

Minutes of Bathford Parish Council Meeting
held on Monday 15 March 2010 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
Councillor Jean Vesey
Councillor Richard Wickham

Also Present: H Gilham (to end of item 6.3)
E Newcombe (to end of item 6.3)
B Palmer (to end of item 6.3)
S Bloomfield (to end of item 6.3)
J Jackson (to end of item 6.3)
S Tapscott (to end of item 6.3)
Ruth Holding (Clerk)

1. Public Five Minutes

- 1.1. Drop-off request bus stop on Dovers Park loop – Several members of the public came to the parish council meeting to express their views about the proposed drop off bus stop at the top of Dovers Park loop. Those residents in favour of the stop said that it would be of great benefit to the elderly and infirm who found it difficult to walk up the hill from the stop opposite the school. They made it clear that a full bus stop was not required only the facility to get off the bus on request. One member of the public suggested that the operation of the request stop could be limited from 9am to 6pm if this would help allay concerns of the residents near the proposed location of the stop.
- 1.2. Those members of the public who objected to the proposals said that they fully understood the desire for a stop at the top of the hill, but they considered that the survey carried out by the parish council in the spring of 2009 was flawed and did not fully establish the need for such a request stop. The view was expressed that other alternatives had not be fully explored, such as using the Faresaver “Hail and Ride” Service. The comment was made that the Faresaver service ran only once an hour and did not operate at weekends or between 2pm-4pm as the vehicles were used for school transport.
- 1.3. The objectors to the proposals were also concerned about the potential for future expansion of the bus service on the loop. They felt that if a drop-off stop

was established on Dovers Park loop, then the bus operator could seek to make the arrangement more permanent with the introduction of a full bus stop on the loop, a reduction in the number of bus stops in Dovers Park and eventually the location would become the layover point which would have a significant detrimental impact on the whole area of the loop.

- 1.4. The Chairman thanked the residents for attending to make their views known to the council which would discuss this matter in full under the item on Highways later in the meeting.

2. Apologies

- 2.1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Paul Faulkner.

3. Declaration of interests in any item on the agenda

- 3.1. The Chair called for any declarations of interest. Cllrs Keith Masdin, John Lloyd and Susan Barclay declared a non-prejudicial interest in the item on the drop-off bus stop on Dovers Park loop as they live in Dovers Park.

4. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting (15 February 2010)

- 4.1. Acceptance of the minutes of the last meeting was proposed by Cllr Hugh Baker and seconded by Cllr Stan Cherry. 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. Relocation of notice board – Cllr Ian Plain reported that more oak had been obtained to provide a backing for the notice board and work on its relocation would begin as soon as possible.

Action: Cllr Ian Plain

- 5.2.2. Communications Committee meeting – Cllr Keith Masdin indicated that he wished to step down from membership of the Committee.

- 5.2.3. Play area inspection report – Cllr Stan Cherry reported that he was still awaiting a reply to his query about the alleged loose bolts on the swing.

Action: Cllr Stan Cherry

- 5.2.4. Ivy on wall alongside A363 – Cllr Shirley Beazer reported that the ivy which had been restricting the visibility of drivers pulling out of Church Street onto the A363 had been cut back and she had thanked the landowner for undertaking this work so promptly following the parish council's request.

- 5.2.5. Suggested extension of Faresaver bus route into Mountain Wood – Cllr Stan Cherry reported that he had spoken to Faresaver about the proposal and was awaiting a reply.

- 5.2.6. Unkempt land in Dovers Park – members noted that the landowner had been served with a notice to tidy the site. It was thought that the notice would give

the landowner around 3 months to comply, after which time an enforcement notice could be issued.

- 5.2.7. Cluster Meeting held on 22 February 2010 – Cllr Keith Masdin reported that he had attended the meeting. There were no actions arising from the meeting, although safety on the A363 through Sally-in-the-Woods had been raised as an item for discussion.

6. Committee Reports

6.1. Amenities Committee

- 6.1.1. Cllr Stan Cherry presented the Amenities Committee monthly report for March 2010. The following items were discussed:-
- 6.1.2. New Cricket Pavilion – Cllr Stan Cherry reported that the cricket club were looking at the options for changing the location of the pavilion and letters had been sent to residents in Ashley Road inviting them to a meeting about the proposals.
- 6.1.3. New basketball hoop – it was noted that the new play equipment had been delivered and a quote would be obtained for the cost of installation.
- 6.1.4. Grit Bins - Cllr Keith Masdin reported that this subject had been raised at the Cluster Meeting and every parish in the Cluster had requested additional grit bins.
- 6.1.5. Allotments - Cllr Wendy Chambers reported that she had again been invited by the Flower Show Committee to judge the allotment competitions being organised this year and that she would be happy to accept the invitation.

