

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

**held on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2014 at 7.30pm in the Parish Office, Bathford Hill, Bathford**

### **Present:**

Councillor Stan Cherry (Chair)	Councillor Hugh Baker
Councillor Susan Barclay	Councillor John Budd
Councillor Wendy Chambers	Councillor Andy Ginn
Councillor John Lloyd	Councillor Maureen Millbank
Councillor Richard Wickham	

**Clerk:** Jon Cooper

### **1. Public Five Minutes**

No members of the public attended the meeting.

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

Councillor Peter Martin                      Councillor David Le Lohé

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

Cllr Stan Cherry and Cllr John Budd both declared their membership of Bathford Cricket Club in relation to item 6C, 'proposed assistance with pavilion funding to Bathford Cricket Club', on the agenda. As such they would not take part in that agenda items discussions.

### **4. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting (16<sup>th</sup> June 2014)**

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

### **5. Matters Arising**

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

6) Investigate Community Right to Bid scheme further and gauge interest from village hall; it was reported that the hall was already well protected and should it ever be under threat from development it would have to be replaced. Therefore it was not necessary to place this building under the Right to Bid scheme.

## 6. Committee Reports

### 6.1. Amenities

6.1.1. Two plot holders had volunteered, and been subsequently approved by the wardens, to make changes to the main allotment gate to allow easier access by a tractor for manure deliveries. An issue was raised about the insurance liability. Cllr Stan Cherry would confirm with Phil Smart and requested the insurance policy be checked by the clerk.

**Action: Cllr Stan Cherry & The Clerk**

6.1.2. There was a concern that dead trees at the top of the playing fields could damage property. A quote of £480 had been received and accepted from Paul Marshall. It was suggested they could be chopped and sold as logs to recoup some of the costs.

6.1.3. Investigations were ongoing to repaint the play equipment, although this may not be possible until early 2015.

6.1.4. Responsibility for cleansing had been moved from Amenities Committee to Highways Committee.

6.1.5. Cllr Wendy Chambers reported that due to the low numbers taking part this year, it was likely there would not be a village scarecrow competition next year.

### 6.2. Communications

6.2.1. The Speedwatch scheme has now ended in the village as nobody had been recorded as speeding. The equipment has been returned to the police, although it was expected this could be obtained again if felt necessary, as a financial contribution had been made towards it.

6.2.2. Cllr Wendy Chambers reported that placing of the footings for the Jubilee Stone were scheduled for the following day.

6.2.3. It was confirmed at the BANES Transport Event held at the BRLSI that the Park and Rail scheme was not reliant on the electrification of the Paddington rail line.

### 6.3. Finance and Administration

6.3.1. Setting up of Standing Orders and Direct Debits was reported as ongoing to streamline regular payments. Internet banking options were also still being researched, it was confirmed a bank that had branch access would be a requirement.

6.3.2. The electric meter was scheduled to be changed from a key meter to a standard billed meter in the hope of cost savings.

6.3.3. A donation to the Bathford Flower Show for prizes was proposed by Cllr Wendy Chambers and seconded by Cllr Maureen Millbank. The Council resolved to make the payment.

6.3.4. Bathford Players Youth requested a donation from the Parish Plan fund, more information was needed and the item was to be placed on the next Parish Council meeting agenda in September.

#### **6.4. Highways**

6.4.1. It was agreed to place a notice in the Bathford Bulletin requesting that garden hedges are not overhanging the road or footpaths. Any found to be causing a problem should be reported to BANES.

**Action: The Clerk**

6.4.2. Despite repeated contact with BANES, it is understood the overgrown vegetation on Birdcage Walk was cleared by a parishioner.

6.4.3. Paths behind Mountain Wood were reported as being overgrown, following investigation it appears this is probably now the householders responsibility to clear but confirmation required from Curo.

**Action: Maureen Millbank**

#### **6.5. Planning**

6.5.1. Complaints had been received regarding the fencing along Ashley Road being unsightly, that factor was not thought to be a planning issue.

6.5.2. It was reported that the Valley Parishes Alliance had written to BANES to confirm opposition to the A46/A36 link road.

