

**Minutes of Bathford Parish Council Meeting
held on Monday 21 March 2011 at 7.30pm in the Parish Office, Bathford Hill, Bathford**

Present: Councillor Shirley Beazer (Chair)
Councillor Stan Cherry
Councillor Hugh Baker
Councillor Wendy Chambers
Councillor John Lloyd
Councillor Ian Plain
Councillor Jean Vesey
Councillor Richard Wickham

Also Present: Ruth Holding (Clerk)
Ward Councillor Gabriel Batt
2 Members of the Public

1. Public Five Minutes

- 1.1. Ward Councillor Gabriel Batt announced that he was standing for re-election to Bath and North East Somerset Council and would like to thank the parish council for the very good working relationship built up during the last 4 years. He confirmed that he would be attending the Annual Parish Meeting and hoped to be representing the Ward of Bathavon North again following the election.
- 1.2. Ward Councillor Batt reported that the Development Control Committee had refused permission for the proposed new house at 29 Church Street, Bathford.
- 1.3. Condition of road surface – a member of the public enquired whether the parish council was aware of any plans to resurface the High Street as the potholes were not being filled in and the road was now in a terrible condition. Cllr Shirley Beazer said that the parish council had made frequent requests to B&NES for repairs to be undertaken. It had been noted that the resurfacing of Bathford Hill had been included in the programme for 2011/2012, but it was not known how far up the hill this work would extend. The lower part of Bathford Hill up to the bridleway had been resurfaced relatively recently. Cllr Shirley Beazer said that the parish council would continue with its requests for repair and the member of the public confirmed that he would also contact B&NES direct about this issue. Ward Councillor Gabriel Batt said that he had shown Cllr Charles Gerrish, Cabinet Member for Service Delivery at B&NES, around the parish and pointed out the condition of the roads.
- 1.4. Address for properties in Whitehaven – a resident of one of the new houses created from the old Whitehaven buildings spoke in support of his neighbour's request to name the bridleway in order to make it easier to find the dwellings which had been given different names since the redevelopment of the big house and its outbuildings. Residents in the new homes did not wish to have a reference to Whitehaven in their address. The parish council said that it was trying to get the old post code reinstated as this identified the location of the properties on SatNav devices and internet mapping services. The Chair thanked the parishioner for his comments and confirmed that the matter was on the agenda for further discussion later in the meeting.

2. Apologies

- 2.1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Susan Barclay (away).

3. Declaration of interests in any item on the agenda

- 3.1. The Chair called for any declarations of interest. None were made.

4. Resignation of Parish Councillor

- 4.1. Cllr Shirley Beazer announced with regret the resignation of Paul Faulkner with immediate effect. The parish council was not obliged to advertise the vacancy as there was less than 6 months to go until the elections in May 2011.

5. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting (21 February 2011)

- 5.1. 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.

6. Matters Arising

- 6.1. Councillors reviewed the list of actions arising from the last meeting. The following matters arising were discussed:-

- 6.1.1. Issues relating to the old Whitehaven estate – Cllr Stan Cherry reported that he had received confirmation from the owner that work was in hand to make good the damaged footpath, reinstate the 5-bar gate, replace a section of hedge and remove the rubbish from the field. The issue of the blocked drain referred to at a site meeting had not been mentioned, but the parish council had emphasised the importance of this work both at the meeting and in writing.
- 6.1.2. Refreshments for Annual Parish Meeting (APM) – Cllr Wendy Chambers confirmed that the cost of the tea and coffee for the APM would be met by the parish council and that members of the church congregation had kindly offered to serve the refreshments at the meeting.
- 6.1.3. Accounts for Bathford Summer Festival – Cllr Shirley Beazer reported that the organisers of the Festival had submitted a copy of their accounts to fulfil the conditions of the donation made by the parish council. These were passed to Cllr Wendy Chambers for the F&A Committee.
- 6.1.4. School Fence – Cllr Shirley Beazer referred to a letter from the Headteacher at Bathford Primary School which confirmed that funding had become available to complete the fence adjoining Birdcage walk. It was reported that Keith Masdin had offered to organise a fund-raising event for the final section of fence opposite the sheltered housing.

7. Committee Reports

7.1. Amenities Committee

- 7.1.1. Cllr Stan Cherry presented the Amenities Committee monthly report for March 2011. The following items were discussed:-
- 7.1.2. Allotment ploholders meeting – Cllr Stan Cherry reported that the next meeting would be held on the allotments on 16 April at 10am. Cllr Wendy Chambers confirmed her availability to join Cllr Stan Cherry and the volunteer allotment warden at the meeting.
- 7.1.3. Allotment water – it was noted that usage in 2010/2011 had been unusually high due to the dry conditions and a leak in the system which had been repaired as soon as it had been discovered. Cllr Stan Cherry said that he expected water costs for 2011/2012 to drop back to previous levels and confirmed there were sufficient funds in the allotment budget to meet the costs without the need for an increase in charges this year.

