

Minutes of Bathford Parish Council Meeting
held on Monday 17 November 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 Paul Faulkner
Councillor John Lloyd
Councillor Keith Masdin
Councillor Jean Vesey
Councillor Richard Wickham

Also Present: 6 Members of the public (for item 1 only)
Ruth Holding (Clerk)

1. Public Five Minutes

1.1. Play facilities for older children – 4 young people attended the parish council meeting to ask for the provision of play facilities for older children. Charlie spoke for them all and pointed out that there was not much in the existing play area suitable for teenagers. The council had rejected their previous suggestion for a skate park/half pipe on the grounds of the high cost amongst other reasons. Charlie reminded the council that 60 people had signed his petition in the shop requesting improved play facilities for teenagers. He asked that if the council could not provide a skate park, then what could be considered instead. The council thanked the young people for coming to the meeting and presenting their case so well. They agreed they had an obligation to investigate the options further and accepted that there was a lack of facilities for teenagers. The Council asked Charlie and his friends to make a list of things that they would like to see in a play area and a meeting would be arranged with the young people, Amenities Committee and any other interested councillors to look at what might be achievable.

Action: Amenities Committee and other interested councillors

1.2. Fairtrade Presentation – Sue Spanton and Michelle Williams thanked the council for the opportunity to talk to them about the early stages of plans to get “Fairtrade Village” status for Bathford. A short discussion document setting out the requirements for Fairtrade status and indicating what progress had been made in the village to date had been circulated to all councillors with the agenda. The council was supportive of the idea in principle but felt that more information about the Fairtrade organisation as a whole was needed to enable

people to make an informed choice. The council were also concerned about the impact this might have on the encouragement being given to support local producers. Sue and Michelle said they understood the council's concern but felt that the campaigns to support local businesses and Fairtrade could work together as there were many items, such as coffee, which were not produced locally and people could be encouraged to shop ethically for such goods.

- 1.3. A Fairtrade steering group had yet to be set up in the village and more needed to be done to inform parishioners about the idea, perhaps by way of a public meeting. Until then the council did not feel that it could do more than offer its support in principle for the proposal. The Council thanked Sue and Michelle for seeking the council's views at this early stage and looked forward to hearing more about progress on this matter.

2. Apologies

- 2.1. Apologies were received from Cllrs Wendy Chambers and Ian Plain and Ward Councillor Gabriel Batt.

3. Declarations of Interest in any item on the Agenda

- 3.1. The Chair called for any declarations of interest. Cllr Stan Cherry declared a non-prejudicial interest in the item about the future of the cricket pavilion as Hon. President and life member of the cricket club.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting

- 4.1. Acceptance of the minutes of the last meeting was proposed by Cllr Keith Masdin and seconded by Cllr Hugh Baker. The Council RESOLVED to accept the minutes which were 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 School Hall – Cllr Shirley Beazer reported that she had received a note from Ward Councillor Gabriel Batt confirming that the school had been successful in its bid for funding to build a new school hall. The council welcomed this news.

- 5.2.2. Charges for Trade Waste stickers – Cllr Shirley Beazer reported on behalf of Ward Councillor Gabriel Batt that he had been unsuccessful in getting the charges waived for the shop but he was still pursuing the matter.

- 5.2.3. Bank Account for Allotment Deposits - Cllr Shirley Beazer reported that she had received a note from Cllr Ian Plain in which he confirmed that he had found an account which would appear suitable for the parish council's needs. Further enquiries would be made.

Action: Cllr Ian Plain

- 5.2.4. Bathford Bridge – Cllr Shirley Beazer reported on behalf of Cllr Ian Plain that Wessex Water operated a grant scheme for historic features which the parish council may be able to access for maintenance around Bathford Bridge.

- 5.2.5. Electronic distribution of Neighbourhood Watch alerts – Cllr Stan Cherry reported that work to allow the electronic distribution of alerts had been completed and the system was now operational following successful testing.
- 5.2.6. Park & Ride Questionnaire - a relatively small number of questionnaires had been returned and the responses had been collated. This matter would be discussed under item 6e.
- 5.2.7. Jewson View Farm – Cllr Hugh Baker reported that no significant work had been undertaken on the site and therefore no further action was necessary.
- 5.2.8. Letter to B&NES Assistant Director of Planning – Cllr Hugh Baker confirmed that the letter to B&NES about poor planning decisions affecting the parish had been agreed and was ready to be sent.
- 5.2.9. Entrance to Broadlands Fruit Farm - it was reported that the enforcement officer could not take action without proof of use. It was suggested that the gate was more likely to be used at weekends as access to the orchard. Cllr Hugh Baker said that he would speak to B&NES again.
- 5.2.10. School Governors Meeting – Cllr Jean Vesey reported that she was unable to attend the Governors meeting in November and it was therefore agreed that both she and Cllr Keith Masdin would go to the first meeting in the New Year.
Action: Cllr Jean Vesey and Keith Masdin

