

Action: Clerk

6.2. *Finance, Administration and Communications Committee*

6.2.1. Cllr Richard Wickham introduced the following items for consideration:-

6.2.2. Request for funding by Bathford Flower Show Committee -

Councillors noted the request for the parish council to again provide gardening gift vouchers to the value of £20, £15, £10 and 2 x £5 for the winners and runners-up in the annual Best Kept Allotment Competition.

6.2.3. Members agreed that it was appropriate for the council to continue with the tradition of providing these modest prizes for the competition. The council RESOLVED that in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and of the Local Government Act 1972, it should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure. Cllr Hugh Baker proposed and Cllr Shirley Beazer seconded expenditure of £55 for the prizes. A vote was taken and council RESOLVED unanimously to agree the expenditure. The Clerk was authorised to purchase the vouchers and reclaim the expenditure at the next meeting.

Action: Clerk

6.2.4. Children's Painting Competition – the Bathford Flower Show Committee had asked whether the parish council would be willing to sponsor the children's painting competition which had proved so successful last year. The council were supportive of the idea but considered their support should be for the purchase of specific items or prizes rather than a flat rate donation to the Committee. The council considered that it had the power to support this competition under section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972 which enable it to do, or contribute to the expenses of doing anything, relating to the development and improvement of the knowledge and practice of the arts and crafts.

6.2.5. The parish council RESOLVED to pay for the cost of the drawing paper, request that the competition be opened up to all children under the age of 11 in the parish and not just restricted to the school, to consider purchasing small mementoes as prizes for the competition and the Committee should be asked to indicate how many categories there would be and the number of prize winners. The Clerk was asked to write to the Bathford Flower Show Committee about the council's decision.

Action: Clerk

- 6.2.6. Annual Subscription to The Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) – council RESOLVED to renew its annual membership of SLCC at a cost of £85.00.

Action: Clerk

- 6.2.7. Unaudited summary of income and expenditure 2006-2007 – members noted the financial summary which appeared to be in line with budgeted predictions.

- 6.2.8. Urgent purchases made by Committee decision – Cllr Richard Wickham reported that the Committee has authorised the purchase of an internet security package on expiry of the old package to ensure that the council's records continued to be protected from viruses etc. The two year security package had cost a total of £45.45. The website hosting payment of £15.00 for the year had also been approved by the Committee to ensure the continuation of the website.

6.3. *Highways, Footpaths and Lighting Committee*

- 6.3.1. Cllr Shirley Beazer presented the Highways Footpaths and Lighting Committee monthly report for May 2007. The following items were discussed:-

- 6.3.2. Suggested weight restriction on Bathford Hill – a resident has raised concerns about the apparently increasing number of HGVs using Bathford Hill. Cllr Shirley Beazer had raised the concerns with B&NES but it was unlikely that any weight restriction would be introduced and a substantial proportion of large vehicles would be exempted from restrictions, such as buses and plated HGVs. She had written to the satellite navigation service NAVTEQ asking that HGVs not be directed up Bathford Hill and High Street as a route to Melksham etc.

- 6.3.3. Accidents at Bathford roundabout – Cllr Stan Cherry reported that there had been an accident involving a cyclist at the roundabout and a car had also spun off into the hedge on Box Road.

- 6.3.4. Water on A363 – the drains appeared unable to cope with the recent heavy rainfall and consequently the road had been flooded. Cllr Shirley Beazer said that she would bring this matter to the attention of B&NES.

Action: Cllr Shirley Beazer

6.4. *Planning and Environment Committee*

- 6.4.1. Cllr Hugh Baker presented the Planning and Environment Committee monthly report for May 2007. Members noted the planning application made by the school for 2 new classrooms and a new assembly hall. Discussions about the application had been held with the Headteacher and the Chair of the Governors before the Committee's comments had been returned to B&NES. The Committee were supportive of the concept, but had some concerns about the design and had suggested some changes to improve the appearance of the building on this key site in the village.

7. Consider invitation to new Ward Councilor Gabriel Batt to attend future meeting of the parish council

7.1. The Council RESOLVED to invite Ward Councillor Gabriel Batt to its meeting in July 2007. The Clerk was asked to issue the invitation.

Action: Clerk

8. Liaison with School Governors

8.1. Cllr Jean Vesey said that the meeting of the Governors had been postponed and therefore there was nothing to report at this meeting.

9. Neighbourhood Watch

9.1. Cllr Jean Vesey reported that the phone box on Bathford Hill had been vandalised and there had been a burglary in Church Street. Cllr Ian Plain reported that the new house at 34 Bathford Hill had also been broken into. There had been a spate of burglaries in Batheaston and residents should therefore not become complacent about the security of their property.

10. Correspondence

10.1. Cllr Shirley Beazer reported the following correspondence issued on behalf of the council or received by the council:-

10.2. Sustainable Communities Bill - members noted the reply from Don Foster MP enclosing correspondence from the Minister about the progress of the Bill.

10.3. Cotswolds Conservation Board – correspondence received about the review of the Cotswolds Management Plan and information about renewable energy sources appropriate for use in the AONB.

10.4. Leaflet about Heritage Events - members noted the leaflet issued by B&NES about events taking place during the next few months.

10.5. Policing Plan – members noted a plan had been issued by Avon and Somerset Police setting out policing priorities and performance targets for 2007-2008.

10.6. Avon Fire & Rescue – Avon Fire and Rescue had written to the parish council informing them that fire appliances were unable to reach all parts of Mountain Wood in the evening and during the night due to parked cars, particularly on sharp bends. The Clerk was asked to put a note in the next edition of the Bulletin about these concerns and members asked for an item to be put on the agenda for the next meeting to allow them to discuss this issue in more detail.

Action: Clerk

10.7. Community Action – poster for display about the conference on Thursday 28 June at Filton with a keynote speaker from SWAN.

11. Items to report

11.1. There were no items to report.

12. Items for the Bulletin

12.1. The council RESOLVED to publish the following notes in the Bulletin:-

- 12.1.1. Adoption of the new Model Code of Conduct
- 12.1.2. Publication of draft minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
- 12.1.3. Notice that council has 2 vacant seats that can be filled by co-option
- 12.1.4. Ask residents in Mountain Wood to consider where they are parking due to difficulty of access for fire appliances
- 12.1.5. Date of next meeting

Action: Clerk

13. Items for the next meeting

- 13.1. Access for fire engines around Mountain Wood
- 13.2. Consider request for provide prizes in Scarecrow Competition
- 13.3. Working party to clear office in the basement of The Manor
- 13.4. Approve minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16 April 2007

14. Payments for approval

14.1. Council RESOLVED to approved the following payments:-

Bathford Post Office	Rent for parish office – May 07	£100.00
Bathford Parish Hall	Hire of hall for Annual Parish Meeting	£20.00
EDF Energy Ltd	Electricity in Manor Basement	£30.77
S A Barclay	Expenses – refreshments for APM	£4.80
R Wickham	Expenses – website hosting	£15.00
S Austin	Rotovating allotment plots	£55.00
SLCC	Annual Subscription	£85.00
Mrs R C Holding	Clerk's salary –May 07	£441.25
Mrs R C Holding	Clerk's expenses, petty cash, internet	
Post Office Ltd	security package, electricity	£95.45
	Tax and National Insurance	£0.91

15. Date of next meeting

15.1. The next meeting will be held on Monday 18 June 2007 at 7.30pm in the parish office.

The meeting closed at 9.06pm

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....