

Minutes of Bathford Parish Council Meeting

held on 15th September 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 John Lloyd	Councillor David Le Lohé
Councillor Peter Martin	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 Andy Ginn Councillor Wendy Chambers

3. Declarations of interest in any item on the agenda

Cllr John Budd declared an interest in The Bathford Players in relation to item 6C, 'Bathford Players request for donation' on the agenda.

4. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting (21st July 2014)

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

5. Matters Arising

Cllr Stan Cherry attended the Cluster Meeting shortly after the last Parish Council Meeting. Peter Duppa-Miller, the Secretary of BANES Local Councils Association, was also in attendance and confirmed that the planned VAT recovery of the sports pavilion was the appropriate way to proceed.

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

6.1.1) Contact Phil Smart regarding allotment gate alterations, the gate was now in place but further concreting was still required. Cllr Richard Wickham reported the pedestrian gate was swinging open, Cllr Stan Cherry to investigate.

Action: Cllr Stan Cherry

6.4.3) Confirm with Curo responsibility for hedge cutting behind Mountain Wood, Curo are to report back this week.

6.1.3, June) Arrange erection of fences and gates by Coombe Fencing, these are scheduled to be fitted when the sports pavilion is installed in 5 weeks.

6.4.9, June) BANES reported that they are to visit an 'old bus shelter depot' to find a suitable one for the Box Road. They have been informed the delays are becoming unacceptable and this should be in place before winter.

6. Committee Reports

Prior to the Committee Reports being discussed The Chairman tabled a discussion point regarding the 20mph limit due to be mandatorily imposed shortly in Bathford. Simon Thomas from BANES contacted the Parish Council to suggest that Bathford Hill/ High Street should be excluded from the scheme as 'it is felt that there would be non-compliance'. The Parish Council took the view they did not have the authority to make the decision as the current zone had been agreed with a public consultation held by BANES and found strongly in favour. Whilst no formal decision was reached a number of Parish Councillor expressed a private view that was in favour of those areas being excluded.

6.1. Amenities

6.1.1. Rugbytots had expressed an interest in restarting their sessions in Bathford, these were scheduled to start on October 3rd.

6.1.2. Field rents for the Cricket Club and Avonvale Rugby Club had been slightly reduced from figures reported at the APM due to a new formula for calculating them. This would not have a detrimental impact as the Wynne Willson spending was currently below budget.

6.1.3. Bath Spa Bulldogs, an American Football team, had expressed an interest in using the field for training. This had been refused due to the heavy use it already receives due to the large number of youth rugby teams Avonvale are able to field.

6.1.4. A 3 year old girl had cut her head on the playing field gate. Cllr Stan Cherry reduced the speed it closes at and requested that Cllr John Lloyd check it.

Action: Cllr John Lloyd

6.1.5. The play area repainting would cost £750 plus the cost of the paint, it was last repainted in 2002.

6.1.6. Marshall Tree Services had felled the dead trees on the playing field, there were now a number of logs to be sold. Different options being looked at to recoup some money for the Parish Council.

6.1.7. Cllr Peter Martin attended the Bus Services Consumer Panel hosted by First Bus. He suggested to it that the 272 should leave from the Guildhall not the Post Office in central Bath to standardise which stops are serving Bathford, this should be in place from January 2015. The 'bunching' of Faresaver/ First buses

along the Box Road was also discussed but it looked likely progress would only be made when funds were renegotiated by BANES with the bus companies.

6.2. Communications

- 6.2.1. Cllr Maureen Millbank was currently undertaking the role, but a long term replacement volunteer was being sought as a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.
- 6.2.2. Jubilee Stone, it had been noted that the inscription would not be visible with the currently planned placement. A further carving of 'Bathford' to be added and the stone turned so plaque can be read from pavement.
- 6.2.3. The Clerk stated that 'round robins', notes and magazines received from external organisations, were building up in the office. Some councillors expressed no interest in seeing the majority of them. Monthly list to be compiled then documents archived/ disposed of as appropriate after three months.
- 6.2.4. Cllr Peter Martin offered to speak to Julie Ticehurst regarding proposed Bathford Bulletin advertising costs being increased in line with inflation. Action: **Action: Cllr Peter Martin**

