

**Minutes of Bathford Parish Council Meeting**  
**held on Monday 17 October 2011 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 Robert Elliott  
Councillor John Lloyd  
Councillor Peter Martin  
Councillor Maureen Millbank  
Councillor Richard Wickham

Also Present: Ward Councillor Gabriel Batt (to item 9)  
Peter Boyce (candidate for co-option) to item 5  
David Le Lohé (candidate for co-option)  
Samuel Pearce-Kearney (candidate for co-option) to item 5  
Ruth Holding (Clerk)

**1. Public 5 Minutes**

- 1.1. The Chair welcomed Ward Councillor Batt and the three candidates for co-option to the meeting.
- 1.2. 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. Fill 1 casual vacancy on the council by co-option**

- 4.1. Chair Shirley Beazer confirmed that there was 1 casual vacancy on the Parish Council and she thanked the three candidates for their applications. Each applicant was invited to give a brief presentation to the council about any relevant experience and their reasons for wanting to become a councillor. At the end of each presentation members had the opportunity to ask questions.
- 4.2. At the conclusion of the presentations the 3 candidates left the room and the council held a secret paper ballot to elect a councillor. Two rounds of voting were required before one candidate achieved an absolute majority of those present at the council meeting and voting.
- 4.3. After the votes had been counted the candidates were invited back into the meeting and the Chair announced that David Le Lohé had been duly co-opted

onto the council. David Le Lohé then joined the council at the table and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

- 4.4. The new councillor was given the Register of Members' interests form to complete and return to the Clerk within 28 days.

**Action: Cllr David Le Lohé**

## **5. Approval of the minutes of the last council meeting held on 19 September 2011**

- 5.1. Acceptance of the minutes of the last meeting was proposed by Cllr Bob Elliot 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.

## **6. Matters Arising**

- 6.1. Councillors reviewed the list of actions arising from the last meeting and noted:-

- 6.2. Budget 2012/13 – Susan Barclay confirmed that all committees had submitted their budget bids to the F&A Committee for consideration.

- 6.3. Wreath for Remembrance Sunday – Cllr Shirley Beazer said that she would be away on Remembrance Sunday and the wreath would be laid by the Vice Chair Stan Cherry. Cllr Hugh Baker said that he would arrange for the wreath to be given to Cllr Stan Cherry in advance of the ceremony.

- 6.4. Stone Planter – Cllr Shirley Beazer reported that tomorrow she would be going with the resident who had offered to build the planter to look at stone for its construction.

- 6.5. Overgrown tree – the Clerk was asked to write again to a resident on the High Street asking them to cut back a sycamore tree overhanging the pavement.

**Action: Clerk**

- 6.6. Youth activities – Cllr Wendy Chambers reported that no meeting between young people in the village and the PCSO had been arranged. The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by a representative of St Swithun's church who were planning to set up a youth club open to all young people in the parish and the church may approach the parish council with an application for funding from the money that BANES are holding to support activities for youth in Bathford.

## **7. Committee Reports**

### **7.1. Amenities Committee**

- 7.1.1. Cllr Stan Cherry presented the Amenities Committee monthly report for October 2011. The following items were discussed:-

- 7.1.2. Cricket Pavilion – Cllr Stan Cherry reported that the club's first meeting about the construction of the pavilion was being held tonight. Representatives from the parish council would attend future meetings.

- 7.1.3. Tree survey – this had been ordered and was due to be carried out shortly.

- 7.1.4. Amenities budget 2012/13 – Cllr Stan Cherry reported that the Amenities Committee had agreed a budget with a 1.8% increase on last year. The

current figures did not include the cost of erecting a fence around the rugby club and creating a new access at the bottom of the field which was estimated to cost £2,500. The Amenities Committee invited members to consider whether this scheme should be carried out and if so whether the cost should be added to the precept or met from reserves. Some concern was expressed about the level of spend on the field following the erection of a new boundary fence along the bridleway and the play area. The F&A Committee were of the view that there should be no increase in the precept next year.

7.1.5. Councillor Gabriel Batt said that money might be available from community funding available to Ward Councillors and he invited Cllr Stan Cherry to contact him with details of this project.

7.1.6. The general view of the council was that a fence should be erected to prevent dogs from running onto the field and the F&A Committee would consider the matter at its next budget meeting.

**Action: F&A Committee**

7.1.7. Cleansing – Cllr Stan Cherry reported the outcome of a very helpful meeting with the officer from B&NES with responsibility for cleansing. A number of concerns with regard to the level of service provided had been clarified. A schedule is currently being worked up in which each area would have a regular day for sweeping and new equipment would be deployed to sweep roads and pavements. The parish council had been advised to contact Ward Councillors about funding for the provision of additional litter bins. B&NES also confirmed that equipment could be provided for a “community clean up” and they would collect the rubbish afterwards.

