

Minutes of Bathford Parish Council Meeting

held on 17th March 2014 at 7.30pm in the Parish Office, Bathford Hill, Bathford

Present:

Councillor Shirley Beazer (Chair)

Councillor Stan Cherry

Councillor David Le Lohé

Councillor John Lloyd

Councillor Maureen Millbank

Councillor Hugh Baker

Councillor Peter Martin

Councillor Richard Wickham

Councillor Wendy Chambers

Councillor Susan Barclay

Clerk: Jon Cooper

Batheaston Pavement Scheme

Prior to the start of the meeting Vito Pecchia, Chair of Batheaston Parish Council attended to discuss the scheme to replace the pavement in front of the shops in Batheaston. He reported that a public meeting had been held and attended by 25 people to discuss the scheme. The pavement was to remain at the same level for shop access but and provision had been made for wheelchair access. A quote had been obtained from Hemmings who constructed the bridge. Batheaston Parish Council remained in contact with BANES to finalise the funding of the scheme and to safeguard their financial position.

He confirmed that the public toilet in Batheaston was reported as due to close in June and that the bridge was hoped to be opened in May. They hoped the footpath across the field from the bridge could be rerouted to be further away from the river.

Cllr Vito Pecchia left the room at 7.40pm.

Public Five Minutes

There were no members of the public present for the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

Peter Boyce was reported as having resigned from the Parish Council

2. Declarations of interest in any item on the agenda

None were stated at the start of the meeting. However, Cllr Stan Cherry later stated he was a member of the rugby club and Cllr Richard Wickham stated an interest in the rural exception. Both of these declarations were made prior to any discussion on those topics.

3. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting (17th February 2014)

Acceptance of the minutes of the last meeting was proposed by Cllr Hugh Baker and seconded by Cllr Stan Cherry. The Council resolved to accept the minutes.

A note was made of changes required to the action sheet.

5 – 11.3, was missing 'Draft insert for July bulletin to commemorate WW1 fallen' to be actioned by Cllr David Le Lohé

6.2.2, Full name of 'Julie Ticehurst' was added as opposed to only 'Julie'

It appeared that The Clerk had not received all the amendments by email, in future a confirmation email would be sent so all changes could be tracked.

4. Matters Arising

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

6.4.2) Contact householder about stones blocking High Street pavement – Cllr David Le Lohé spoke to the householder informing them of risk of an accident, Cllr Shirley Beazer had also contacted BANES.

6.4.6) Write to Biggs Construction regarding overhanging ivy – they had twice carried out work on the site and despite two requests including a picture of the area having been sent had not cleared the ivy requested. If it had not been cleared by the end of the week a further call would be made.

Action: The Clerk

9.1) No requests for displays had been made from the Bulletin notice, Royal British Legion would be invited to display.

Action: The Clerk

5. Committee Reports

5.1. Amenities

- 5.1.1. It was reported that Hope & Homes had organised a 'Tent Event' on the playing field scheduled for 4th April. They had not previously asked permission. It was explained to them it was OK to go ahead but they must follow the correct procedure in future.
- 5.1.2. Cllr Stan Cherry had made contact with an organisation in North Bradley to explain that Fields in Trust would not lead to that group losing control of their field, rather it would protect it further.
- 5.1.3. Avonvale Rugby club had requested a new lease covering the scout hut, however it was reported this was not necessary as it is tied to the clubhouse lease. The clarification on the lease was needed for applying for grant applications to renovate the scout hut. The Parish Council would support any scheme, but costs would be borne by the club.
- 5.1.4. The original Fields in Trust plaque was now badly corroded a replacement would be fitted in due course.

5.2. Communications

- 5.2.1. It was reported the Speedwatch scheme was due to commence again the following week and an advert had been placed in the Bathford Bulletin for more volunteers
- 5.2.2. The Jubilee Stone required an improvement in the weather before it could be completed, it was confirmed the text was to be "Erected by Bathford Parish Council to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee 2012"

5.3. Finance and Administration

- 5.3.1. A draft agenda for the APM was presented and minor changes made to timings of speakers. Councillors were asked to attend at 6pm. Refreshments would be organised as last year. The Clerk was requested to hang and update the banner outside the shop. Cllr David Le Lohe reported he would not be at the APM but would provide Walkers are Welcome material to display in advance of it.
Action: The Clerk
- 5.3.2. The office rent standing is to be increased from April 1st by £5 per month.
Action: The Clerk
- 5.3.3. The Clerk was asked to research options into purchasing a safe for the Manor Basement office. A second hand one was also suggested.
Action: The Clerk

5.3.4. Following the resignation of Cllr Peter Boyce, advertising of the new position was now required. Clerk to investigate official procedure and advertise accordingly.

Action: The Clerk

5.3.5. A request was made for volunteers to join the finance committee but none were forthcoming, The Chair reminded all councillors that they are welcome to attend and assist any Parish Council committee meeting.

