

Minutes of Bathford Parish Council Meeting

held on 18th November 2013 at 7.30pm in the Parish Office, Bathford Hill, Bathford

Present: Councillor Shirley Beazer (Chair)
Councillor Stan Cherry
Councillor David Le Lohe
Councillor John Lloyd
Councillor Maureen Millbank
Councillor Hugh Baker
Councillor Susan Barclay
Councillor Peter Martin
Clerk: Jon Cooper

1. Public Five Minutes

There were no members of the public present.

2. Apologies for absence

Councillor Peter Boyce
Councillor Wendy Chambers
Councillor Richard Wickham

3. Declarations of interest in any item on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting (21st October 2013)

Acceptance of the minutes of the last meeting was proposed by Cllr Hugh Baker and seconded by Cllr Peter Martin. The Council resolved to accept the minutes subject to the following changes:

4.1) 'towpath' be replaced with 'riverside path'

13) Councillors who proposed and seconded the payments for approval added, being Cllr Peter Boyce and Cllr John Lloyd respectively.

Following those changes being agreed the minutes were signed by the Chair as a true record of proceedings.

5. Matters Arising

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

6.3) The Clerk provided details of Youth Funding claimed to date. It was noted there was still a large amount on funding available to groups. Cllr Shirley Beazer agreed to contact The Guides and Cllr Stan Cherry agreed to contact the Rugby and Cricket clubs.

Action: Cllr Shirley Beazer & Cllr Stan Cherry

7.4.2) There was no replacement at present for the change of role of Stephan Chiffers (B&NES Highways). Undergrowth had been cut back from the pavement at Box Road but the speed check had not been carried out. A Risk Assessment would be required before Speedwatch Volunteers could be used for this purpose. Cllr Beazer to make further enquiries.

Action: Cllr Shirley Beazer

9.3) Cllr David LeLohe agreed to contact the Conservation Volunteers regarding clearance of the vegetation on the footbridge

Action: Cllr David Le Lohe

6.3.4) Due to repeatedly delays from Lloyds, it was agreed that the Allotment Invoices would be sent with the already existing account details.

6. Committee Reports

6.1. Amenities

6.1.1. In the event of an allotment warden standing down, no current policy existed. Issue to be placed onto agenda of next allotment plot holders meeting.

6.1.2. A parishioner on Ashley Road had requested the Beech Hedge be extended to screen the new Cricket Club Pavilion.

6.1.3. A report had been received from Zurich Insurance regarding the play area, a loose fixing on a gate, exposed concrete below the fireman's pole and corrosion at the base of the slide were all stated as needing attention. Assurances had been sought and received that the other equipment was in a good state of repair. Required repairs to be carried out 'in house'.

Action: Cllr John Lloyd

6.1.4. A complaint had been received of a car blocking the bridleway access during Sunday morning rugby. Passed to Rugby club who have replied that they do not think it was a club member but will take steps to prevent future issues.

6.1.5. It was reported the budget had not been finalised as issues regarding the Rugby Club lease were being finalised.

6.1.6. Tim Ledbury had been awarded the contract for grass cutting as a preference to BANES due to costs being easier to control

6.1.7. Funds had been placed into the budget for 2013/14 for Asset repairs in the village as agreed at the previous Parish Council Meeting.

6.2. Communications

6.2.1. The community Speedwatch scheme was reported as proceeding well, sessions scheduled on a fortnightly basis.

6.2.2. The clerk was requested to place a request in The Bathford Bulletin for more volunteers for the Speedwatch and Snow Warden schemes.

Action: The Clerk

6.3. Finance

6.3.1.No Finance Committee meeting had taken place since the last Parish Council Meeting; the next one being scheduled for Tuesday 26th November.

6.3.2.A Parishioner had requested confirmation on allowable expenses for Councillors, The Clerk was requested to confirm the central policy, while noting Councillors had not claimed any personal expenses this financial year.

Action: The Clerk

6.4. Highways

6.4.1.An update was provided on the provision of a bus shelter on the Box Road, second hand bus shelters would not be available until the New Year and permission is required from the Highways Agency to build on the verge.

6.4.2.Repairs had been requested of manholes where the tarmac had dropped including at The Crown, Bathford Hill and around Dovers Park entrance. A pilot scheme of 'Rangers' employed by BANES was reported as being introduced, Rangers (due early early 2014) will not be employed on highway maintenance issues. Bathford is not included in the pilot. However, it was hoped this would be of use in the future.

6.4.3.The possibility of using the Royal British Legion car park was discussed following a query by a parishioner, it was concluded that wider use of the car park was not to be encouraged due to it being a poor place to exit onto the main road, it was also noted this would be an issue for the Legion rather than the Parish Council.

