

Minutes of Bathford Parish Council Meeting
held on Monday 15 November 2010 at 7.30pm in the Parish Office, Bathford Hill,
Bathford

Present: Councillor Shirley Beazer
Councillor Hugh Baker
Councillor Susan Barclay
Councillor Wendy Chambers
Councillor John Lloyd
Councillor Jean Vesey
Councillor Richard Wickham

Also Present: Ruth Holding (Clerk)
7 members of the public (4 left after item 7; 3 left after item 8.1)

1. Public Five Minutes

- 1.1. Application to extend licensing hours at the Royal British Legion – 4 members of the public had attended to ask the parish council to make representations to the licensing authority with regard to the application to extend the Legion's licensing hours to as late as 1.30am on Fridays and Saturdays. The residents gave a number of reasons for their objections to the proposal including the club's location in a residential area, noise nuisance occurring in the early hours of the morning, limited parking on the Legion's premises increasing parking pressure on surrounding roads, voices carrying from outside smoking areas. The residents confirmed they had made their representations to the licensing authority and would welcome the support of the parish council. Cllr Shirley Beazer thanked the residents for attending and making their views known and confirmed that the matter was on the agenda for discussion later in the meeting.
- 1.2. Drop-off bus stop on Dovers Park loop – 3 residents raised their ongoing concerns that if a drop-off stop was approved for this location, by 2015 it would have to become a permanent bus stop with a raised kerb and street furniture to comply with legislation due to come into effect at that time. The residents also had objections to the alternative location proposed by the council on the grounds of safety. They asked whether the council had investigated other measures including the provision of a hail and ride service. Cllr Shirley Beazer reported that the X72 hail and ride service ran only one bus an hour and stopped in the afternoon for the school run. Faresaver had been approached about an extension to its service but the company had indicated that this was not a priority for them at present. Cllr Shirley Beazer thanked the residents for attending and confirmed that this matter was on the agenda for discussion later in the meeting.

2. Apologies

- 2.1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Stan Cherry (illness) Cllr Ian Plain (illness) and Ward Councillor Gabriel Batt. Councillor Paul Faulkner did not attend.

3. Declaration of interests in any item on the agenda

- 3.1. The Chair called for any declarations of interest. Cllr Hugh Baker declared a non-prejudicial interest in the item on the extension of licensing hours at the Royal British Legion as a member of the club. Cllr John Lloyd declared a prejudicial interest in the item on the renewal of the fence alongside the bridleway as a potential contractor for the job and would take no part in any discussion on this item.

4. Announcement of resignation of parish councillor and notice of vacancy

- 4.1. Cllr Shirley Beazer announced with regret the resignation of Keith Masdin. The parish council was obliged to advertise the vacancy as there was more than 6 months to run until the Ordinary Elections in May 2011. The necessary notice had been issued by B&NES and displayed on 12 November. If an election was not requested by the minimum number of electors, the council could seek to fill the vacancy by co-option.

5. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting (18 October 2010)

- 5.1. Acceptance of the minutes of the last meeting was proposed by Cllr Susan Barclay and seconded by Cllr Wendy Chambers. The Council RESOLVED to accept the minutes which were signed by the Chair as a true record of proceedings.

6. Matters Arising

- 6.1. Councillors reviewed the list of actions arising from the last meeting. A number of the outstanding matters were to be discussed under the committee items later in the meeting.

- 6.2. The following matters arising were discussed:-

- 6.2.1. Line markings on basketball play area – Cllr John Lloyd reported that this work could not be done over the winter, but would need to wait for finer weather.

- 6.2.2. Response to Avon Wildlife Trust – the Clerk confirmed that a letter had been sent to the Trust setting out the council's comments on the proposals for the improved management of Brown's Folly in accordance with the discussion at the last meeting.

- 6.2.3. Flower Trough – it was confirmed that the new flower trough had been filled and placed on Dovers Park loop.

7. Royal British Legion, Bathford – application for variation of club premises certificate under the Licensing Act 2003

- 7.1. Cllr Shirley Beazer announced that for the convenience of the members of the public this item would be brought forward in the agenda.

