

**Minutes of Bathford Parish Council Meeting**  
**held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2012 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 Peter Boyce  
Councillor Wendy Chambers  
Councillor David Le Lohé  
Councillor John Lloyd  
Councillor Peter Martin  
Councillor Maureen Millbank  
Councillor Richard Wickham  
Mrs Judith Abbott - Clerk

Also in attendance  
Ward Councillor Gabriel Batt  
Ward Councillor Geoff Ward  
Mr. S. Mackerness – Co-opted to Planning Committee/rep. on P and R

**1. Public Five Minutes**

Ward Councillor Gabriel Batt reported on the unacceptable number of complaints he had received from constituents regarding the reduced level of seasonal verge cutting. As part of the Planning, Transportation and Environmental Scrutiny Panel involved with safety and access Ward Councillor Geoff Ward reported that he had addressed the BANES cabinet and as a result it had been agreed that two cuts per year would be reinstated as of 2013. The reduction in cuts experienced in 2012 had saved the Council £25,000. Cllrs. Barclay and Chambers were anxious that BANES should give consideration to appropriate timing of cuts, a review of area priorities and costings. Ward Councillor Ward said he would report these concerns back to BANES.

**2. Apologies**

There were no apologies for absence.

**3. Declaration of interests in any item on the agenda**

The Chair called for any declarations of interest. Both Mr. S. Mackerness, Cllr. S. Cherry and Cllr. Shirley Beazer, acknowledged interest relating to proposals for a possible Park and Ride which would be overlooked by their private properties.

**4. Approval of the minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting (15<sup>th</sup> October 2012)**

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**

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

- 6.1.3 Cllr. Stan Cherry reported that paperwork had just been received from Ward Cllr. Gabriel Batt in respect of finalising payment for the fence
- 6.3.4 Revised Code of Conduct forms would be collated later in the week by the Clerk.

## 6. Committee Reports

### 6.1 Planning and Environment

- 6.1.1 Cllr. Hugh Baker, Chair of the Planning Committee, reported that two new applications would be considered at the Planning Meeting on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2012.
- 6.1.2 Mr Mackerness, Bathford's representative on the Valley Parishes Alliance and P&R matters, introduced the topic of P&R east of Bath. He explained that Halcrow consulting had been engaged by BANES to review a list of 9 potential sites with the first objective to develop a short list of the top 3 candidate sites.

All of the sites had serious shortcomings such as issues concerning access, capacity, investment cost, environmental impact, visual impact, operational risk, flooding and necessary involvement of other bodies – Network Rail and Wiltshire Council. Four sites were in the green belt between the three parishes of Bathford, Batheaston, and Bathampton; two lie in the Shockerwick valley; one is the Crown field in Bathford; and the last two are Charmy Down, and a further expansion of Lansdown.

Unfortunately, the three parishes were unable to reach any sort of consensus on which site(s) to support – other than a further expansion of Lansdown and Charmy Down. There was no obvious answer acceptable to all three parishes.

Provided that the other parishes reach the same conclusion, it was agreed that Bathford PC would take no immediate action. Once Halcrow had identified the top three sites, it may be appropriate to once more join with our neighbouring parishes in making appropriate representations to BANES. It was felt that this collaborative approach was likely to encourage the best ultimate outcome.

It was further agreed that Bathford should seek any opportunity (maybe via the VPA) to remain involved with the Halcrow process in order to influence the selection of sites in a way which is beneficial to the parish.

### 6.2 Amenities Committee

- 6.2.1. Cllr Stan Cherry presented the Amenities Committee monthly report for November 2012. The following items were discussed:-
- 6.2.2 QE2 Fields – Cllr. Stan Cherry confirmed that three copies were available for the Chairman to sign and Ward Councillor Gabriel Batt to witness. All three copies were signed – two would be returned to FIT for dating and sealing. Avondale RFC also had to sign and whilst they were seeking legal advice relating to wording of the tenancy at will of the Scout Hut, Cllr. Cherry did not anticipate any problems or delay. The Rugby Club were

anticipating a substantial upgrade to the Scout Hut and it was therefore understandable that the Club needed to feel comfortable with the documentation prior to signing.

