

**Minutes of Bathford Parish Council Meeting**  
**held on Monday 19 April 2010 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  
Councillor John Lloyd  
Councillor Keith Masdin (from item 3)  
Councillor Ian Plain (from item 9)  
Councillor Jean Vesey  
Councillor Richard Wickham (from item 6a)

Also Present: Ruth Holding (Clerk)

**1. Public Five Minutes**

1.1. There were no matters raised under this item

**2. Apologies**

2.1. There were no apologies for absence.

**3. Declaration of interests 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 (15 March 2010)**

4.1. Acceptance of the minutes of the last meeting was proposed by Cllr Stan Cherry 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. Dead wood encroaching on roadside – Cllr Shirley Beazer confirmed that she had reported this problem to BANES.

5.2.2. Drop-off bus stop on Dovers Park Loop – Cllr Stan Cherry reported that the council was awaiting a response from BANES. The Faresaver bus company had been approached about extending a route into Mountain Wood. The

company had indicated that it would carry out an inspection of the area to assess suitability but this was not a priority task.

- 5.2.3. No Cold Caller Stickers – Cllr Stan Cherry reported that an order for the stickers would be placed shortly.

**Action: Cllr Stan Cherry**

- 5.2.4. Commemorative plaque in stone bus shelter – Cllr Keith Masdin reported that the condition of the plaque had deteriorated to such an extent that cleaning alone would not improve its appearance. It was agreed that a new plaque should be made. Cllr Stan Cherry said that a locally owned company had made the plaques for the commemorative benches and they could make a new plaque for the bus stop. The Clerk was asked to pass the contact number to Cllr Keith Masdin.

**Action: Clerk**

- 5.2.5. Relocation of litter bin by bus shelter on the Green – Cllr John Lloyd confirmed that the new concrete base was in position and the bin would be moved onto it as soon as possible. Cllr Keith Masdin asked if the 2 disused concrete bases could be removed from the green. It was considered too difficult to dig out the bases and instead it was suggested that the bases could be covered by planters instead. These could be bolted to the concrete to prevent their removal. Cllr Keith Masdin said that he would look for suitable containers and report back to the next meeting.

**Action: Cllr Keith Masdin**

## **6. Committee Reports**

### **6.1. Amenities Committee**

- 6.1.1. There was no written report this month. The following item was discussed:-

- 6.1.2. New Cricket Pavilion – Cllr Stan Cherry reported that he and a representative of the cricket club had visited the majority of residents in Ashley Road likely to be affected by the erection of a new pavilion to discuss the proposals in detail with each household. Some concerns had been expressed, but the majority of comments had been supportive. It was expected that this matter would be raised by residents at the Annual Parish Meeting later in the evening.

### **6.2. Communications Committee**

- 6.2.1. There were no matters for consideration at this meeting.

### **6.3. Finance and Administration (F&A) Committee**

- 6.3.1. There was no written report this month. The following items were discussed:-

- 6.3.2. Sharing Broadband connection with the village shop – Cllr Susan Barclay reported that Cllr Ian Plain had written to the F&A Committee about this matter in view of the Digital Economy Bill being introduced into Parliament. Under the provisions of the new legislation, internet service providers would be able to withdraw internet access from users if it was suspected that illegal activity was taking place. The parish council would have no control over who would have access to the internet in the shop. If the parish council shared a

line with the shop and the service was disconnected for any reason, then the council would be without its internet connection through no fault of its own.

- 6.3.3. The parish council acknowledged the benefits that the shop would gain from having a broadband connection. However, members considered that the risk of sharing a broadband connection was too high compared to the relatively low monthly cost of having its own internet access which it could monitor and make secure. The parish council therefore agreed that in the light of this new legislation it should inform the shop that they would need to obtain their own separate broadband line.

**Action: Cllr Ian Plain**

- 6.3.4. Alternative venue for Parish Council Meetings – Cllr Keith Masdin said that meeting in the parish hall had highlighted to him the unsuitability of the parish office for meetings of the parish council. Access to the parish office was difficult and there was insufficient room to comfortably accommodate members of the public, particularly if more than one or two turned up to observe a meeting. Members agreed that the parish office was not ideal for large meetings, and the F&A Committee was asked to look at the possibility of using the Community Rooms for meetings which would be at an additional cost. However, more members of the public might be encouraged to attend if the venue was more accessible and comfortable.

