

## **Minutes of Bathford Parish Council Meeting**

**held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2013 at 7.30pm in the Parish Office, Bathford Hill, Bathford**

Present: Councillor Shirley Beazer (Chair)

Councillor Stan Cherry

Councillor Wendy Chambers

Councillor Peter Boyce

Councillor David Le Lohe

Councillor John Lloyd

Councillor Maureen Millbank

Councillor Richard Wickham

Councillor Hugh Baker

Clerk: Jon Cooper

Councillor Vito Pecchia (Chair of Batheaston Parish Council)

Councillor Paul Crossley (Leader of Bath and North East Somerset Council)

### **1. Public five minutes**

There were no members of the public present.

### **2. Apologies for absence**

Cllr Susan Barclay

Cllr Peter Martin

### **3. Declarations of interests in any item on the agenda**

Cllr Stan Cherry declared that as a member of the rugby club, he would speak but not vote over the 'approval for funding of picnic tables for the playing field'.

### **4. Councillor Vito Pecchia, Chair of Batheaston Parish Council**

- 1. New footpath across the river** - Councillor Vito Pecchia discussed the building works that have commenced in the Batheaston car park to construct a footbridge connecting the footpath with the canal. This had been agreed following a previous period where the riverside path had been closed for five years while awaiting repairs. Sustrans funding of £500,000 was secured and further funding had been provided by Batheaston Parish Council

which allowed a more attractive crossing rather than a 'steel girder'. It was hoped that a path could be continued along the river to link a cycle way to Bathford in the future. Cllr Paul Crossley confirmed that BANES would continue to maintain the existing towpath.

2. **Development alongside the river** – concern was raised at the large number of trees that had been removed alongside the river in Batheaston. Cllr Pecchia confirmed the trees were not subject to a preservation order and some had been removed from the river. Planning had been sought by the landowner for 12 houses, with this being in the green belt and with flooding concerns Batheaston Parish Council stated their intention to oppose any planning here. Planning issues at the 'shed' near the bypass roundabout and also on the car sales yard were also discussed and would be opposed by Batheaston Parish Council. The current lack of a Core Strategy being in place by BANES was cited as a concern to development on green belt land.
3. **Changes to pavement in front of Batheaston shops** – work has been scheduled to increase the size of the pavement and provide for a delivery area for lorries deliveries to the convenience store. This is timetabled to take place after the bridge scheme and due for completion by the end of March 2014. It was recognised that the parking levels were important with this being the main shopping hub for Bathford and Colerne and it was confirmed that the number of spaces was due to increase by 18 and certainly no loss of parking was envisaged in the current scheme.
4. **Post Office** – due to Mr Smart having accepted a retirement package from the Post Office the current branch in Batheaston will be closed. The owner of the 'Fat Friar' have stated their wish to return the space to their own use. Other options have been explored but no solution has been found to date. The Post Office has agreed that a van service will provide basic services 3 times a week. Other options continue to be explored.

Councillor Vito Pecchia (Chair of Batheaston Parish Council) & Councillor Paul Crossley (Leader of Bath and North East Somerset Council) both left the meeting at 8.05pm.

#### **5. Approval of the minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

Acceptance of the minutes of the last meeting was proposed by Cllr Hugh Baker and seconded by Cllr Maureen Millbank. The Council resolved to accept the minutes which were signed by the Chair as a true record of proceedings.

## 6. Matters arising

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

1. Ref 4 , The Clerk reported the photocopier was working intermittently and should it fail again engineers would be contacted to repair it.
2. Ref 7.2, Cllr Wendy Chambers had received confirmation from the after school club that less than ten pupils currently attended the after school club. Cllr Stan Cherry reported on a recent visit he had found the doors locked which could be a fire hazard, Cllr Wendy Chambers confirmed she would write to the club regarding this.

**ACTION:- Cllr Wendy Chambers**

3. Ref 9.1, it was noted the deadline for the remainder of the youth funding was approaching and there was risk the remainder would be lost. The Clerk was requested to compile a list of what each group had received followed by further contact being made with all relevant groups.

**ACTION:- The Clerk**

## 7. Committee reports

### 1. Amenities

1. Cllr Richard Wickham noted that his name was missing from the amenities report despite being present at the meeting.
2. Work on installing the electricity supply to the cricket pavilion has been delayed due to poor weather.
3. The amenities committee recommended that the Parish Council should fund new picnic benches to replace the broken ones near the rugby club, giving more flexibility with their use. This recommendation to pay for the new benches was proposed by Cllr Hugh Baker and seconded by Cllr Peter Boyce, the Council resolved to accept the proposal. Cllr Stan Cherry abstained on the vote due to being a member of the rugby club. The Clerk was requested to place the order for 3 benches at a total of £739.12 from Charlton Gates.

**ACTION:- The Clerk**

4. Cllr David Le Lohe had inspected the benches owned by the Parish Council and noted many needed attention or repair but none were classed as dangerous. It was agreed that funds for this would be included in next year's budget.

5. Next year's amenities budget had not been finalised but was due to be ready for the next meeting, clarification still being sought on the Rugby Club ground rent due.

## **2. Communications**

1. Due to poor weather conditions a recent Speed Watch training session had been cancelled.

## **3. Finance**

1. Tentative budgets received from Amenities and Highways committees, while the Asset Maintenance budget still requires confirmation. All budgets expected to be ready for the next meeting.
2. Cllr Shirley Beazer thanked Cllr Peter Boyce for his work on the Asset Register and Risk Assessment documents.