- 6.2.3 Damaged carpet –Three quotation had been received. Cllr. Cherry corrected the figure quoted for GB Sport, which when amended came in £10 more than the Playforce quote. Proposed by Cllr Hugh Baker and seconded by Cllr. Maureen Millbank that as Playforce were known to Cllr. Lloyd as a quality supplier, their quote be accepted.
- 6.2.4 Tree work – Quotes had been received for work to a tree on the village green, removal of a dead tree on the field, and removal of invasive tree growth on the allotments. Quotes ranged from £480 plus VAT to £770 and £765 inc. VAT. One further quote was awaited but if this was not competitive it was proposed by Cllr. Hugh Baker and seconded by Cllr. Maureen Millbank that the quote for £480 plus VAT be accepted.
- 6.2.5 Cricket Pavilion Project update - £2,500 had been received from Garfield Weston as a grant towards the Cricket Pavilion. Whilst this was not as much as was initially hoped it did now open doors for other funding opportunities.

### **6.3 Communications Committee**

No meeting had been held since the last Parish Council meeting.

### **6.4 Finance and Administration (F&A) Committee**

- 6.4.1 The Finance Committee had met to discuss and set the budget for 2013/14. The precept calculations showed an end total of £18,315, a slight reduction from last year which was £18,560. The reserve account was in a healthy position and the Committee felt it was well able to cope with future possible outgoings such as the new safety carpet for the play area. Unless there was any other amendments it was the Finance Committee's intention to take the above figure as the new precept requirement to the full Council in January 2013.
- 6.4.2 Cllr. S. Barclay undertook to check with the bank as to the current list of signatories and add or subtract as appropriate.

### **6.5 Highways, Footpaths and Lighting Committee**

- 6.5.1 Cllr Shirley Beazer presented the Highways, Footpaths and Lighting Committee monthly report for November 2012. The following items were discussed:-
- 6.5.2 Bathford Hill/High Street – complaints had been received concerning the urgent need for a reduction in speed of vehicles using Bathford Hill and the High Street. This matter had been discussed at the recent PACT meeting with serious consideration being given to the reinstatement of volunteers monitoring speed on the hill. Further action awaited from PC Nick Sheppard.

- 6.5.3 Possible removal of bank adjacent to former Tyndale building to allow additional car parking - the area, owned by BANES is the current location of the post box and Council notice board
- 6.5.4 Cllr. Hugh Baker reported that he had accompanied Denise Hart on a tree survey on Parish Council land in Sally in the Woods. Nothing urgently requiring action. The invoice for work undertaken would follow but was as yet the cost of the work was unknown.
- 6.5.5 Cllr. John Lloyd reported on the dangerous amount of water on the A363 which if still escaping in inclement condition could result in a very dangerous accident. This particular site had been reported previously but Cllr. Shirley Beazer undertook to report it as a matter of urgency.
- 6.5.6 Cllr. John Lloyd reported that the news that the move to prohibit HGVs from coming through the centre of Bath had been over-ruled was, in his opinion, to the benefit of Bathford.
- 6.5.7 Cllr. Stan Cherry reported on a stone coming out of the pavement just below the junction of Church Street and Bathford Hill.
- 6.5.8 Cllr. Maureen Millbank reported that PC Nick Sheppard had advised that he would be contacting her this week re. speed checks.
- 6.5.9 Cllr. David LeLohe reported he had had a review meeting with BANES of last year's snow warden activities. He had been given more equipment but more volunteers were still needed. Cllr. John Lloyd reported that he still had a pallet of salt in his yard and some signs left last year. Cllr. LeLohe undertook to send an e mail to all of last year's volunteers and to ask for a further pallet of salt to be delivered.
- 6.5.10 Cllr. Peter Martin reported that the bus stop opposite the disused caravan site on the Box Road had been moved in the Bath direction nearer the roundabout for safety reasons.

