

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

**held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2014 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  
Councillor Richard Wickham  
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

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

Cllr Stan Cherry stated that, as their Vice President, he would not vote on the Scout Hut tenancy relating to the rugby club.

### **4. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting (21<sup>st</sup> October 2013)**

Acceptance of the minutes of the last meeting was proposed by Cllr Hugh Baker and seconded by Cllr Susan Barclay. The Council resolved to accept the minutes subject to the following change:

6.1.6) 'Tim' Ledbury to be replaced by 'Tom'.

Following that change 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:

5 - 6.3) Cllr Shirley Beazer made contact with the Guides but as yet they have not requested any more funding. It was agreed the funding option would be extended to the Church Youth Club.

**Action: The Clerk**

5 – 9.3) A quote had been received in relation to the Conservation Volunteers clearing the footbridge, however, it was felt that BANES should take responsibility for the area. Cobbles near the railway bridge and low maintenance planting was agreed to be the best solution. Cllr David Le Lohe to contact BANES in respect of this.

**Action: Cllr David Le Lohe**

6.4.4) Cllr Maureen Millbank stated BANES confirmed we are 'on the list' for a visit from the mobile parking patrol around schools and it would take place in due course.

11.3) Neither the Bathford Society nor Royal British Legion had confirmed they as yet had any events planned to mark the WWI centenary. It was felt any event should acknowledge the people from the village involved in the war. Cllr Peter Martin and Cllr David Le Lohe to contact Major Macleod regarding the information he has on the parishioners that died fighting in WWI.

**Action: Cllr David Le Lohe & Cllr Peter Martin**

## **6. Committee Reports**

### **6.1. Amenities**

6.1.1. Bee keeping on the allotments had been raised as a possibility, however, it was agreed this would not be implemented.

6.1.2. Succession of allotment wardens to be raised in next allotment newsletter.

6.1.3. Work on the cricket pavilion had been delayed due to poor weather. It was reported the Cricket Club had made a grant request to Sport England.

6.1.4. The playing field was closed for use on the weekend of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> January. Play had been possible the following weekend; use of the field would be reviewed if required.

6.1.5. Repairs to the play area delayed due to poor weather.

6.1.6. It was agreed field usage rents calculation to be changed in line with revised method of calculating ground rents.

6.1.7. Support was given in principle to the rugby club renovating the scout hut, however it was agreed plans should be seen in advance of any work commencing.

### **6.2. Communications**

6.2.1. The next Speedwatch session was reported as being scheduled for February.

6.2.2. It was proposed by Cllr Susan Barclay and seconded by Cllr Shirley Beazer that The Parish Council donates £200 to the police in regard to Community Speedwatch Equipment. The council resolved to make the payment.

### **6.3. Finance**

6.3.1. Following a correction in the method for calculating ground rents, it was agreed that rugby club was due a £357.20 refund, which had been paid. New quarterly rents were reported as being £117.75 for the clubhouse and £66.50 for the hut.

6.3.2. The first tranche of youth funding money had now been spent. The remainder would be requested from BANES by the Clerk with receipts to date included to them.

**Action: The Clerk**

6.3.3. Copies of the draft budget and statement of accounts were circulated. It was reported that NALC'S guidelines state that reserves should be equivalent to one year of the precept received. Savings had been made through grants being received or repairs and maintenance being carried out internally for reduced or no cost. In these cases the original precept amount had been returned to general funds. Amenities reported a lower expected income due to Rugbytots ending their sessions last year. Overall it was agreed the precept requested would reduce by 3.4% to £16,895. Cllr Maureen Millbank proposed and Cllr John Lloyd seconded that the Parish Council should request said amount from BANES as a precept for 2014/15. The draft budget was unanimously passed by full Council. It was agreed that the B&NES precept request form be completed and sent into Bath and this was signed by the Chair'.

#### **6.4. Highways**

- 6.4.1. Improvements to the parking bays and double yellow lines at priority points 2 and 3 had been agreed with BANES in principle, however, they were not due to be processed until 2016.
- 6.4.2. Results of the speed survey completed by the Police had still not been received. Any progression on the VAS on Box Road is dependent on these results.
- 6.4.3. Permission to use the land owned by the Highways Agency to erect a bus shelter on the Box Road had been granted following lengthy delays in the process.
- 6.4.4. The black boxes that had been placed on lampposts were related to the 20mph zone implementation.
- 6.4.5. A letter was written to support Batheaston's proposals for the pavement alongside the shops. Cllr Maureen Millbank proposed and Cllr Sue Barclay seconded that this be sent, Bathford Parish Council resolved to offer support in this way.
- 6.4.6. Following the flooding on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2013, 'Flood' and 'Road Closed' signs had been requested for under the Brunel Railway Bridge. It was reported these signs would be considered for extra locations including the Box Road should it be necessary in future. BANES had been requested to clear the drains to help clear the road but stated it would not be possible until the river level dropped.