**Action: F&A Committee**

#### **6.4. Highways, Footpaths and Lighting Committee**

- 6.4.1. There was no written report this month. The following items were discussed:-

- 6.4.2. School Crossing Patrol Officer – Cllr Shirley Beazer reported that BANES had conducted a survey which had concluded that there were too few children crossing the road to justify a school crossing patrol. However BANES had indicated that they would conduct a 12 hour pedestrian and car count and possibly a demonstration day.

- 6.4.3. Resurfacing Church Drung – BANES had been asked to resurface the top end of the Drung (junction with Pump Lane) due to the poor condition of the footpath in this area.

#### **6.5. Planning and Environment Committee**

- 6.5.1. Cllr Hugh Baker presented the Planning and Environment Committee monthly report for April 2010. He reported that the Committee had approved a detailed letter to BANES setting out the council's objections to the application to erect a temporary equestrian in worker's dwelling on land in Shockerwick.

- 6.5.2. Valley Parish Alliance Group (VPAG) – it was expected that the VPAG constitution would be available for consideration and endorsement by the parish council at the meeting in May.

**Action: Clerk**

#### **7. Final Preparation for Annual Parish Meeting 19 April 2010**

- 7.1. Cllr Jean Vesey said that the Chair of the School Governors had sent her apologies to the meeting as she was unable to attend.

## **8. Neighbourhood Watch**

- 8.1. Cllr Jean Vesey confirmed that PCSO Vicki Jones would be speaking at the Annual Parish Meeting later in the evening.

## **9. Liaison with School Governors**

- 9.1. Members were pleased to note that work had commenced to replace the school fence. It was reported that sufficient funds were available to renew the fence along Dovers Park and Mountain Wood. Work to replace the old fence facing the sheltered housing and alongside Birdcage Walk would be carried out as more funds were raised.

- 9.2. The Clerk was asked to write to the Headteacher to inform the school how much the parish council appreciates the replacement of the wooden and chain link fence with new metal railings which had significantly enhanced the appearance of the school and the surrounding area.

**Action: Clerk**

## **10. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence for consideration at this meeting.

## **11. Items to report**

- 11.1. Website hosting – Cllr Richard Wickham said that the annual fee for web hosting was due. Cllr Ian Plain was authorised to pay the bill and to recover the cost as an expenses claim in due course.

**Action: Cllr Ian Plain**

- 11.2. New Chairs in Parish Hall – the Clerk was asked to write to the Chair of the Parish Hall Committee congratulating the committee on its choice of new chairs for the parish hall which were lighter, safer and more comfortable than the existing chairs.

**Action: Clerk**

- 11.3. Notice Board lock – Cllr Ian Plain said that the lock had been passed to a local hardware shop to enable a new key to be cut to replace the key which had broken in the lock.

- 11.4. Land by Pound Wall – Cllr Ian Plain reported that he had obtained information from the Land Registry with regard to ownership of the land by the Pound Wall. This would be considered with regard to determining what action may be taken to ensure the repair and protection of the Pound Wall.

## **12. Items for the Bulletin**

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

- 12.1.1. Thanks to parishioners for attending Annual Parish Meeting  
12.1.2. Reminder to dog walkers to clean up after their dog  
12.1.3. Advice about bonfires to prevent them from becoming a nuisance  
12.1.4. Date of next meeting

**Action: Clerk**

### 13. Items for the next meeting

- 13.1. Prizes for Best Kept Allotment Competition
- 13.2. Co-operative's 'Greener Together' campaign
- 13.3. VPAG Constitution

### 14. Payments for approval

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

I M Suleman	Office rent April 2010-paid by standing order	£103.00
ALCA	Annual Subscription	£320.20
Tonik Ltd	Ink cartridge	£27.22
EDF Energy	Electricity for office in Manor basement	£20.20
EDF Energy	Street Lighting	£71.01
Corsham Print Ltd	Printing April edition of Bathford Bulletin	£105.00
R Millbank	Grass Cutting	£330.00
The Phone Coop Ltd	Phone and Internet charges March 2010	£31.26
Hugh Baker	Travel Expenses	£38.08
Stan Cherry	Vouchers for allotment competition prizes	£92.25
Mrs R C Holding	Clerk's expenses petty cash, electricity key	£60.00
Mrs R C Holding	Clerk's salary March 2010	£545.12

### 15. Date of next meeting

- 15.1. The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Monday 17 May 2010 at 7pm in the parish office to be followed immediately by regular parish council business (note change of time).

The meeting closed at 7.20pm

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....