- 7.1.4. Playing Field/Bridleway Fence – Cllr Stan Cherry reported that work had commenced. Following further discussion on site it had been decided to extend the fence almost as far as the cricket storage container in order to prevent dogs and other animals getting onto the field from the far corner.
- 7.1.5. Play area – it was reported that repair of the play surface would be carried out soon.
- 7.1.6. Drop-off stop on Dovers Park loop – Cllr Stan Cherry reported that the bus stop was currently being installed and should be finished within a day or two. The new stop would be operational as soon as B&NES confirmed to First that the work was complete.

7.2. **Communications Committee**

- 7.2.1. There was no written report. It was noted that the invoice for the refurbishment of the notice board had been received and would be considered for payment later in the meeting.

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

- 7.3.1. There was no written report. The following items were discussed:-
- 7.3.2. Mountain Wood Residents' Club – Cllr Stan Cherry reminded members about the brief discussion at the last meeting with regard to the request for start-up funding from a new community group being set up by residents to promote social activities for those living in Mountain Wood. Councillors had met informally with some of the groups members who were asking for £200.00 as start-up funding. This would be used, for example, towards the cost of hiring the community bus and venues for social events. During discussions councillors had made it clear that the group would need to be self financing in the future. The parish council agreed that the role of the group was consistent with the aims of the parish plan to encourage community cohesion and it was appropriate for a donation to be made to the group from the parish plan fund.
- 7.3.3. Cllr Hugh Baker proposed making a donation of £200.00 to the new resident's group as start-up finance to be paid from the parish plan fund. This was seconded by Cllr Shirley Beazer. A vote was taken by a show of hands and the parish council RESOLVED unanimously to make the donation.
Action: Clerk
- 7.3.4. Batheaston Youth Centre – further information had been requested from Batheaston Parish Council about the future of the youth club. A brief reply had been received from the Clerk but this did not contain sufficient information to enable Bathford Parish Council to determine whether it was appropriate to support the club financially. Batheaston Parish Council was due to consider the matter further at its meeting to be held later in March. The Clerk would ask Batheaston Parish Council for a further update following its meeting.
Action: Clerk
- 7.3.5. New printer for parish office – the decision about the new printer had not been made and would be given further consideration.
Action: F&A Committee and Clerk

7.4. **Highways, Footpaths and Lighting Committee**

- 7.4.1. Cllr Shirley Beazer presented the Highways, Footpaths and Lighting Committee monthly report for March 2011. The following items were discussed:-
- 7.4.2. Roadworks A363 Sally-in-the-Woods – it was reported that stabilisation work had commenced to fill in the voids which had formed underneath the road.

- 7.4.3. Winter Maintenance – Cllr Shirley Beazer confirmed the report to the last meeting that B&NES had reversed its decision not to provide a grit bin in Ostlings Lane and one would now be allocated. At the recent parishes liaison meeting B&NES had indicated that they would welcome ideas about how to keep the roads open in bad weather, including the use of local snow ploughs .
- 7.4.4. Road markings – despite repeated requests it was noted that the road markings at the junction of Bathford Hill with the A363 had still not been renewed.
- 7.4.5. Unofficial advertising signs – following complaints from residents about signs put up around the village advertising a sale in the parish hall, Cllr Shirley Beazer reported that affixing advertising notices to the posts of road signs was illegal. Hirers of the parish hall would be advised accordingly. The Clerk was asked to put a note in the Bulletin informing residents not to attach notices to road signs.
Action: Clerk
- 7.4.6. Riverside footpath – members noted that the footpath alongside the river through Batheaston remained closed after many months. Solutions for reopening the path were being looked at, including the provision of a footbridge, although this was likely to be considered too costly. Bathford Parish Council would continue to monitor developments as the river walk had provided a pleasant and useful route to Bathampton and beyond.
- 7.4.7. Church Street wall – residents had expressed concern about the stability of the high wall running alongside Church Street as masonry was falling from it. Cllr Shirley Beazer reported that an engineer from B&NES would be coming out to assess its condition.
- 7.4.8. Proposed weight limit on A36 – Cllr John Lloyd responded to the announcement by B&NES that it was proposing to put a weight limit on vehicles using the A36 around Sydney Gardens. He predicted that large vehicles would be forced on to the roads around Bath to avoid the weight restriction and this was likely to lead to an increase in the number of large vehicles using alternative routes such as the A363 through Sally-in-the-Woods. Making it difficult for large vehicles to make deliveries in Bath would transfer the problem onto other routes which could have a serious impact on communities on the fringe of the city like Bathford.
- 7.4.9. Request to name the bridleway – members noted the wish of residents in the new houses on the old Whitehaven estate to drop any reference to Whitehaven from their address and members accepted the council should respect their views.
- 7.4.10. The council had agreed at its last meeting that reallocating the old postcode covering the Whitehaven buildings would be of enormous help to delivery drivers etc who were trying to find the new dwellings. In the light of information received from Royal Mail that the postcode should be available from April 2011, the Clerk was asked to write to the Whitehaven Trust asking them to confirm that they had no longer had a use for postcode BA1 7SP (which had been a unique postcode allocated to the Trust). On receipt of a favourable reply the Clerk was asked to write to B&NES asking the local authority to instruct Royal Mail to allocate the postcode to all the new houses formed from the old Whitehaven buildings.
Action: Clerk
- 7.4.11. The council deferred the issue of naming the bridleway.
- 7.4.12. Dog fouling – members noted a letter from a resident in response to the parish council's request in the Bulletin that dog owners clear up after their dogs. The resident suggested that more dog bins should be installed around the parish. The