6.2. Communications Committee

- 6.2.1. There were no matters for consideration at this meeting. It was reported that a resident had complained that not all the minutes of the council meetings were available on the website. Cllr Richard Wickham said that he was not aware of any omissions or problems with access, but he would check the site.

Action: Cllr Richard Wickham

6.3. Highways, Footpaths and Lighting Committee

- 6.3.1. Cllr Shirley Beazer presented the Highways, Footpaths and Lighting Committee monthly report for March 2010. The following items were discussed:-
- 6.3.2. Pound Wall – it was noted that the Pound Wall appeared to have suffered considerable damage and was in a state of collapse. Cllr Shirley Beazer reported that B&NES were trying to establish the ownership of the wall and identify who is responsible for its repair.
- 6.3.3. A363 – there were a number of problems such as the amount of litter on the verges and the flooding from 3 blocked drains. Cllr Shirley Beazer said that she had contacted the Avon Wildlife Trust about the substantial amount of tree felling taking place in the woods alongside the A363. It was suggested

that the felling may be the result of woodland management work taking place in the privately owned sections of the woods.

- 6.3.4. School Crossing Patrol Officer – Cllr Shirley Beazer said that she was meeting with officers from B&NES shortly about the introduction of a school crossing patrol (Lollipop person) for Bathford Primary School in addition to other matters relating to the safe routes to school initiative. Discussions would include the Vehicle Activated Sign which was likely to display “School” during dropping off and collection times and “30” at all other times. Various locations had been suggested. Members were of the view that the sign should be no further down Bathford Hill than the existing flashing sign.
- 6.3.5. Warleigh – Cllr Wendy Chambers reported that she had met with a B&NES highways officer with regard to the issue of large vehicles using Warleigh Lane. B&NES have agreed to put new signs at each end of the lane to warn drivers about the maximum vehicle weights permitted to use the lane. The impact of the bollards installed by Tanglewood would be monitored.
- 6.3.6. Branches encroaching onto roads - it was reported that there was a significant amount of deadwood encroaching onto the A363 and the road to Kingsdown which needed to be cut back to prevent accidents. Cllr Shirley Beazer said that she would contact B&NES about this issue.
Action: Cllr Shirley Beazer
- 6.3.7. Drop off bus stop on Dovers Park Loop – Cllr Stan Cherry thanked Mrs Bloomfield for circulating minutes of the meeting which he and Cllr Shirley Beazer had attended with concerned residents recently. Cllr Shirley Beazer confirmed that a copy of the minutes had been sent to councillors prior to the meeting. Residents had raised 3 concerns for consideration by the full council. The first was the failure by the parish council to reply to correspondence from a resident. Cllr Shirley Beazer said that the parish council had checked its records, but it could not find any correspondence from the resident in question. Other residents had received replies to their letters to the parish council and the individual concerned would also have had a response had a complaint been received. Secondly the residents wanted the parish council to establish the real need for a drop-off stop and thirdly that discussions with First should be suspended until alternative options had been considered with Faresaver.
- 6.3.8. Members considered that the survey carried out by the parish council in the spring of 2009 had been sufficient to establish the need for a drop-off request stop for those residents who found it difficult to walk up the hill.
- 6.3.9. Members acknowledged the concerns held by residents near the proposed location of the drop-off stop that the stop could grow from a request drop-off only stop into a permanent bus-stop or even a layover point. Members sought to correct any misunderstanding that it was the parish council who had suggested that there could be a layover point on the loop. This suggestion had been made by First and B&NES and the parish council had made it clear that a layover point in this location would not be acceptable. It was thought that it was unlikely that the loop would ever be considered as a suitable layover point because of the narrowness of the road and the number

of driveways opening onto the road which would make it impossible for a bus to layover without blocking access to driveways.

- 6.3.10. Members noted the comments made by residents at the start of the meeting that they would accept a request drop-off only stop in this location if they could be assured that the stop would never be developed into a full bus-stop or layover point. Members suggested that the parish council should seek to get a written assurance from B&NES that the stop would not be developed in order to provide confidence to householders that by agreeing to a request drop-off stop the site would not be changed in future.
- 6.3.11. Cllr Stan Cherry proposed that the council discuss with B&NES options for a binding agreement that the stop will stay a request drop-off stop only and that it would not become a permanent stop and that there will be no shelter, post etc erected in future. This was seconded by Cllr Hugh Baker. A vote was taken by a show of hands. The result was 8 votes in favour and 2 abstentions and therefore the council RESOLVED to contact B&NES about an agreement.