- 7.2. Members were aware of a general view in the parish that the proposal to extend licensing hours to up to 1.30am was too late for a club in a village location set in the midst of a residential area.
- 7.3. Members agreed that it was unreasonable for residents to be subjected to noise in the early hours of the morning. The council also had concerns about the proposal to extend the hours for off sales which it was considered could increase the potential for incidents of anti-social behaviour.
- 7.4. Members did have sympathy with the Legion's need to improve its income during these difficult economic times but considered that an extension of the license to 1.30am was not appropriate.
- 7.5. Cllr Susan Barclay proposed that the parish council should make written representations to the licensing authority setting out the council's observations with regard to noise nuisance and off-sales. This was seconded by Cllr Wendy Chambers. A vote was taken by a show of hands and the council **RESOLVED** to write to the licensing authority. The Clerk was asked to prepare a letter.

Action: Clerk

8. Committee Reports

8.1. Amenities Committee

- 8.1.1. The Amenities Committee monthly report for October 2010 was noted. The following items were discussed:-
- 8.1.2. Fences bordering the playing field – it was noted that two quotes for replacing the fencing had been received to date and a third was awaited.
- 8.1.3. Dogs on Playing Field – the council had contacted both the Beat Manager and the Dog Warden about this issue and their response was awaited. A letter had also been sent to the Rugby Club asking them to ban dogs from the club house or prevent them from going onto the field.
- 8.1.4. Drop-off bus stop on Dovers Park loop – Cllr Shirley Beazer reported that Cllr Ian Plain had monitored the position and traffic at the alternative site proposed for the bus stop and agreed with the concerns raised by the residents that the road was steep and not wide enough for the bus to stop safely and visibility was poor around the corner. Members accepted that the alternative site appeared unsuitable; it had been proposed to enable the council to try to find an acceptable location for the stop for the benefit of all residents.
- 8.1.5. Cllr Shirley Beazer said that without a proposal at this meeting the council was unable to make a decision. The Amenities Committee was asked to consider the matter and bring a recommendation to the parish council meeting in January 2011 for a decision to be made about the future of a drop-off bus stop on Dovers Park loop.

Action: Amenities Committee

- 8.1.6. Offer of land at Whitehaven – it was reported that during a conversation with Cllr Stan Cherry, the owner of land at Whitehaven had offered to give a parcel of land to the parish council for a nominal sum, for the purpose of a

sports car park. Such a scheme had been the subject of detailed discussions with the previous owner of Whitehaven but had not been completed due to the sale of the estate. Members asked that Cllr Stan Cherry contact the landowner to obtain more details about their offer for further consideration by full council at a future meeting.

Action: Cllr Stan Cherry

- 8.1.7. Lack of seating at No.13 bus stops in Bath city centre – in the absence of Cllr Stan Cherry this matter was deferred to the next meeting of the parish council.

Action: Clerk

8.2. **Communications Committee**

- 8.2.1. There were no items for discussion under this item.

- 8.2.2. Cllr Shirley Beazer reported that she had spoken to Keith Masdin following his resignation and he had confirmed that he would arrange for the new plaque to be put in the bus shelter and give help if needed with regard to the new notice board and any future fundraising with regard to the Primary School fence.

- 8.2.3. The committee was asked to meet to determine membership and elect a new Chairman.

Action: Communications Committee

8.3. **Finance and Administration (F&A) Committee**

- 8.3.1. Cllr Susan Barclay presented the F&A Committee monthly report for November 2010. The following items were discussed:-

- 8.3.2. Draft budget for 2011/12 – a draft budget had been prepared pending further information with regard to the cost of fencing at the playing field. The current figure showed a reduction in the budget compared to last year, but additional highways expenditure may arise from the need to make safe trees on the common land bordering the A363. The council might decide to use its reserves for this purpose to avoid an increase in the precept.

- 8.3.3. ALCA SGM – members noted that the date of the SGM had been changed to 1 December 2010 since the agenda had been issued. The future of ALCA would be decided at this meeting.