parish council were not in favour of increasing the number of dog bins which could be unpleasant particularly in locations near to the school and recreation ground. The council considered that it was not unreasonable to expect dog walkers to clear up after their dogs and take the mess home for disposal. The clerk was asked to reply to the resident to inform them of the council's decision.

Action: Clerk

7.5. Planning and Environment Committee

- 7.5.1. Cllr Hugh Baker presented the Planning & Environment Committee monthly report for March 2011. The following items were discussed:-
- 7.5.2. Application for tree works – Cllr Hugh Baker reported that the committee had no objection to the tree works proposed at 50a Bathford Hill.
- 7.5.3. Refusal of new building at 29 Church Street – the announcement by the Ward Councillor that the new building at 29 Church Street had been refused was noted. The parish council was surprised by the decision and would be interested to see the reasons for refusal in due course.
- 7.5.4. Orchard Wood – Cllr Wendy Chambers reported that footings had been seen in the wood which it was thought had been sold to a new owner. Cllr Wendy Chambers was asked to notify Planning Enforcement at B&NES about the development.
- Action: Cllr Wendy Chambers**
- 7.5.5. Cabin on Box Road – Cllr Ian Plain reported that a shack and chairs had appeared in a field alongside the Box Road. Consulting the parish map showed the location to be outside the parish boundary and within the parish of Box.

8. May Elections

- 8.1. Members confirmed receipt of their nomination packs. The Clerk confirmed that nomination packs had also been sent to 3 residents who had expressed an interest in standing for election to the parish council.

9. Planning for Annual Parish Meeting

- 9.1. A suggested agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting was tabled. Members discussed the proposed running order and made some changes. The Clerk was asked to publish the amended agenda in the Bulletin together with a full page notice inviting residents to the meeting.

Action: Clerk

10. Neighbourhood Watch

- 10.1. Cllr Jean Vesey announced that a Neighbourhood Watch meeting had been arranged and would take place on 12 April 2011 at 7.30pm in the Community Rooms, Mountain Wood.

11. Liaison with School Governors

- 11.1. Cllr Jean Vesey reported that a member of the school governing body would be attending the Annual Parish Meeting to speak about community use of the new hall.

12. Correspondence

- 12.1. Cllr Shirley Beazer reported the following correspondence issued on behalf of the council or received by the council:-
- 12.2. Claim for Judicial Review – Cllr Shirley Beazer reported that on 4 March 2011 the council had received a copy of a legal claim form lodged by a resident in the Larkhall area of Bath, seeking a Judicial Review of a decision by the Secretary of State for Transport to include the Bath Transport Package in a 'development pool' of major

schemes. The claim form cited Bathford Parish Council as an interested party to the claim.