Action: Cllr Stan Cherry

6.4. Finance and Administration (F&A) Committee

- 6.4.1. Cllr Susan Barclay presented the F&A Committee monthly report for March 2010. The following items were discussed:-
- 6.4.2. Valley Parishes Alliance Group (VPAG) – members agreed that there would be benefits to be gained from joining the group, particularly with regard to having regular contact with councils in Wiltshire providing mutual support on cross-county issues. Councillors were satisfied that there would be clear lines of accountability between the member councils and VPAG and that any decisions or recommendations for action made by VPAG would have to be ratified by member council's before adoption. It was understood that the council could opt-out of membership at any time in the future.
- 6.4.3. The membership fee for councils with more than 1000 residents, of which Bathford was one of 3 in the group, had been set at £150 per year. This had been assumed for budgeting purposes and councillors expected that the fees would be reviewed after the group had been in operation for a year and the level of fees adjusted accordingly for the following year.
- 6.4.4. Cllr Susan Barclay proposed that Bathford Parish Council join the Valley Parishes Alliance Group. This was seconded by Cllr Stan Cherry. A vote was taken by a show of hands and the council RESOLVED unanimously to join the group.
- 6.4.5. Cllr Wendy Chambers proposed that Bathford Parish Council should pay the fee of £150 per annum to join the Valley Parishes Alliance Group. This was seconded by Cllr Hugh Baker. A vote was taken by a show of hands and the council RESOLVED unanimously to pay the annual membership fee.
- 6.4.6. Cllr Shirley Beazer proposed that Bathford Parish Council should be represented on the Valley Parishes Alliance Group by Mr S Mackerness, accompanied by Cllr Hugh Baker. This was seconded by Cllr Hugh Baker. A

vote was taken by a show of hands and the council RESOLVED unanimously to allow Mr S Mackerness and Cllr Hugh Baker, when necessary, to represent the views of the council at VPAG meetings.

- 6.4.7. 'No Cold Caller' Stickers – Cllr Stan Cherry reported that he and Cllr Shirley Beazer had attended the launch of the No Cold Caller zone around the sheltered housing in Mountain Wood. This initiative had been set up by Somer Housing, with the support of the police, in 8 locations around Bath to deter cold callers and reduce the number of distraction burglaries. Notices had been put on the entrance to the sheltered housing warning cold callers not to enter the sheltered housing and residents had been supplied with small stickers to place on their property. Evidence had shown that the introduction of the zones were very effective in reducing crime.
- 6.4.8. Cllr Stan Cherry said that a No Cold Caller zone could not lawfully be extended to cover the whole parish, but any householder could put a sticker on their property if they wished to do so informing cold callers not to stop at the house. Widespread coverage would hopefully deter cold callers from visiting any part of the parish. It was suggested that for a modest outlay the council could purchase a sticker for each household in the parish and distribute it with the Bathford Bulletin. Householders could then make their own choice whether to display it or not.
- 6.4.9. Cllr Stan Cherry proposed that the parish council should purchase 755 stickers at 15p each for distribution with the Bulletin. This was seconded by Cllr John Lloyd. A vote was taken by a show of hands and the council RESOLVED unanimously to purchase the stickers.
Action: Cllr Stan Cherry
- 6.4.10. Sharing Broadband connection with the village shop – members noted that BEFA needed an internet connection for business purposes and rather than go to the expense of having a new line installed BEFA suggested that the parish council and the shop should share the existing line. Both organisations currently used the same service provider so it should not be difficult for the broadband connection to be transferred to BEFA as the lead user and for the parish council to pay BEFA for its share of the cost of using the line. Members had no objection to the line being shared as long as BEFA restricted use to its own business purposes and did not allow public access. The parish council said that the level of service should be maintained to ensure that it had secure on-line access on demand as now. Cllr Ian Plain was asked to contact BEFA to discuss the technical details of the transfer.
Action: Cllr Ian Plain

6.5. Planning and Environment Committee

- 6.5.1. Cllr Hugh Baker presented the Planning and Environment Committee monthly report for March 2010. He confirmed that there were no waste management sites near the parish in the Wiltshire Waste Development Plan.
- 6.5.2. The Clerk was asked to write to the individual who had placed a number of notices around the parish about a court case, asking him to remove the notices.
Action: Clerk

