

Minutes of Bathford Parish Council Meeting
held on Monday 20 October 2008 at 7.30pm in the Parish Office, Bathford Hill,
Bathford

Present: Councillor Shirley Beazer (Chair)
Councillor Stan Cherry
Councillor Hugh Baker
Councillor Susan Barclay
Councillor Wendy Chambers
Councillor John Lloyd
Councillor Keith Masdin
Councillor Ian Plain

Also Present: Ward Councillor Gabriel Batt (for item 1 only)
Ruth Holding (Clerk)

1. Public Five Minutes

- 1.1. Cllr Gabriel Batt apologised that he was unable to stay for the full meeting, but thanked the council for the opportunity to give an update on a number of issues affecting the parish.
- 1.2. Cost of Trade Waste Stickers – Cllr Gabriel Batt agreed that the charges for the stickers to go on trade waste were too high and he was asking B&NES to exempt the village shop from these charges. The response so far had not been encouraging, but he would continue to pursue this matter.
- 1.3. Funding for School Hall – Cllr Gabriel Batt reported that no final decision had been made with regard to funding for Bathford School's new hall, but he was very hopefully of a successful outcome following positive discussions with the education authority.
- 1.4. Park & Ride (P&R) East of Bath – Cllr Gabriel Batt said that he had not received as many objections to the proposal for a P&R on the Meadows as anticipated. Members of the council thought this may be because residents accepted that the development was inevitable. Cllr Shirley Beazer reported that Bathampton, Batheaston and Bathford parish councils were to question B&NES about the accuracy of the statistics about the Charmy Down site, light pollution, landscaping and misuse of the AONB. Bathampton and Batheaston parish councils had issued questionnaires to residents to get local opinion on the proposal and a similar survey would be issued with the Bathford Bulletin in November. It was noted that these initiatives may increase awareness of the proposals and lead to a rise in the number of objections.

1.5. Regional Spatial Strategy – Cllr Gabriel Batt commended the parish council's letter to the Secretary of State questioning the assumptions which formed the basis of the decision for an additional 21,000 new homes in the area.

1.6. Royal British Legion (RBL) – Cllr Gabriel Batt said that he was sorry to learn that the (RBL) in Bathford was struggling financially and he hoped that something could be done to ensure that it continued.

1.7. Cllr Gabriel Batt then left the meeting to attend another appointment.

2. Apologies

2.1. Apologies were received from Cllrs Paul Faulkner, Richard Wickham and Jean Vesey.

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. Acceptance of the minutes of the last meeting was proposed by Cllr Stan Cherry and seconded by Cllr Keith Masdin. The Council RESOLVED to accept the minutes which were agreed and signed by the Chair 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. New account for allotment deposits – Cllr Ian Plain said that in the light of the current global economic conditions and problems with the UK banking system he would like more time to decide on the most appropriate account for the allotment deposits.

Action: Cllr Ian Plain

5.2.2. Bathford Bridge – Cllr Shirley Beazer reported that she was waiting for a response from the Environment Agency to the issue of silt around Bathford Bridge blocking one of the three arches. It was suggested that English Heritage might be interested in this matter if there was a threat of damage to the bridge as it is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Members agreed with the observation that the water in the By Brook did not run clear and that this might be a symptom of the flow being slowed by the silt. They also noted that the area around the bridge probably flooded more easily due to the build up of silt.

5.2.3. Email address for Neighbourhood Watch alerts – Cllr Stan Cherry reported that a neighbourhood watch email address had been created as part of the parish council's website. This would eventually allow alerts from the police to be sent to a single address and then distributed to Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators and any others who registered to be notified. Work was continuing on this issue.

Action: Cllr Stan Cherry

6. Committee Reports

6.1. Amenities Committee

- 6.1.1. Cllr Stan Cherry presented the Amenities Committee monthly report for October 2008. The following items were discussed:-
- 6.1.2. Allotment Tenancy Agreements - one allotment holder had questioned the need for a tenancy agreement. Cllr Stan Cherry said he had discussed the matter with the complainant and the issued had been resolved.
- 6.1.3. New cricket pavilion - it was noted that no progress had been made on this issue since the last meeting.
- 6.1.4. Dead tree on village green – Cllr Stan Cherry reported that the dead tree had been felled. The stump had been left in position and the new picnic bench would be fixed to it in due course.