7.1.8. It was noted that B&NES had also made an offer of concrete flower pots which were surplus to requirements. The Communications Committee was asked to consider whether Bathford should request one or more of these pots.

**Action: Communications Committee**

7.1.9. A copy of the new cleansing schedule would be circulated as soon as it became available.

## 7.2. **Communications Committee**

7.2.1. Cllr Maureen Millbank presented the Communications Committee monthly report for October 2011. The following items were discussed:-

7.2.2. PACT Meeting – the meeting with PCSOs would take place on Monday 7 November at 7.30pm in the Community Rooms, Mountain Wood.

7.2.3. Winter Maintenance Open Evening – Cllr Peter Martin reported that the open evening event at B&NES depot in Clutton had been very useful and informative. B&NES were considering setting up volunteer snow clearance patrols and details of the trial would be sent to parish councils.

- 7.2.4. Cllr Peter Martin said that a number of issues arising from the open evening including the provision of private grit bins and bulk buying of grit would be considered by the Highways Committee.
- 7.2.5. B&NES had published advice about clearing snow and it was suggested that it would be helpful to publish this in full in the November edition of the Bathford Bulletin.

**Action: Clerk**

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

- 7.3.1. There was no written report. The following items were discussed:-
- 7.3.2. Dates for parish council meetings in 2012 – members accepted the dates for parish council meetings in 2012 as proposed.
- 7.3.3. Summary of income and expenditure – members noted the summary of income and spend in the second quarter of 2011/2012. There were no matters of concern.
- 7.3.4. Budget 2012/13 – Cllr Susan Barclay confirmed that all committees had submitted their budget bids for consideration by the F&A Committee which would meet on 25 October.
- 7.3.5. Bank Account for playing field – it was confirmed that the completed paperwork had been presented to Lloyds TSB Bank.

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

- 7.4.1. Cllr Shirley Beazer presented the Highways, Footpaths and Lighting Committee monthly report for October 2011. The following items were discussed:-
- 7.4.2. Oil Leak on footpath – Cllr Shirley Beazer reported that the complaint of an oil leak onto a footpath in Mountain Wood had been investigated by an officer from B&NES who had concluded that there was no cause for concern and no enforcement action would be taken.
- 7.4.3. Footpath blocked in Warleigh – Cllr Shirley Beazer reported that B&NES footpaths officer would inspect the path following a report that it was impassable due to overgrown vegetation.
- 7.4.4. Birdcage Walk – Cllr Maureen Millbank reported that Pepperpot was experiencing a problem of dog mess being bagged up and then the bags thrown into the pre-school's garden. Plans were being made to put a bin on the Manor Field and it was hoped this would help to alleviate the problem.

### **7.5. Planning and Environment Committee**

- 7.5.1. Members noted the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held since the last council meeting. The following items were discussed:-
- 7.5.2. Development at Titan Cottage – the parish council had objected to the development of new dwellings at Titan Cottage on the grounds of the increase in traffic coming out of the bridleway. The plans as submitted showed the narrowing of Bathford Hill to increase sight lines. The person

making the planning application had written asking for confirmation that the parish council no longer wanted to pursue the offer of land for a sports car park in view of the reasons for the objections. The Clerk was asked to reply to the owner stating that it had never received a formal offer of the land, the proposal had only been mentioned informally during a conversation with a councillor, and to point out that the parish council takes an impartial view of all planning applications and any formal or informal offer of land had no bearing on the parish council's consideration of the planning application.

**Action: Clerk**

7.5.3. Minutes of Valley Parish Alliance (VPA) – Cllr Hugh Baker said that Paul Crossley, Leader of B&NES council, had spent a lot of time at the VPA meeting making a presentation and answering questions. Members noted the minutes of the VPA meeting held on 22 September 2011.

7.5.4. Purchase of the Meadows – Cllr Shirley Beazer said that Ward Councillor Martin Veal had phoned her with a proposal that Bathford, Batheaston and Bathampton parish councils should consider jointly purchasing the Meadows. Members could see no merit in the proposal as the land could be compulsorily purchased by B&NES if they wanted to resurrect the plans for a Park & Ride and therefore a considerable amount of time and money could be spent without guaranteeing the future of the land. Cllr Shirley Beazer said that she would contact Cllr Martin Veal and inform him of the outcome of the council's discussion.

**Action: Cllr Shirley Beazer**

## **8. HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee**

8.1. Jubilee Event with neighbouring parish – it was confirmed that contact details had been exchanged between residents of Batheaston and Bathford with regard to the planning of local events to celebrate the Jubilee.