- 8.3.4. Consider withdrawal from membership of ALCA for 2011/12 - Cllr Susan Barclay reported that she had spoken to ALCA who had informed her that the parish council could not belong to NALC direct, but would need to be a member of a county association in order to have access to NALC's services. It was noted that if ALCA did fold and Bathford Parish Council had resigned its membership the council would not be eligible to receive a share of any reserves as this would apply only to current members. Members agreed to defer a decision on membership of ALCA in 2011/12 until the outcome of the SGM was known.

Action: Clerk

8.4. Highways, Footpaths and Lighting Committee

8.4.1. Cllr Shirley Beazer presented the Highways, Footpaths and Lighting Committee monthly report for November 2010. The following items were discussed:-

8.4.2. Grit Bins – it was reported that B&NES had refused all requests for additional grit bins in locations around the parish as suggested by residents, except perhaps Ostlings Lane which was still under consideration. B&NES had also refused the parish council's offer to buy grit bins to be filled by the unitary authority. The Clerk was asked to put a note in the Bathford Bulletin informing residents of B&NES decision.

Action: Clerk

8.4.3. Cllr Shirley Beazer reported that B&NES had offered to reposition grit bins which were currently poorly located, an example being given of the grit bin on Prospect Place. Members agreed that B&NES should be asked to restore the grit bin on Dovers Park loop as this had been removed completely when the parish council had only asked for it to be repositioned elsewhere on the loop.

Action: Cllr Shirley Beazer

8.4.4. Drop kerbs – Cllr Shirley Beazer confirmed that she had spoken to B&NES with regard to a request from a resident for a drop kerb opposite the shop and about the adverse camber preventing mobility scooters from using the pavement from Titan Barrow to the bridleway.

8.4.5. Leaf Clearance in Warleigh – Cllr Wendy Chambers reported that she had contacted B&NES as leaf clearance was not being carried out in Ferry Lane or up to the Wiltshire border.

8.4.6. Common Land adjacent to A363 – Cllr Shirley Beazer reported that the parcel of common land known as CL171 was in the ownership of the parish council and therefore the council would be obliged to make safe the trees adjacent to the highway or face the possibility of a large bill for emergency tree clearance if all or part of a tree was to fall onto the highway.

8.4.7. The work would need to be carried out by a trained, properly equipped tree surgeon and the traffic would have to be controlled by temporary lights which would increase the cost by an estimated £300.00 per day. B&NES council had offered to quote for the work following a survey by their arboriculturalist and details were awaited. Cllr Shirley Beazer said that she would inform councillors when the costs were known and call an extraordinary meeting if necessary.

Action: Cllr Shirley Beazer

8.5. Planning and Environment Committee

8.5.1. Members noted the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 19 October. The following items were discussed:-

8.5.2. Proposed Cricket Pavilion – the revised plans had been delivered by hand during the meeting. These would be looked at by the Planning Committee at

their next meeting. It was reported that the council had received 8 letters of objection to the pavilion as a result of the letter writing campaign organised by two or three residents of Ashley Road, but there had also been a number of letters in support.

8.5.3. Valley Parishes Alliance (VPA) – there were no items for discussion under this item.

9. Report on outcome of auction Riverside Land

9.1. Cllr Wendy Chambers reported that the council's offer had been submitted prior to the deadline in a document prepared by a property lawyer assisting the parish council with this matter. A couple of days after the auction closed, Cllr Wendy Chambers had been contacted by the current landowner to confirm that the council had been outbid. The council understands that a significantly higher offer was made for the land for use in a commercial boating operation.

9.2. Members agreed that the council had been right to try to acquire the land for the benefit of the parish and it was now important to proceed to register the other parcels of land surrounding the riverside location as village green to ensure that the parish council had a say in the future use of the riverside land.

Action: Cllr Stan Cherry

10. Neighbourhood Watch

10.1. Cllr Jean Vesey reported that she had attended a very useful meeting of neighbourhood watch coordinators in Bath.

10.2. The police had provided 30 Neighbourhood Watch Stickers in response to the parish council's request and these would be distributed to Neighbourhood Watch contacts to raise the profile of the scheme throughout the parish.