6.2. Communications Committee

- 6.2.1. Cllr Ian Plain reported that it had not been possible to find a convenient date for a Communications Meeting prior to this meeting of the parish council. Members of the Committee would get together after the meeting to try to fix a date.
- 6.2.2. Cllr Ian Plain reported that a couple of contributors had complained that their entries for the Bulletin had not been printed. Upon investigation it was found that the contributions had been sent to the old address for submissions to the Bulletin. The Clerk was asked to write to the previous editor asking him to forward on any misdirected contributions for the Bathford Bulletin.
Action: Clerk
- 6.2.3. Members noted that the November 2008 edition of the Bulletin would contain a brief questionnaire inviting parishioners to give their view on the proposal for the Park & Ride on Bathampton meadows. There was space on the form for parishioners to give their reasons for opposing or supporting the proposal and Cllr Stan Cherry said that he would be happy to collate the responses to enable the parish council's response to this development to be guided by the views of residents. Members agreed that it was important that the results of the survey to be made publicly available either in a future edition of the Bulletin or on the website.
Action: Cllr Ian Plain

6.3. Finance and Administration (F&A) Committee

- 6.3.1. Cllr Susan Barclay reported that there were no matters for discussion pending consideration of the budget for 2009-2010 at the next meeting of the F&A Committee.

6.4. Highways, Footpaths and Lighting Committee

- 6.4.1. Cllr Shirley Beazer presented the Highways, Footpaths and Lighting (HFL) Committee monthly report for October 2008. The following items were discussed:-
- 6.4.2. Maintenance of School Fence – members noted the letter from the Headteacher quoting a figure for the replacement of the school fence and directing the parish council to the Property Services team at B&NES if they

wished to pursue the matter. Cllr Keith Masdin said that he had been advised by a fencing specialist that the figure of £15,000 quoted to replace the school fence seemed excessive, but the cost would depend on the specification. Cllr Keith Masdin said that he had arranged for the specialist to visit the site and quote for a replacement without obligation. Members agreed to consider this matter further when alternative figures for the replacement of the fence were available.

Action: Cllr Keith Masdin

- 6.4.3. Request drop-off bus stop in Dovers Park – members noted the letter from B&NES in response to the suggestion for a drop-off bus stop at the top of Dovers Park. B&NES had indicated that any new bus stop would have to become the terminal point for the service and a layover point for buses. The parish council considered if the stop had to be a terminal point it would cause too much disruption and inconvenience to the residents at the top of Dovers Park and therefore a new stop would be out of the question. However as the No13 bus route is a circular route the parish council did not understand why the terminal point had to be the stop in Dovers Park. The Clerk was asked to write to B&NES asking if another point on the route could be the terminal point before the parish council made a decision about the new stop.

Action: Clerk

- 6.4.4. Bus Shelter by the Crown – Cllr Stan Cherry reported that an email had been sent by B&NES recently advising the parish council that the bus shelter at the Crown would be removed within 2 days. He had spoken to the officer at B&NES who was new to the post and was unaware that discussions had been held about two years ago about the replacement of the existing shelter with a smaller one. It had been agreed that the shelter would not be removed until a replacement was agreed.

6.5. Planning and Environment Committee

- 6.5.1. The report from the Planning & Environment Committee was noted. The following items were discussed:-

- 6.5.2. Eastern Park & Ride site – the council endorsed the Planning Committee's recommendation that Bathford parish council support the efforts by Batheaston and Bathampton parish councils to refute the misinformation published by B&NES about the Charmy Down site.

- 6.5.3. Jewson View Farm - it was reported that work was being carried out on this site. Cllr Hugh Baker said that he would inform the Enforcement Officer.

Action: Cllr Hugh Baker

- 6.5.4. Shed in Warleigh Woods – Cllr Wendy Chambers said that the residents of Warleigh were very disappointed that planning permission had been granted for the structure in the woods because of an administrative error. Cllr Hugh Baker explained that there was no mechanism for rescinding planning permission once it had been granted. The Planning Committee would consider a strong letter to B&NES about this and other planning issues affecting the parish.