#### **6.5. Planning**

- 6.5.1. An application had been received for erection of a garage to the side of 46 Dovers Park, following a site visit it had been agreed not to object. BANES however, had subsequently refused the permission.
- 6.5.2. Following the Planning meeting where the application to build a holiday let to replace the building between the cycle path and the roundabout on London Road East was discussed, Cllr Hugh Baker had spoken to the Chairman of Batheaston P C, who confirmed that they would also object to the proposal. An objection was made to the application primarily on the grounds that it was inappropriate development in the Green Belt. Additionally there is no vehicular right of way to the site and part is on the flood plain.

- 6.5.3. No objection was raised to the new mobile phone mast in the 'Jewson Yard' in Bathampton; the proposed mast is shorter than the old one and a long way from any Bathford properties.
- 6.5.4. As part of the Placemaker Plan village assets that are hoped to be protected had been photographed. These were placed on the agenda of the next parish Council meeting for agreement on which to include.
- 6.5.5. Despite repeated attempts no further information regarding the results of the housing needs survey carried out by Curo had been received.

## 7. School Governors representative report

It was agreed that Mr Matt Stone would be invited to submit a written report on behalf of the school to the Annual Parish Meeting in April.

## 8. Correspondence

- 8.1. A request for a donation had been received from Teenage Cancer Trust, while it was agreed it was a worthy cause it was felt this was more suitable for individuals to choose to donate to rather than the Parish Council.
- 8.2. Bathford Cricket Club requested a contribution towards new sight screens from Parish Plan funds. It was hoped that a portion of the unused youth funding could also contribute to this. However, other groups who had not yet received a donation, including the Church Youth Club, would be contacted prior to a decision being made.  
**Action: The Clerk**
- 8.3. Avonvale Rugby Club requested use of the playing field in May for a village fun day, Amenities Committee to discuss and make recommendation.

**Action: Cllr Stan Cherry**

## 9. Items to report

Cllr David Le Lohe had produced a report circulated to all Councillors on 'Walkers are Welcome' summarising it was hoped a group from within the village, but separate from the Parish Council would eventually take the lead, like the Twinning. A number of towns and villages have initiated the scheme including Bradford on Avon which have provided benefits to the community and businesses, it was hoped the same could apply to Bathford's pub, shop and B and B's. It was reported that both a financial commitment and support from 5% of the population would be required before Bathford could join 'Walkers are Welcome', it was agreed support and volunteers would be sought via the Bathford Bulletin.

**Action: Cllr David Le Lohe**

## 10. Items for the 'Bathford Bulletin'

- 10.1. Introduction to "Walkers are Welcome"

## 11. Items for the next meeting

- 11.1. APM agenda items
- 11.2. Placemaker plan
- 11.3. Vote on funds being made available for Cricket Club sight screen

## 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 in December and January.

**Current Account Total – £3499.35**

	Description	Sub total	Amount Due
Mr I Suleman	Office rent December 2013 - paid by s/o		£120.00
Jane Thomas	Donation for shop Christmas Tree		£50.00
Avonvale RFC	Youth Funding - defibrillator		£350.00
Mr J Cooper	Clerk Salary, November		£430.26
Petty Cash	Petty Cash		£50.00
Bathford Cricket Club	Youth Funding - nets		£360.00
Mr I Suleman	Office rent January 2014 - paid by s/o		£120.00
Office Evolution	Photocopier Repair		£71.99
Petty Cash	£175 Electricity, £23 Book, £1.80 Postage (remainder returned to P Cash)		£200.00
Corsham Print Ltd	Bathford Bulletin Printing		£266.00
Mr J Cooper	Clerk Salary		£402.51
EDF Energy	Manor Basement Electricity		£32.05
The Phone Co-op Ltd	Telephone and Internet		£24.84
Office Depot	Ink cartridge and paper fasteners		£38.95
Hugh Baker	Mileage for attending VPA meetings		£33.75

Transfer	From Current to Wynne Willson Account (well capping and rugby rent)		£956.00
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**Wynne Willson Account Total - £457.71**

	Description	Sub total	Amount Due
Avonvale RFC	Refund of overpayment of rent		£357.20
John Lloyd	Fencing expenses		£100.51

**13. Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at 7.30pm in the Parish Office, Bathford Hill, Bathford.

**The meeting closed at 9.45pm**

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....