6. Committee Reports

6.1. Amenities Committee

- 6.1.1. Cllr Stan Cherry presented the Amenities Committee monthly report for November 2008. The following items were discussed:-
- 6.1.2. Registration of land – it was noted that B&NES had registered the village green in their ownership so it was queried why the parish council paid for the grass to be cut in this area. It was accepted that the green did look very tidy due to the regular cutting and this was important to maintain the appearance of the village. Cllr Stan Cherry said that further investigation would be made into registering other parcels of land if they were in the parish council's ownership.
- 6.1.3. New cricket pavilion – Cllr Stan Cherry reminded members that the existing building, which was little more than a storage facility, was in a poor state of repair and consideration was being given to the suggestion that it be demolished and replaced with a purpose built timber pavilion. The cost, estimated at between £20-30,000, could be funded by a contribution from the parish council, fundraising and grants.
- 6.1.4. Members had a lengthy debate about the principle of the parish council precepting a significant sum of money for a project which would be for the benefit of the cricket club only. Other members considered that a new building would enhance the setting of the Recreation Ground and would not necessarily be restricted to use by the Cricket Club. It could be regarded as a community asset for use by other groups, for meetings etc.

- 6.1.5. Members noted the proposal to precept £2,000 in 2009-2010 in addition to the £2,000 precepted in 2008-2009. Cllr Stan Cherry said that if current building was not replaced, then the £4,000 would be needed for the repair of the existing structure.
- 6.1.6. Cllr Sue Barclay proposed and Cllr Hugh Baker seconded the proposal to precept £2,000 in 2009-2010 towards the repair or replacement of the existing cricket pavilion. A vote was taken by a show hands the result being 7 votes for, 1 vote against and 1 abstention. The Council therefore RESOLVED to include £2,000 in the precept for 2009-2010.
- 6.1.7. It was suggested that members with concerns about this proposal who had not seen the existing building recently should go and look at it to confirm its dilapidated condition. Cllr Stan Cherry said that he would arrange a meeting with the cricket club shortly to inform them of the parish council's decision and get their views on the way forward.
Action: Cllr Stan Cherry
- 6.1.8. Ways to improve the appearance of the parish – due to the time taken by the discussion about the cricket pavilion it was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

6.2. Communications Committee

- 6.2.1. In the absence of the Chair of the Committee Cllr Susan Barclay reported that the next committee meeting was to be held tomorrow (18 November).
- 6.2.2. Concern was expressed about the unattributed article which had appeared in the November edition of the Bathford Bulletin opposing the Park & Ride which it was felt had given the misleading impression that Bathford Parish Council was opposed to the scheme when the parish council had not reached a decision pending the outcome of a survey of parishioners being conducted via a questionnaire which appeared in the same edition of the Bulletin. The parish council asked the Communications Committee to inform the Editors of the Bulletin to ensure that in future all articles were attributed to an individual or a group.
- 6.2.3. The Clerk was asked to put a disclaimer in the next edition of the Bathford Bulletin stating that the reference to the parish council in the article was not a reference to Bathford Parish Council.

Action: Clerk

6.3. Finance and Administration (F&A) Committee

- 6.3.1. Cllr Susan Barclay reported that the committee would be meeting tomorrow (18 November) to discuss the precept for 2009-2010 as all the committee budgets had now been prepared. It was agreed that the draft budget would be circulated to all councillors for comment prior to next meeting for final approval at the meeting in January 2009.
- 6.3.2. Approval of Annual Return for year ended 31 March 2008 – members noted that the council's Annual Return for 2007-2008 had been approved without qualification by the external auditor.

- 6.3.3. Summary of income and expenditure April to September 2008 – members noted the council's income and spend for the half year.
- 6.3.4. Photocopier – the Clerk reported that a representative from a local company had visited the office to give a no obligation quote for a replacement photocopier as the current machine was not working properly despite the recent service. The representative had sent a quote for a second-hand machine with all the functions required by the parish council for a cost of around £560 including VAT. The council agreed that it would probably need to replace the photocopier and asked the Clerk to obtain prices from other companies for comparison purposes before making a decision.

Action: Clerk

6.4. Highways, Footpaths and Lighting Committee

- 6.4.1. Cllr Shirley Beazer presented the Highways, Footpaths and Lighting (HFL) Committee monthly report for November 2008. The following items were discussed:-
- 6.4.2. Survey of taxi provision in Bath – members noted the survey issued by consultants on behalf of B&NES and a message from Ward Cllr Gabriel Batt about the need for a single zone for licences covering both the City of Bath and the surrounding areas. The council agreed not to complete the survey as it did not have the detailed information necessary.
- 6.4.3. Dangerous Road at county boundary – Cllr John Lloyd said that there had been another serious accident at the county boundary on the way into the village from Kingsdown. There had been a number of accidents at the same spot and he suspected that there may be an adverse camber on the road causing vehicles to lose control in the same place. He suggested that B&NES' engineers should be asked to carry out a detailed assessment of the road to establish what might be causing these accidents. Cllr Shirley Beazer said that she would contact B&NES. Cllr John Lloyd said that he would be happy to attend a site meeting when arranged.