## **7. Neighbourhood Watch**

- 7.1 Cllr Maureen Millbank presented the Neighbourhood Watch monthly report for November 2012.
- 7.2 A Neighbourhood Watch/PACT Meeting had been held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 pm in the Community Rooms, Mountain Wood. Varied and numerous questions were raised which PC Nick Sheppard responded to, or explore further and report back. All Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators had been informed but more people were needed to join the scheme. It was agreed an item should be added to the Bulletin to encourage increased participation particularly in areas where there was no cover. PC Sheppard agreed that the website suggested by Cllr. Peter Martin would be informative to those interested in crime statistics in their area. Cllr. Millbank asked that an item be added to the Bulletin to encourage more involvement with Neighbourhood Watch. PC Sheppard undertook to forward some flyers which could be distributed explaining the benefits of working together with the Police in ensuring a safer neighbourhood for all.

## **8. Liaison with School Governors**

- 8.1 Cllr Susan Barclay reported there she had not attended the last meeting as she had been on holiday.

## **9. Correspondence**

- 9.1 The Chairman reported that the next Parish Liaison Meeting would be held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2013 - venue still to be arranged.
- 9.2 The Chairman reported the sad news that our former Clerk, Chris Warner, and Parish Councillor Bob Elliott had both died. In addition Bob's wife had sadly passed away only a few weeks before Bob. Cards of condolence had been sent.
- 9.3 The Chairman reported that as a result of the Parish Council nominating Link for one of the categories of the BANES Business Community Awards, they had been commended for a Community Award. The Clerk was asked to write a letter of congratulations to Tony Woodcock. ACTION: CLERK
- 9.4 The Chairman reported that she had checked the timeframe for utilising the £1,800 youth funding allocated to the village. BANES had confirmed the deadline was November 2014.
- 9.5 A letter had been received from Bathford Primary School with regard to concerns raised re. the closure of the play area after school. The school reported that their decision had not been taken lightly but they had taken advice and been guided by Ofsted guidelines in their actions. They welcomed the presence of a member of the Parish Council on their Governors meeting and to forge closer links they would be sending the Vice Chair of Governors to Parish Council meetings. The Clerk was asked to write a letter advising that any member of public was welcome to attend meetings and Councillors welcomed the improved liaison between the school and the Parish Council. ACTION:CLERK

## **10. Items for Report**

- 10.1 Cllr. S. Barclay asked who was responsible for ensuring the safety of the railings around the Tyndale site. The site was untidy, foliage was coming through the railings and the railings seemed unsafe. Cllr. Barclay was advised that the site belonged to Biggs Building Contractors and anyone concerned about any aspect of the site should contact them directly.

## **11. Items for the Bulletin**

- 11.1 The council RESOLVED to publish the following notes in the Bulletin:-
- 11.1.1 Outcome of the PACT/Neighbourhood Watch Meeting
  - 11.1.2 Reinstatement of two verge cuts per year with effect from 2013.
  - 11.1.3 Congratulations to Link on their achievements in the BANES Awards
  - 11.1.4 More snow wardens required
  - 11.1.5 Christmas Greetings to all parishioners
  - 11.1.6 Date of next meeting

ACTION: The Communications Committee to contact the editorial team to check the current status of the proposed new editorial team.

**12. Items for the next meeting**

- 12.1 Acceptance of Precept and budget
- 12.2 Review of the position relating to the proposed Park and Ride

**13. Payments for approval**

- 13.1 Payment of the invoices presented to the council at this meeting was proposed by Cllr Hugh Baker and seconded by Cllr John Lloyd. The council RESOLVED to make the following payments:-

	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount Due</b>
Mr I Suleman	Office Rent Nov - paid by Standing Order	£115.00
Ashley Wood Farm	4 Loads of manure	£120.00
Ashley Wood Farm	Cut allotment hedge at High St/Ashley Rd.	£96.00
Corsham Print	November Parish Magazine	£133.00
The Phone Co-op Ltd.	Phone and internet to 7.11.12	£31.45
Mrs. S. Beazer	Office Clock	£5.00
Mrs. W. Chambers	Cheque paid for Clerk's training crs. Attendance	£85.00
Mr. R. Wickham	Memory for laptop	£22.48
Mrs. M. Millbank	Key for electricity	£30.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£637.93</b>

**14. Date of next meeting**

- 14.1 The next meeting will be held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2013 at 7.30pm in the Parish Office, Bathford.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....