6.4.4.Following a similar scheme being observed in Bathampton Cllr Maureen Milbank offered to contact BANES requesting a mobile parking patrol around school drop off time due to inconsiderate parking.

Action: Cllr Maureen Milbank

6.4.5.The railway bridge had been checked and confirmed to be safe following the stones falling last month.

6.5. Planning

6.5.1.Parish Online, a mapping tool, was reported as having received updates and being a useful service for the Parish Council in planning and other matters giving access to Ordnance Survey data.

6.5.2.Despite many requests the Tithe Map of Bathford has still not been received, upon receipt a copy would be provided to the Bathford History Society.

6.5.3.Cllr Peter Martin reported he had met with Julie O' Rourke regarding the Placemaking Plan and listing the 'village assets' to be protected. A draft list of important building and green spaces would be compiled and tabled at a future Parish Council meeting. Further discussion regarding the advantages of a 'Neighbourhood Plan' over a 'Placemaking Plan' concluded that while the former was very good it involved a large

financial input and due to Bathford's unique position of being surrounded by green belt and sites of scientific interest it was not seen as necessary at the current time.

6.5.4. Curo had been asked for the results of the housing survey, they stated due to a 'technical error' they were unable to provide these at the current time.

7. School Governors representative report

7.1. It was reported the school governors meeting was scheduled for 19th November, it was hoped that Mr Matt Stone would be able to attend a Parish Council meeting in the future.

8. Correspondence

- 8.1. A donation of £75 to the Royal British Legion had been agreed by Cllr's Shirley Beazer, Stan Cherry and Susan Barclay after the last meeting.
- 8.2. Dates of cluster meetings had been received, those involving Bathford in 2014 were scheduled for 26th February and 16th July.
- 8.3. A parishioner reported that a petition was available to sign in Batheaston Post Office regarding its closure, The Clerk obtained copies of the signature cards but it was not felt these portrayed the view and concerns of the Parish Council. The Clerk to draft a letter and provide shop, hairdresser, RBL and Bathford Link with copies inviting signatures in support.
- Action: The Clerk**

9. Items to report

9.1. Cllr David Le Lohe reported he was preparing a paper for consideration at the next Parish Council meeting regarding the 'Walkers are welcome' correspondence exploring the possibility of a walking festival and publishing walks around the parish to help promote the village.

10. Items for the 'Bathford Bulletin'

- 10.1. Rubbish collection over Christmas
- 10.2. Community Speedwatch
- 10.3. Disposal of dog waste
- 10.4. Post Office closure petition
- 10.5. Snow warden volunteers
- 10.6. Christmas greetings

11. Items for the next meeting

- 11.1. Budgets
- 11.2. Walkers are welcome report
- 11.3. It was discussed whether the Parish Council should organise commemorative activities for the World War I centenary next year. Agreed that contact would be made with

other village organisations initially. Cllr Stan Cherry and Cllr Hugh Baker to contact the Bathford Society and Royal British Legion respectively.

Action: Cllr Stan Cherry and Cllr Hugh Baker

12. Payments for approval

12.1. Payment of the invoices presented to the council at this meeting was proposed by Cllr Susan Barclay and seconded by Cllr Stan Cherry. The Council resolved to make the following payments.

Current Account Total – £972.44

	Description	Sub total	Amount Due
Mr I Suleman	Office rent October 2013 - paid by s/o		£120.00
Corsham Print Ltd	October Parish Magazine Printing		£133.00
Mr J Cooper	Clerk September Salary		£425.64
Office Depot	250 C4 envelopes		£31.70
SLCC Enterprises Ltd	Clerks Manual		£35.00
R J Sulley & Son	Hedgetrimming of allotment hedge		£96.00
The Phone Co-op Ltd	Phone & Broadband		£25.00
Mr J Cooper	Rechargeable batteries for Speedwatch	£9.49	£68.79
	Postage	£1.80	
	Bus to Devizes for training	£7.50	
	Electricity top up of key for Parish Office (Nov & Dec)	£50.00	
Office Depot	Tipp Ex, Shredder Oil, Notebooks		£31.31

Wynne Willson Account Total - £1110.76

	Description	Sub total	Amount Due
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A Coombe	Coombe fencing - install gate and fencing around rugby club		£960.00
Somerset Playing Fields Association	Subscription to Somerset Playing Fields Association		£10.00
Digiprint	Plaques for picnic benches		£140.76

13. Date of the next meeting

13.1. The next meeting will be held on Monday 20th January 2014 at 7.30pm in the Parish Office, Bathford Hill, Bathford.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....