Action: Cllr Hugh Baker

- 6.5.5. New entrance to Broadlands Fruit Farm - it was reported that the entrance which had been refused planning permission was being used. Cllr Hugh Baker said that he would inform the Enforcement Officer.

Action: Cllr Hugh Baker

7. Dates for parish council meetings in 2009

- 7.1. Members noted the suggested dates for parish council meetings 2009. Acceptance of the dates was proposed by Cllr Stan Cherry and seconded by Cllr Hugh Baker and the council RESOLVED to accept the dates for next year. Details of Cluster Meetings and Liaison Meetings would be added to the list when these became available

8. B&NES Review of Transport to Schools

- 8.1. Members noted the review of transport to school for 11-16 year olds which would focus on the availability of transport and the cost. Councillors noted that there were proposals to make transport free for children from low income families, but the parish council considered that all secondary school children should travel free to school.

- 8.2. Members agreed to bring this review to the attention of parishioners by putting the details in the Bulletin and on the website.

Action: Clerk

9. Liaison with School Governors

- 9.1. The parish council made suggestions for a number of issues that it would like to raise with the School Governors including increased use of school premises during holiday time, after school clubs and the school fence. Cllr Keith Masdin said that he would welcome the opportunity to attend the next Governors meeting with Cllr Jean Vesey and he would contact her to find out the date of the next meeting.

Action: Cllr Keith Masdin

10. Neighbourhood Watch

- 10.1. There were no matters to report.

11. Correspondence

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

- 11.2. Heritage Open Week – members noted the leaflet issued by B&NES detailing the activities taking place during Heritage Open Week.

- 11.3. Letter from the Coal Authority – the letter from the Coal Authority had been forwarded to parish councils from B&NES. The Authority was asking for information about the location of any coal workings in the area so that steps could be taken to ensure public safety. The council was not aware of any local coal workings, but had confirmed that the entrances to the stone quarries appeared secure.

- 11.4. Closure of layby on A46 – the parish council had received details of the proposed Order to permanently close a layby on the A46 due to subsidence. A note would be put in the Bulletin and on the website informing parishioners that the plans were available for inspection in the parish office.

11.5. CPRE Branch AGM – councillors noted the AGM to be held on 8 November 2008.

11.6. 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.

12. Items to report

12.1. The following issues were raised:-

12.2. Clay Pigeon Shoot – Cllr Stan Cherry reported that the paper mill was running a clay pigeon shooting event for its staff on Sunday 2 November 2008 from 10.30am. The event was not expected to cause a great deal of disturbance but it was suggested that notices should be put on nearby footpaths to warn dog walkers of the event.

13. Items for the Bulletin

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

13.1.1. Public inspection of Highways Agency proposal to close layby on A46

13.1.2. B&NES Review of School Transport for 11-16 year olds

13.1.3. Details of Mailing and Telephone Preference Services

13.1.4. Date of next meeting.

Action: Clerk

14. Items for the next meeting

14.1. Budgets for 2009-2010

14.2. Ideas to improve appearance of the village/parish

15. Payments for approval

15.1. Payment of the invoices presented to the council was proposed by Cllr Stan Cherry and seconded by Cllr John Lloyd. The council RESOLVED to make the following payments:-

I M Suleman	Rent for parish office – October 2008	£100.00
Royal British Legion	Donation for poppy wreath	£75.00
Corsham Print Ltd	Printing Bathford Bulletin September 2008	£87.00
Ist Office Equipment	Repair of photocopier	£76.38
EDF Energy	Street Lighting	£3.41
R Millbank	Grass cutting	£320.00
The Phone Co-op	Quarterly phone and internet charges	£59.77
SLCC	Update for Clerk’s Manual	£19.00
Mrs R C Holding	Clerk’s expenses – petty cash, electricity for office	£90.00
Mrs R C Holding	Clerk’s salary – August 08	£566.66
HM Revenue & Customs	Tax & NI	£34.97
Mr A Saunders	Refund of allotment deposit	£25.00

16. Date of next meeting

16.1. The next meeting will be on Monday 17 November 2008 at 7.30pm in the Parish Office.

The meeting closed at 9.32pm

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....