

Minutes of Bathford Parish Council Meeting
held on Monday 21 April 2008 at 6.30pm in the Parish Hall, Church Street,
Bathford

Present: Councillor Shirley Beazer (Chair)
Councillor Stan Cherry
Councillor Hugh Baker
Councillor Susan Barclay
Councillor Wendy Chambers
Councillor Paul Faulkner (from item 5)
Councillor John Lloyd
Councillor Keith Masdin
Councillor Ian Plain
Councillor Jean Vesey

Also Present: Gabriel Batt (Ward Councillor)(from item 6)
Ruth Holding (Clerk)

1. Public Five Minutes

1.1. No matters were raised under this item.

2. Apologies

2.1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Richard Wickham.

3. Declarations of Interest in any item on the Agenda

3.1. The Chair called for any declarations of interest. None were made.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting

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. Fingerposts – Cllr John Lloyd confirmed that one saw mill had confirmed that it could fashion a finger post in oak. The cost could not be estimated until dimensions were available and the issue of fundraising could not be addressed until it was clear how much needed to be raised. Cllr Keith Masdin was to continue to take this matter forward.

Action: Cllr Keith Masdin

- 5.2.2. Change of telephone and internet service provider – Cllr Ian Plain confirmed that the relevant paperwork had been returned to The Phone Co-op and he would chase progress.
Action: Cllr Ian Plain
- 5.2.3. Culvert at Whitehaven bridleway – Cllr Ian Plain reported that he had been unable to contact the officer at B&NES with regard to the culvert and also raised the issue of vehicles parking on the pavement around the bridleway entrance particularly on a Sunday morning during Rugby training and matches. It was suggested that it might be helpful to have the PCSO visit in the autumn at the start of the rugby season to encourage people to park responsibly. The Clerk was asked to include this on the agenda for the September meeting.
Action: Clerk
- 5.2.4. Trailer on High Street – the vehicle was not always present and therefore formal action to have it removed had not been taken. The vehicle was considered to be illegally parked, but Cllr Paul Faulkner said that it was his understanding that if it was not a taxable vehicle and was not parked illegally then there were no grounds for its removal. Cllr Shirley Beazer said that she would recheck the position with regards to this vehicle.
Action: Cllr Shirley Beazer
- 5.2.5. Neighbourhood Watch – Cllr Wendy Chambers reported that the police had arrested a suspect who had admitted to stealing a car from a property in Warleigh along with other crimes. This information had come from the vehicle owner not from the police via the formal alert channels and therefore the system still did not appear to be operating correctly. It was suggested that there should be an additional Neighbourhood Watch contact in Warleigh to improve communication with all the houses along the whole length of Warleigh Lane.

6. Committee Reports

6.1. Amenities Committee

- 6.1.1. Cllr Stan Cherry confirmed there were no items to report.

6.2. Communications Committee

- 6.2.1. Cllr Ian Plain reported that the Bulletin had been approached by a company wanting to advertise in the publication and there had been some discussion in committee about the best way to accommodate this request. It had been suggested that the company could be asked to sponsor the publication for a month and then advertise in its pages. Members raised a number of potential concerns about this approach as it restricted the Bulletin to only one advertiser per month and there might be several companies who would like this opportunity but would not want to wait several months if future Bulletins were already being sponsored.
- 6.2.2. Cllr Ian Plain said that the issue of advertising was still under development and the Communications Committee would give further consideration to this matter and seek parishioners' views at the Annual Parish Meeting on the issue of advertising.

Action: Cllr Ian Plain

6.3. Finance and Administration (F&A) Committee

6.3.1. Cllr Susan Barclay reported that the hosting service for the parish council's website and email address was due for renewal in May and the landlord had also been in touch about a possible rise in the office rent. She said that both these matters would be formally considered by the F&A Committee at its next meeting. There was one matter for full council to consider at this meeting as follows:-

6.3.2. Renewal of Insurance Policy – members noted the insurance policy was due for renewal from 1 June 2008. They reviewed the schedule and RESOLVED that it should be amended to include the stone bus shelter on the village green and the new piece of play equipment. The Clerk was asked to obtain a revised renewal quote for consideration at the next meeting.

Action: Clerk

6.4. Highways, Footpaths and Lighting Committee

6.4.1. Cllr Shirley Beazer presented the Highways, Footpaths and Lighting Committee monthly report for April 2008. The following items were discussed:-

6.4.2. Sign on A363 obscured by tree – Cllr Shirley Beazer reported that a resident had written requesting that the branches obscuring the road sign on the A363 when leaving the roundabout after passing under the railway bridge be cut back. As this work had been done before and was required on a regular basis at the expense of the parish council an approach had been made to B&NES suggesting that the tree be removed entirely. The Arboriculture Officer would make an inspection in due course to advise. Cllr Shirley Beazer to monitor progress.