7. Planning for the Annual Parish Meeting 19 April 2010

- 7.1. Cllr Susan Barclay confirmed that the format of the meeting was to be kept the same as last year with the parish council's reports being taken first followed by the speakers, coffee break, and then items for discussion and a question and answers afterwards. The Clerk was asked to prepare an agenda.
- 7.2. The Clerk confirmed that all the village groups had been invited to prepare items for display during the coffee break and the Library Service and the police had confirmed their attendance as speakers.
- 7.3. The Clerk was asked to amend the date on the banner advertising the APM and pass it to Cllr Keith Masdin who would arrange for it to be hung on the wall of the Village Shop from early April
Action: Cllr Keith Masdin and Clerk
- 7.4. Cllr Shirley Beazer confirmed that the item regarding Bathford Consolidated Charities should remain on the agenda for this year in order to report the winding up of the charity.
- 7.5. The agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting was to be published on the website when agreed.
Action: Cllr Richard Wickham and Clerk

8. ALCA Special General Meeting

- 8.1. Members noted that ALCA proposed to hold a Special General Meeting on 18 March 2010 to discuss subscription levels. No councillors were available to attend on behalf of Bathford Parish Council.

9. Neighbourhood Watch

- 9.1. The establishment of the No Cold Caller zone had been discussed earlier in the meeting. There were not other issues for discussion.

10. Liaison with School Governors

- 10.1. Cllr Jean Vesey reported that the next meeting of the School Governors would be held on Thursday 18 March.

11. Correspondence

- 11.1. Cllr Shirley Beazer reported the following correspondence issued on behalf of the council or received by the council:-
- 11.2. Victim Support – the charity Victim Support had written asking the parish council to consider a donation. It was the council's policy not to support charities which were not based directly in the parish.
- 11.3. Village of the Year Competition – Cllr Shirley Beazer reported that the competition was to be restricted to a regional competition this year due to the withdrawal of funding from the sponsor of the national competition. The application form had been passed to the BEFA Plus group who had kindly agreed to complete the application form.
- 11.4. Adult Social Services and Housing publications – a copy of a number of useful leaflets published by B&NES had been sent to the parish council for

information. The Clerk was asked to put these copies in the shop for reference with information about how to obtain further copies.

Action: Clerk

12. Items to report

- 12.1. Mill Whistle – Cllr Shirley Beazer reported that there had been a number of objections to the decision to withdraw the 7.30am mill whistle which appeared to have been stopped in response to a complaint from one resident. The paper mill had been asked to put a notice in the Bulletin publishing contact details for anyone wishing to register an objection to the withdrawal of the whistle. Comments could also be sent to the Clerk who would forward them to the Mill.
- 12.2. Council Tax Bill 2010/2011 – B&NES had issued the council tax bill which confirmed that the parish precept had fallen by 7% for a Band D property.
- 12.3. Cricket Club pavilion – Cllr Ian Plain said that the developer of Whitehaven was likely to submit an application to normalise access along the bridleway. The cricket club would need to bear this in mind as cricket club members who were not members of the Rugby Club may not have a right of vehicular access on the bridleway. It was noted that the developer appeared to have left the bridleway in a very poor condition.

13. Items for the Bulletin

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

- 13.1.1. Full page notice of date of Annual Parish Meeting with a summary of the agenda
- 13.1.2. Review of parish plan questionnaire
- 13.1.3. Date of next meeting

Action: Clerk

14. Items for the next meeting

14.1. Urgent items only

15. Payments for approval

15.1. Payment of the invoices presented to the council at this meeting was proposed by Cllr Richard Wickham and seconded by Cllr Jean Vesey. The council RESOLVED to make the following payments:-

I M Suleman	Office rent Mar 2010 - paid by standing order	£103.00
Corsham Print Ltd	Printing March edition of Bathford Bulletin	£120.00
BWBSL (Wessex Water)	Allotment water (Aug 09 to Feb 10)	£31.35
The Phone Coop Ltd	Phone and Internet charges Feb 10	£29.33
Basketball Asylum	Basketball hoop for Playing Field	£429.00
Mr M Smith	Allotment expenses	£40.00
Pepperpot PreSchool	Donation	£250.00
VeraCityBath Ltd	Donation	£200.00
Mrs R C Holding	Clerk's expenses petty cash, electricity key	£60.00
Mrs R C Holding	Clerk's salary February 2010	£475.36
The following payment was made from the Parish Plan Account		
Pepperpot PreSchool	Donation	£250.00

18. Date of next meeting

18.2. The next meeting will be held on Monday 19 April 2010 at 6.30pm (for 30 minutes) in the parish hall to be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm (note change of time and venue).

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....