8.2. Jubilee Commemorative Medal – Cllr Susan Barclay confirmed that the Headteacher had asked the Friends of Bathford School (FOBS) parent group to consider organising a commemorative token to be given to the school children. In view of the school's plans and the difficulties that the parish council would face in trying to gather information on all primary school age children in the village to distribute memorabilia, the parish council RESOLVED not to follow up the presentation of a commemorative medal. Cllr Susan Barclay said that she would bring this issue back to the council if FOBS contacted her about the matter.

## **9. Neighbourhood Watch (NW)**

9.1. A date had been announced for the PACT meeting (para 7.2.2 above).

9.2. Cllr Maureen Millbank reported that residents had volunteered to be NW representatives for 2 roads not currently covered by the NW scheme and she was encouraged by this additional support.

## **10. Liaison with School Governors**

10.1. Cllr Susan Barclay reported following the last Governors meeting. There was insufficient need for a breakfast club or after school services and therefore the school would not be offering extended services at present. The lettings policy

and conditions for hiring the new school hall had been agreed by Governors and the hall would be available to hire from 1 November. The kitchen would be excluded from hire as this was B&NES property. Cllr Susan Barclay said that she had raised the issue of parking and had been assured that this was monitored. BANES had erected No Waiting signs on the fence by the keep clear markings.

## **11. Correspondence**

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

11.2. Seats at City Centre Bus Stops – Cllr Shirley Beazer referred to a letter from a resident who confirmed that a campaign to get seats installed at the No.13 bus stops opposite the bus station in Bath had been successful.

11.3. Jubilee Beacons – members noted information received about the plans for beacons to be lit as part to the Jubilee celebrations including advice about holding beacon events and the types of beacons available.

## **12. Items to report**

12.1. Office in basement of Bathford Manor – Somer Housing had requested confirmation that the council had a formal arrangement to use one of the rooms in the basement of the Manor. A licence dated 1975 had been found in the council's records and members agreed this should be sent to Somer in response to their enquiry.

**Action: Clerk**

12.2. Browns Folly Nature Reserve – members noted that sheep would be grazing an area of the nature reserve. Avon Wildlife Trust had asked for volunteers from visitors to the reserve to act as "stock watchers" to monitor the animals. The Clerk was asked to put a note in the Bathford Bulletin.

**Action: Clerk**

12.3. Committee membership - The Chair asked Cllr David Le Lohé to consider which of the council's committees he would like to join. It was proposed that the Highways, Lighting and Footpath's Committee would benefit from an additional member. It was suggested that he might like to attend other committee meetings as an observer before deciding which to join as a full member.

12.4. It was suggested that the unsuccessful candidates for cooption may like to become co-opted members of committees. Council was reminded that only full members of the council can sit as members of the F&A Committee.

12.5. Morris Lane – concerns had been expressed by a resident about the increasing number of vehicles going the wrong way on Morris Lane.

12.6. Weight limit on Cleveland Bridge – Cllr John Lloyd said that Bathford should be prepared for an increase in HGVs using the A363 Sally-in-the-Woods, A4 Box Road and Bathford High Street as lorries found alternative routes following the imposition of a weight limit on Cleveland Bridge. Although the limit had been welcomed by some, it could have a serious impact on surrounding rural areas.

### 13. Items for the Bulletin

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

- 13.1.1. Announce co-option of new Parish Councillor
- 13.1.2. Notice of PACT Meeting
- 13.1.3. Dial-a-Ride service extended to Bathford
- 13.1.4. Avon Wildlife Trust request for "stockwatchers"
- 13.1.5. Mobile Library visiting times
- 13.1.6. Advice about Winter Weather Preparations
- 13.1.7. Date of next meeting

**Action: Clerk**

### 14. Items for the next meeting

- 14.1. Budget for 2012/13

### 15. Payments for approval

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

I M Suleman	Office rent Sept 2011 - paid by standing order	£110.00
CPRE	Annual Subscription - paid by standing order	£29.00
Wessex Water	Allotment water supply and usage	£237.46
Cotswold Distribution Ltd	Ink Cartridges	£39.17
Southern Electric	Repair of streetlight on playing field pathway	£59.20
Corsham Print	Printing October edition of the Bulletin	£133.00
EDF Energy	Electricity for Manor Basement	£20.40
R Millbank	Grasscutting & work to allotment hedge	£350.00
The Phone Co-op	Phone and internet charges Aug & Sept	£31.82
Mrs R C Holding	Clerk's salary September 2011	£525.70

### 16. Date of next meeting

16.1. The next meeting will be held on Monday 21 November 2011 at 7.30pm in the Parish Office, Bathford Hill, Bathford.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....