- 12.3. Cllr Shirley Beazer explained that Bathford Parish Council was not consulted by the Claimant in advance of the claim form being submitted and there had been immediate concern about the possibility of Bathford being drawn into expensive litigation in which it had not consented to be involved. The Clerk had quickly contacted the Chair and advice was sought from a co-opted member of the Planning Committee who had knowledge of such matters. Further advice was sought informally from a local solicitor and it was recommended that the parish council should write to the Court, the claimant and the defendant requesting that Bathford Parish Council' name be removed from the claim. Letters were sent on 11 March 2011.
- 12.4. The Claimant subsequently called the parish office and left an answerphone message stating that they wanted confirmation that the decision to withdraw was made by the full council and therefore members were asked to endorse the emergency action that had been taken by the Chair in consultation with others.
- 12.5. Cllr Hugh Baker proposed the motion that "The parish council endorses the 'emergency action' taken in sending the three letters to Mr Carlo Ambrosino, the Secretary of State for Transport and the Administrative Court Office of the Royal Courts of Justice (all dated 11/3/2011) – with regard to the request for removal of the Parish Council as 'interested party' from the above referenced Claim for Judicial Review by Mr Ambrosino." This motion was seconded by Cllr Ian Plain. A vote was taken by a show of hands and the motion was carried unanimously.
- 12.6. Cllr Hugh Baker proposed sending a letter to Mr Ambrosino confirming the council's decision. This was seconded by Cllr Stan Cherry. A vote was taken by a show of hands and the council RESOLVED unanimously to send a letter.
Action: Clerk
- 12.7. Members also agreed to give authority to the Chair and the Clerk and any other councillor to take action to respond to further correspondence in this matter in consultation with legal professionals or others prior to the next council meeting as necessary.
- 12.8. B&NES Community Fund – members noted that community organisations would be able to apply to B&NES for grants from a £1.9 million community fund set up by the local authority. It was suggested that this information could be made available at the APM.
- 12.9. Complaint – a resident had complained about a nuisance bonfire in Meadow Park and mud on the road in Shockerwick. The Clerk was asked send a copy of the guidance for bonfires to the resident. Cllr Shirley Beazer said that she would contact B&NES with regard to the mud on the highway.
Action: Clerk & Cllr Shirley Beazer
- 12.10. Refuse Collection – members noted the correspondence copied to the parish council by a resident who had been having difficulty with the waste collections. The matter appeared to have been resolved. The Clerk had acknowledged receipt of the correspondence.
- 12.11. Develop newsletter – members noted the latest newsletter from Develop, an organisation providing services to voluntary organisations and community groups. Cllr Richard Wickham said that this information may be of interest and help to groups in Bathford and the council should consider ways to make the information accessible, perhaps via the website.

13. Items to report

- 13.1. Easier routes for cyclists – Cllr Stan Cherry reported that he had been asked by the *Local Look* for a comment in response to a campaign to replace the kissing gates on the footpath across the fields from Bathford to Bathampton with gates which made it easier for bikes to get through. Cllr Stan Cherry said that he had been supportive of the change in his comment.
- 13.2. Church's lorries using Bathford Hill – Cllr Ian Plain reported that it had been necessary to contact MJ Church again about the speed of vehicles entering the village as the VAS sign had been triggered by every lorry he had observed. The company had confirmed that they would speak to drivers about the need to reduce their speed.

14. Items for the Bulletin

- 14.1. The council RESOLVED to publish the following notes in the Bulletin:-
- 14.1.1. Full page notice inviting parishioners to Annual Parish Meeting together with the agenda
- 14.1.2. Announce draft minutes of last year's APM are available to view on council's website
- 14.1.3. Announce dates of Mobile Library April to September 2011
- 14.1.4. Remind residents that it is illegal to affix posters etc to the poles of road signs
- 14.1.5. Date of next meeting

Action: Clerk

15. Items for the next meeting

- 15.1. Written committee reports
- 15.2. Only urgent matters for consideration
- 15.3. Payments

16. Payments for approval

- 16.1. Payment of the invoices presented to the council at this meeting was proposed by Cllr Stan Cherry and seconded by Cllr Ian Plain. The council RESOLVED to make the following payments:-

I M Suleman	Office rent Mar 2011 - paid by standing order	£106.00
Corsham Print Ltd	Printing Mar edition of Bathford Bulletin	£133.00
Mr J Mulcock	Ground rent for allotment field – standing order	£1.00
BWBSL (Wessex Water)	Allotment water	£20.98
Mark Tayler	Refurbishment of notice board	£465.00
The Phone Co-op	Phone & Internet charges Feb 11	£29.89
Mrs R C Holding	Clerk's expenses	£70.00
Mrs R C Holding	Clerk's salary February 2011	£447.40

17. Date of next meeting

- 17.1. The next meeting will be held on Monday 18 April 2011 at 6.30pm in the Parish Hall, Church Street, Bathford to be followed at 7.30pm by the Annual Parish Meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....