10.3. Crime had been reported in the parish recently. Tyres had been slashed on several vehicles on the High Street.

11. Liaison with School Governors

11.1. Cllr Jean Vesey reported that 3 new Governors had been appointed to the Governing Body to replace members who had retired or resigned. The school website had been redesigned and improved. The school would be carrying out research into the demand for a breakfast club and it would be at least a year before the hall would be made available for use by outside organisations.

11.2. The CPRE Village of the Year presentation had been held at the school. Cllr Hugh Baker had accepted the Certificate and a cheque for £50 on behalf the whole community. The money would be used to have a commemorative plaque made for display on the wall of the village shop.

12. Correspondence

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

12.2. New vicar to attend council meeting – the Rev'd Jane Burgess, the new vicar at St Swithun's, had accepted the council's invitation to attend the meeting in February 2011.

- 12.3. Remembrance Sunday – Cllr Shirley Beazer reported that more than 300 adults and children were in church for the Act of Remembrance which was attended by members of the Royal British Legion and other uniformed organisations including the Brownies, Guides, Cubs and Scouts.
- 12.4. Celebration of Excellence exhibition – Cllr Shirley Beazer said that the council had been made aware of an exhibition commissioned by B&NES in which town and parish council's had been invited to submit an image which represented their area. Without the parish council's knowledge or approval, the front page of the Parish Plan had been displayed as the contribution from Bathford. Cllr Shirley Beazer had therefore contacted the Bathford History Society for a picture of more recent and relevant events. A montage of photographs was compiled commemorating events such as the opening of the community shop and the centenary of the flower show and this had been submitted for display in the exhibition.
- 12.5. Change of waste collection contractor – members noted that B&NES had achieved savings on the cost of waste collection by changing its contractor.
- 12.6. Sustainable Communities Act – members noted further correspondence with regard to progress on implementing the provisions of the Act.
- 12.7. B&NES Spending Review – B&NES were inviting members of the public to comment on the council's spending priorities.
- 12.8. Review of local pharmacy provision – members noted the questionnaire issued by the NHS conducting a local pharmacy review. It was agreed a reply was not needed as there was no pharmacy in the parish.

13. Items to report

- 13.1. Approval of confidential note of discussion held during council meeting on 18 October with regard to the sale of Riverside Land – the confidential note of the discussion was tabled and signed as a true record of proceedings. Members agreed that the note should be held separate from the minutes and may be made public at a future date at the council's discretion.
- 13.2. Cluster Meeting – members noted that the next Parish Cluster Meeting with B&NES would be held on Wednesday 23 February 2011.
- 13.3. Christmas card to Mayor of Artannes-sur-Indre – members agreed that the council should send Christmas greetings to the Mayor of Bathford's twinned village. The Clerk was asked to contact the Twinning Association for details.

Action: Clerk

14. Items for the Bulletin

- 14.1. The council RESOLVED to publish the following notes in the Bulletin:-
- 14.1.1. Christmas greetings to parishioners
- 14.1.2. Refusal by B&NES to provide additional grit bins
- 14.1.3. Give notice that council is facing unexpected expenditure to make safe trees on common land adjacent to A363
- 14.1.4. List the information leaflets published by B&NES
- 14.1.5. Date of next meeting

Action: Clerk

15. Items for the next meeting

- 15.1. Consideration of budget for 2011/2012
- 15.2. Dovers Park drop-off bus stop
- 15.3. Planning for Annual Parish Meeting
- 15.4. Consideration of offer of land by Whitehaven
- 15.5. Lack of seats at city centre bus stops – letter writing campaign

16. Payments for approval

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

I M Suleman	Office rent Nov 2010 - paid by standing order	£106.00
M Hart	Trimming hedge alongside bridleway	£50.00
Corsham Print Ltd	Printing Nov edition of Bathford Bulletin	£120.00
Avonvale RFC	Playing field rent rebate	£50.00
Cllr Hugh Baker	Bolts for securing bench on High Street	£7.69
Mrs R C Holding	Clerk's expenses	£60.00
Mrs R C Holding	Clerk's salary September 2010	£521.71
HMRC	Tax & NI	£9.02

17. Date of next meeting

- 17.1. The next meeting will be held on Monday 17 January 2011 at 7.30pm in the Parish Office, Bathford.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....