6.5.3. BANES Core Strategy was due to be adopted would be in place by September.

6.5.4. A planning notice had been received from Applegate Stables, Shockerwick Lane, this was objected to by the Parish Council due to being an inappropriate development in the Green Belt and AONB. Similar applications had been made in 2003 and 2010.

#### **6.6. Proposed assistance with funding of new sports pavilion**

6.6.1. This item was on the agenda under finance but discussed separately as both Cllr Stan Cherry and Cllr John Budd left the room in line with their declaration of interest of being members of Bathford Cricket Club. John Prees, the architect, entered the room.

6.6.2. Bathford Cricket Club had raised enough money for the purchase of the new pavilion but did not have enough to cover the VAT element and requested The Parish Council explored ways of offering appropriate assistance this shortfall in funds was holding up the project.

6.6.3. It was agreed that as the building and field would be under Bathford Parish Council's ownership and that the field management was controlled by the Parish Councillors therefore any VAT element would be able to be claimed back. The Parish Council would therefore purchase the pavilion via the donated

funds that had been raised, administered and paid separately from precept funds.

- 6.6.4. Water and power connection still had to be funded along with fixtures and fittings. Again provided these were purchased and retained under the ownership of The Parish Council the VAT element would be able to be reclaimed. Some facilities such as showers would continue to be shared with Avonvale Rugby Club to avoid duplication in a small area.
- 6.6.5. Options to Gift Aid future donations to the sports pavilion would be investigated.
- 6.6.6. Purchasing the sports pavilion, using donated funds, by Bathford Parish Council was proposed by Cllr John Lloyd and seconded by Cllr Maureen Millbank. The Council resolved to make the purchase.
- 6.6.7. Cllr Stan Cherry and Cllr John Budd both returned to the room and were informed of the decision taken.

## **7. School Governors representative report**

- 7.1. Cllr Sue Barclay to contact Mr Matt Stone to book the meeting he suggested earlier in the year to provide an update of school activities to Bathford Parish Council.

**Action: Cllr Susan Barclay**

## **8. Correspondence**

- 8.1. St Swithun's Church requested a donation towards the funding of a youth assistant. There were concerns this would become an ongoing commitment with an impact on the Precept and therefore Council Tax to parishioners. Rev'd Jane Burgess is scheduled to discuss her request at the October Parish Council meeting where more information will be obtained.
- 8.2. A suggestion had been made to employ a litter picker, it was felt this would undermine the volunteers who do a commendable job on this already.

## **9. Items to report**

- 9.1. Cllr's Chambers, Baker, Cherry and Millbank were scheduled to attend the Cluster Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> July where they intended to raise the issues of verge cutting and that the meeting no longer being rotated around the parishes but always now being held in Batheaston.

## **10. Items for the 'Bathford Bulletin'**

- 10.1. Overgrown hedges blocking footpaths and roads.
- 10.2. When clearing weeds outside properties please could people pull rather than spray them to avoid danger to animals and children.
- 10.3. Danger of thieves gaining entry through open windows in hot weather.

## 11. Items for the next meeting

11.1. Budgets.

## 12. Payments for approval

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

### Current Account

Description	Amount Due
Mr I Suleman - Office rent (paid by s/o)	£125.00
St. Swithun's Bathford PCC - Donation for Churchyard	£300.00
Bathford PCC (Youth Club) - Youth Funding	£494.22
J Cooper - June Salary	£433.33
J Cooper - July Salary (no August meeting for payment)	£433.33
R Millbank - Village Grass Cutting	£180.00
The Phone Co-op	£26.68
June Evans	£160.00
Office Depot - Printer Ink, Printer Paper, Labels	£157.34
Corsham Print - Bulletin Printing	£133.00
Cllr Wendy Chambers - security chain for Shirley's leaving gift	£40.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,482.90</b>

## Wynne Willson Account

Description	Amount Due
Roger Millbank - Grass strimming for play area	£180.00
GB Sport & Leisure Ltd - Play Area repair equipment	£292.62
Tom Ledbury - Mowing of Wynne Willson Playing Field	£360.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£832.62</b>

### 13. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm in the Parish Office, Bathford Hill, Bathford.

**The meeting closed at 9.29pm**

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....