Action: Cllr Shirley Beazer

6.4.3. Illegal sign on highways sign post – the illegal hand written signs attached to the road signs had been reported to B&NES for removal.

6.5. Planning and Environment Committee

6.5.1. Cllr Hugh Baker reported on the following matters:-

6.5.2. 82 High Street, Bathford – the planning application to make improvements to this property had been supported.

6.5.3. Extension of Recording Studios, Avondale – a strong letter of support for the application had been sent to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration during the appeal against refusal to grant planning permission.

6.5.4. Bathford House, Church Street, Bathford – concerns that work was being carried out in contravention of listed building regulations had been reported to the enforcement officer at BANES.

6.5.5. Meeting with B&NES – it was noted that a meeting between members of the Planning & Environment Committee and senior officials from B&NES' planning services would take place shortly to discuss issues of concern.

7. Final Arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting

7.1. There were no matters raised under this item.

8. Correspondence

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

8.2. Avon and Somerset Police – acknowledgment of parish council’s letter of concern about the lack of information with regard to the reported prowler in Warleigh.

8.3. Post Office Closure – a letter from the Post Office consultation team and information from BEFA indicated that it was unlikely that Bathford would be successful in getting a post office outreach service. The Chair of BEFA would give more detail at the Annual Parish Meeting.

8.4. Bathford School Boundary Fence – B&NES had replied to the parish council’s enquiries and had confirmed that the school was responsible for the maintenance of the boundary fence. The council suggested writing to the school again at the start of the academic year asking them to plan for the replacement of the fence in future maintenance plans. The Clerk was asked to include this on the agenda for the September meeting.

Action: Clerk

8.5. Bath in Bloom Competition – members noted the local competition being run by B&NES for those villages not entered in the South West in Bloom competition.

8.6. Village of the Year Competition – members noted it was several years since Bathford entered the competition and although they would like to encourage an entry, pressure of other duties means that a councillor could not take on this task. The Clerk was asked to put a note in the Bulletin asking if a parishioner would volunteer to oversee the entry process.

Action: Clerk

8.7. Dry Stone Walling Courses – members noted that the Cotswold Conservation Board was organising a number of drystone walling courses in 2008 at locations across the AONB including Lansdown on 23 & 24 August. The papers were passed to Cllr Keith Masdin.

8.8. Obituary for Doris Ingram – Cllr Ian Plain confirmed that he had received the copy for publication in the Bulletin. Cllr Stan Cherry was asked to resend the photograph as Cllr Ian Plain was unable to confirm that it had been received.

Action: Cllr Stan Cherry

8.9. Correspondence issued on “round robin” – members noted the list of correspondence issued as a round robin to all councillors in hard copy or by email.

9. Items to report

9.1. The following issues were raised:-

9.2. Dog Fouling Penalty signs – Cllr Ian Plain said that there were no signs on Bathford Hill warning people about the penalties for dog fouling. He agreed to contact the Dog Warden and arrange for signs to be erected.

Action: Cllr Ian Plain

10. Items for the Bulletin

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

10.1.1. Volunteer to lead application for Village of the Year competition

10.1.2. Drystone walling courses from the Cotswolds Conservation Board

10.1.3. Dog Fouling in school playground

10.1.4. Compost may be taken from heap on village green

10.1.5. Date of next meeting

Action: Clerk

11. Items for the next meeting

11.1. Renewal of revised insurance policy

12. Payments for approval

12.1. Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:-

Bathford Post Office	Rent for parish office – April 08	£100.00
EDF Energy	Street Lighting	£3.21
EDF Energy	Electricity for office in Manor Basement	£15.62
Roger Millbank	Grass Cutting	£320.00
Corsham Print Ltd	Printing April edition of Bathford Bulletin	£87.00
Mr S Cherry	Expenses - Prizes for Scarecrow competition	£60.00
Mrs R C Holding	Expenses – Prizes for allotment competition	£70.00
Mrs R C Holding	Clerk's salary – Mar 08	£303.36
Mrs R C Holding	Clerk's expenses, petty cash, electricity	£60.00
Post Office Ltd	Tax & NI	£129.67

The following payments were approved from the parish plan account

Earth Anchors Ltd	Bench fixing kits	£228.19
Multi-Serve	Engraving brass plaque	£20.00

13. Date of next meeting

13.1. The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Monday 19 May at 7.00pm in the Parish Office to be followed by the regular Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....