## **4. Highways**

1. Cllr Shirley Beazer reported she had contacted BANES regarding using the Community Volunteers to clear the footbridge at the entrance to the village and no objection to this had been received. It was also suggested that Cotswold Wardens could clear footpaths if needed.
2. A VAS speed sign for the Box Road would cost £5,000 and it was suggested to be installed with BANES determining the location. This would be installed to help protect children on the school route on a busy section of the road. It was agreed that the cost could not be approved until more details on the location and details of the plan were known.

### **ACTION: Cllr Shirley Beazer**

3. Stones have fallen from the railway bridge onto the road, a survey was due to take place to and determine what remedial action required.
4. Box Road bus shelter, all details have been forwarded to Cllr Geoff Ward.

## **5. Planning**

1. Only one tree works application had been received since the last meeting and a further 2 had been delivered the morning of the meeting.
2. It was reported the park and ride scheme had been incorporated into the 'Bath Transportation Package' by BANES with Avon Rugby Club, the railway triangle and Bathampton Meadows under consideration, with the latter being the preferred choice.
3. Cllr Maureen Milbank and Cllr Peter Martin attended the Placemaker Plan workshop, and this will be followed up on his return.

## 8. School Governors representative report

No items were discussed.

## 9. Correspondence

1. **Jacob Rees Mogg MP** – a response was received regarding the ‘rave’ offering more support in the issue if required.
2. **Curo lease for Bathford Manor Basement** – a new lease had been received from Curo regarding the Manor Basement, currently being used by the Parish Council for storage and archiving of documents. The lease had a zero value and was valid for three years. However, the lease received highlighted the wrong room being used by the Parish Council, instead showing that of the History Society, The Clerk had replied with this information to Curo.
3. **The Conservation Volunteers** – offers had been received regarding tree planting and volunteers for environmental works. It was agreed the Clerk would place the relevant information in the Bathford Bulletin.

### **ACTION: The Clerk**

4. **School ‘houses’** – Matt Stone, Head of Bathford Primary School had contacted the Parish Council for suggestions on house names for the school. The Clerk had contacted Fae Hall at the History Society who had kindly made some suggestions; these had been passed to the school who in turn had sent their thanks.
5. **Paper Mill whistle** – Cllr Stan Cherry reported that the whistle had been making a different noise than is normal. This had been due air rather than steam powering it for a brief time, it had now reverted back to steam and the normal sound returned.

## 10. Items to report

1. **Jubilee Stone** - Cllr Wendy Chambers reported that the stone was had been received by the engravers and she was liaising about the positioning of the diamond. No answer had been received from Wessex Water as to who would be present from their organisation to determine positioning. Cllr Hugh Baker offered to contact Limpley Stoke mine owners about weather protecting the stone. **ACTION: Cllr Hugh Baker**
2. **Recycling bins** – No action had been taken on the removal on the bins on Ashley Road, Roland Russell confirmed to Cllr Shirley Beazer he would follow up. The Clerk was requested to place a reminder in the Bathford Bulletin about keeping bins on the property not the roadside.

### **ACTION: The Clerk**

3. **Walkers are welcome** – Cllr David Le Lohe asked if the Parish Council had considered following up on previous correspondence received regarding promoting walking locally. It was noted the Bathford Society had previously run a trail and the annual walking the bounds of the Parish took place. Cllr David Le Lohe asked by the Chair to research options and report at a future meeting.

#### 11. Items for the ‘Bathford Bulletin’

1. BANES – buy with confidence
2. Rubbish and recycling
3. Fencing on playing field
4. Tree planting

#### 12. Items for the next meeting

1. Cllr Wendy Chambers and Cllr Richard Wickham offered their apologies for the next meeting.

#### 13. Payments for approval

Payment of the invoices presented to the council at this meeting was proposed by Cllr Peter Boyce and seconded by Cllr John Lloyd. The Council resolved to make the following payments.

#### Bathford Parish Council Current Account – total £1577.50

	Description	Sub total	Amount Due
Mr I Suleman	Office rent September 2013 - paid by s/o		£120.00
Mr J Cooper (expenses) PAID	Envelopes	£18.59	£50.70
	Printer Paper	£9.75	
	Pens	£2.89	
	Printer Paper	£3.49	
	Memory Sticks	£15.98	
Grant Thornton UK LLP	Audit Costs		£270.00
Corsham Print Ltd	October Parish Magazine Printing		£133.00
Mr R A Millbank	Grass Cutting		£180.00
EDF Energy	Manor Electricity		£32.01
Mr J Cooper	Clerk September Salary		£430.26

<b>The Phone Co-op Ltd</b>	<b>Phone &amp; Broadband</b>		<b>£24.31</b>
<b>Office Depot</b>	<b>100 2nd class stamps &amp; 10 archive boxes</b>		<b>£86.42</b>
<b>Wiltshire Association of Local Clerks</b>	<b>Clerk course and finance course</b>		<b>£144.00</b>
<b>Mr J Cooper (expenses)</b>	<b>Electricity for Parish Office</b>	<b>£30.00</b>	<b>£31.80</b>
	<b>Postage</b>	<b>£1.80</b>	
<b>Royal British Legion*</b>	<b>Donation for remembrance wreath</b>		<b>£75.00</b>

\*Approval for the remembrance wreath was made following the meeting by Cllr Shirley Beazer, Cllr Susan Barclay and Cllr Stan Cherry.

**Wynne Willson Account – total £976.36**

	<b>Description</b>	<b>Sub total</b>	<b>Amount Due</b>
<b>Digiprint</b>	<b>No dogs sign for playing field</b>		<b>£57.24</b>
<b>Mr R A Millbank</b>	<b>Grass Cutting</b>		<b>£180.00</b>
<b>AJ Charlton &amp; Son</b>	<b>Three picnic benches</b>		<b>£739.12</b>

**14. Date of the next meeting**

1. The next meeting will be held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in the Parish Office, Bathford Hill, Bathford.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....