5.4. Highways

5.4.1. Nash Palmer was reported as replacing the planter on Dovers Park

5.4.2. Ward Cllr Martin Veal had donated £5,000 for a VAS. The Parish Council's intention was for it be sited on the Box Road. It was now to be a mobile sign operating on 3 or 4 locations; on Box Road opposite Eastwoods, on Box Road opposite Westwoods, near Fiveways in Bannerdown and the 4th possible location on Bathford Hill although it was not felt this last one was required as there is already a speed sign there. It was reported that BANES Traffic Officer did not favour the location in Bannerdown, therefore a possibility remained the sign would remain in the parish. Some concern was raised that if it was 4 locations it would be at each location for a short period of time and that this could reduce its effectiveness.

5.4.3. Cllr Shirley Beazer reported she had contacted Council Connect regarding sweeping pavements and Prospect Place.

5.4.4. Cllr Wendy Chambers reported she was maintaining contact with Wiltshire Council regarding getting the Bathford sign at Conkwell reinstated.

5.4.5. The Box Road Bus Shelter ground work was scheduled to start before the end of the financial year. It was also noted that the bus stop by the railway bridge had been equipped with raised kerbs.

5.4.6. The Clerk was requested to write to Jewson's View Farm and Sheephouse Farm regarding overhanging vegetation on the highway.

Action: The Clerk

5.5. Planning

5.5.1. It was hoped that maps for the Placemaker Plan would be available at the Parish Council Meeting in May.

5.5.2. Cllr Richard Wickham declared an interest in the Rural Exception Policy discussion, due to living next to one of the sites in consideration.

5.5.3. The Curo Housing survey results stated that 9 people were looking for accommodation in Bathford. The BANES housing list had added another. A survey of long standing De La Rue staff members was expected to add a maximum of another 2 giving a total of 12. It is possible that a small number of private dwellings would be built for sale to offset the 'affordable' nature of the

other 12. No sites outside the village centre such as near Bathford Nurseries had been considered due to being judged too far from the amenities. It was confirmed that the Parish Council could veto any of the proposed locations if it felt that was appropriate.

6. School Governors representative report

It was reported that Craig Stoddard had resigned as the Chair of Governors and replaced by Graham Knowle, 5 new governors in total had joined between January and March this year. The Headteacher had stated a determination to regain an 'outstanding' Ofsted rating.

7. Correspondence

- 7.1. Bathford Cricket Club thanked the Parish Council for the donation of £600 for sight screens from the Parish Plan.
- 7.2. Laura Talling from the Post Office had replied to the correspondence regarding Batheaston Post Office via Jacob Rees Mogg MP. She had offered to meet to discuss the plans.

8. Items to report

- 8.1. Walkers are Welcome petition had received around 60 signatures of the 80 required, 4 of those people had offered to sit on the steering group. A business plan was being developed in an attempt to make the scheme self-funding. It was confirmed that this would not create a 'right to roam' across private land and that public transport would be encouraged over private vehicles. Further details would be available to take away by Parishioners at the APM
- 8.2. Items discussed at the Parish Liaison Meeting included:
 - 8.2.1. A move towards paperless planning applications was suggested.
 - 8.2.2. The Core Strategy examination by the Inspector will commence towards the end of March. It is hoped that any recommendation will be received by June.
 - 8.2.3. Wansdyke Telecom aimed to offer broadband of 800Mbps
 - 8.2.4. Bathampton Park and Ride could incorporate the rail network rather than use buses.
- 8.3. It was noted that the photographs on the website are not up to date and that the register of members' interests should also be on it.

Action: Cllr Richard Wickham

9. Items for the 'Bathford Bulletin'

- 9.1. BANES Energy Advice Line
- 9.2. APM Agenda
- 9.3. Vacancy of Parish Councillor
- 9.4. Request for Speedwatch Volunteers

10. Items for the next meeting

10.1. No written reports to be submitted at the meeting prior to the APM

11. Payments for approval

11.1. Payment of the invoices presented to the council at this meeting was proposed by Cllr Stan Cherry and seconded by Cllr John Lloyd. The Council resolved to make the following payments in March.

Current Account Total – £1628.70

	Description	Sub total	Amount Due
Mr I Suleman	Office rent February 2014 - paid by s/o		£120.00
A J Charlton & Son	Fencing (paid in advance of meeting)		£260.10
Avon Local Council's Association	Annual subscription to NALC & ALCA		£306.71
Corsham Print Ltd	Bathford Bulletin Printing		£133.00
Mr J Cooper	Clerk Salary		£430.26
The Phone C-op Ltd	Telephone and Broadband		£25.07
Mr R A Millbank	Village Grass Cutting		£90.00
Office Depot Ltd	Stamps - stocking up before price rise, should last for next year	£145.00	£263.56
	Printer Ink	£95.99	
	Folders	£22.57	

Wynne Willson Account Total - £90

	Description	Sub total	Amount Due
Mr R A Millbank	Rec Ground' Grass Cutting		£90

Allotment Account Total - £92

	Description	Sub total	Amount Due
Cllr Stan Cherry	Vouchers for allotment prizes		£92

12. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 14th April 2014 at 6.30pm in the Parish Hall, Church Street, Bathford. For urgent items only prior to the APM at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....