Action: Cllr Shirley Beazer

6.5. Planning and Environment Committee

- 6.5.1. Cllr Hugh Baker presented the Planning & Environment Committee monthly report for November 2008. The following items were discussed:-
- 6.5.2. Survey of parishioners' views on the Eastern Park & Ride site – the council noted that only 35 parishioners had returned a questionnaire out of 800 distributed. The opinion of those who had replied was 60% against the proposal and 40% in support. In view of the limited response, the parish council did not feel that it could regard the result as clear mandate for the views of the majority of parishioners and therefore debated what its response to the proposal should be.
- 6.5.3. There were differing personal views amongst councillors. Following a discussion, the council concluded that it reluctantly accepted that B&NES would be unlikely to adopt an alternative site for the development, but the council would continue to fight to minimise the impact of the development

with regard to issues such as light pollution, the preservation and protection of wildlife habitats, landscaping and screening.

- 6.5.4. The Clerk was asked to prepare a statement for the Bulletin setting out the council's line and also draft a letter to B&NES.

Action: Clerk

7. Parish Cluster Meetings 2009 Proposed dates for first half of year

- 7.1. Members noted that the proposed date for the Parish Cluster Meeting involving Bathford was Thursday 5 February 2009 at the Rhymes Pavilion, Batheaston. The start time was to be confirmed

8. Reconvened ALCA AGM Saturday 29 November 2008

- 8.1. Members noted the reconvening of the AGM. No councillors were available to attend the meeting on the new date.

9. Invitation to meet B&NES' Community Liaison Officer

- 9.1. The Council noted the offer by the Community Liaison Officer to attend a parish council meeting to discuss issues of concern such as litter, hedge cutting, graffiti removal etc. Members did not consider that they had any urgent matters to raise with the Community Liaison Officer at present and therefore a meeting was not necessary at this time.

10. Liaison with School Governors

- 10.1. See item 5.2.10 above.

11. Neighbourhood Watch

- 11.1. There were no matters to report.

12. Correspondence

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

12.2. Bath Preservation Trust – information about the election for Trustees was noted.

12.3. Bristol International Airport – members noted the reply from the airport in response to a complaint from a parishioner about aircraft noise at night.

12.4. Tree planting – the invitation from B&NES to a tree planting in Parade Gardens to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was noted.

12.5. CPRE Stop the Drop campaign – Cllr Shirley Beazer showed members the pack issued by CPRE giving information and guidance to parish councils about how to combat litter and fly-tipping.

12.6. 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.

13. Items to report

- 13.1. The following issues were raised:-

- 13.2. Overgrown Vegetation – Cllr Stan Cherry reported that the overgrown weeds and vegetation had been removed from around the footbridge.
- 13.3. Best Kept Village – groups had been set up in the village which were concerned with environmental matters and it was suggested that they might be approached to co-ordinate an entry into the best kept village competition. It was agreed to bear this in mind when details of next year's competition were issued.
- 13.4. School Hall – the Clerk was asked to write to the school congratulating them on receiving the funds to build a new hall and ask B&NES to include the replacement of the boundary fence as part of the same contract.
Action: Clerk
- 13.5. Visit to other play areas – it was suggested that as the young people had referred to examples of good play facilities in Marshfield and Colerne, it might be helpful if members visited these facilities to see for themselves what could be suitable for Bathford.
Action: Any councillor with an interest
- 13.6. Agenda Papers – members agreed that to reduce the amount of paper distributed for a meeting they would no longer need a hard copy of the minutes of the last meeting with the agenda as these were already issued electronically as soon as completed after the meeting.

14. Items for the Bulletin

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

- 14.1.1. Statement in response to Park & Ride proposals
- 14.1.2. Disclaimer relating to article about the Park & Ride published in the November edition of the Bathford Bulletin
- 14.1.3. Ask parishioners for ideas for future amenity projects
- 14.1.4. Season's Greetings
- 14.1.5. Date of next meeting.

Action: Clerk

15. Items for the next meeting

- 15.1. Budgets for 2009-2010
- 15.2. Ideas to improve appearance of the village/parish

16. Payments for approval

- 16.1. Members noted that the donation of £500 to the Royal British Legion agreed at the meeting in June 2008 was paid from the parish plan fund on 6 November 2008 following completion of the work.
- 16.2. Payment of the invoices presented to the council was proposed by Cllr Hugh Baker and seconded by Cllr Richard Wickham. The council RESOLVED to make the following payments:-

I M Suleman	Rent for parish office – Nov & Dec 2008	£200.00
Tonik Ltd	Ink cartridges	68.80
Corsham Print Ltd	Printing Bathford Bulletin November 2008	£120.00
Mazars	Fee for external audit	£334.88

Bathford Parish Plan	Transfer of refunded VAT	£449.01
Royal British Legion	Donation by member of public to poppy appeal	£3.00
Mrs R C Holding	Clerk's expenses – petty cash, electricity for office	£90.00
Mrs R C Holding	Clerk's salary – October 08	£528.04
HM Revenue & Customs	Tax & NI	£5.09

17. Date of next meeting

17.1. The next meeting will be on Monday 19 January 2009 at 7.30pm in the Parish Office.

The meeting closed at 9.41pm

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....