6.3. Finance and Administration

- 6.3.1. All budgets for the next financial year were scheduled to be completed by November.
- 6.3.2. A recommendation that the Parish Plan bank account be closed was tabled by the Finance Committee. The funds will remain earmarked for projects and activities as laid out in the plan but the money would now sit in the main current account. This also complies with guidelines issued by ALCA on Parish Councils having the minimum required number of accounts. Action: **The Clerk**
- 6.3.3. Grant Thornton have completed their external audit.
- 6.3.4. The electric meter has been changed from a key meter to a standard billed meter for cost savings.
- 6.3.5. Bathford Players Youth requested a donation from the Parish Plan fund. Cllr Hugh Baker proposed that a donation of £500 be made and was seconded by Cllr Maureen Millbank, the Council resolved to make the payment. This was due to be a one off donation to help with staging of the pantomime and associated costs.
- 6.3.6. Cllr Stan Cherry requested an update on the possibility of paying more bills by electronic transfer rather than cheque. The Clerk had been researching but was having difficulty finding an account suitable for a Parish Council with multiple online 'signatures'. It was suggested we contact organisations such as ALCA to

see if they can offer any advice on this.

Action: The Clerk

6.4. Highways

6.4.1. The land behind Minerva Motors alongside Meadow Park was reported as being overgrown. Cllr Stan Cherry had discovered who the owner was and requested The Clerk pass this to other Councillors if required. BANES had offered to adopt the footpath if the owner agreed. However, a request for the Parish Council to install a hand rail was rejected as while this is a public right of way, currently it is still private land and it could cause liability issues.

Action: The Clerk

6.4.2. Cllr David Le Lohé recommended that the Parish Council should arrange for weed spraying once a year, he was asked to follow up with BANES Direct Services team.

Action: Cllr David Le Lohé

6.4.3. The litter bins in the village were reported as being due for replacement by BANES.

6.4.4. BANES were also scheduled to tarmac the triangle by the footbridge, cobbles had been hoped for but this was not available within their budget.

6.5. Planning

6.5.1. Fencing along Ashley Road had been refused by retrospective planning permission and should be removed by property owners.

6.5.2. The hut on the junction of the A4 and London Road was refused planning permission due to being an inappropriate development in the Green Belt and having no vehicular access.

6.5.3. BANES planned Community Infrastructure Levy to partly replace the 106 agreements on developments was currently set at £100/m² which would add £25K to the cost a house build. The Valley Parishes Alliance had composed and sent a proposal that it should not be for developments of less than 10 properties or should be reduced to £50/m² in line with other local councils

6.5.4. The Rural Exception housing scheme previously proposed by Curo was reported as being unlikely to go ahead.

6.5.5. BANES Core Strategy had been accepted and no designated development areas were planned in Bathford.

7. School Governors representative report

7.1. The School Governors meeting was being held at the same time as the Parish Council Meeting any items arising would be raised at the next meeting.

7.2. Cllr Sue Barclay had arranged with Mr Matt Stone for some Parish Councillors to attend Bathford Primary on the 26th September for an update on the school activities.

8. Correspondence

- 8.1. A donation of £150 to the Wynne Willson account and an apology was received from Lloyds Bank following a formal complaint by Cllr Sue Barclay about poor service.
- 8.2. Sirona Healthcare had invited the Parish Councillors to attend their AGM at Bath Racecourse, no Parish Councillors were able to attend on this occasion.

9. Items to report

- 9.1. Cllr Stan Cherry & Cllr Peter Martin reported that they will attend the Railway Electrification event and report anything necessary.
- 9.2. Cllr David Le Lohé had received an enquiry about a tennis court being built in the village, it was suggested he ask them to contact other interested parishioners.

Action: David Le Lohé

10. Items for the 'Bathford Bulletin'

- 10.1. Neighbourhood watch, request for volunteer
- 10.2. Core Strategy

11. Items for the next meeting

- 11.1. Preliminary Budgets
- 11.2. Donation to Royal British Legion
- 11.3. Walkers are Welcome

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 John Lloyd. The Council resolved to make the following payments.

Current Account

Description	Amount Due
Mr I Suleman - Office rent (paid by s/o)	£125.00
J Cooper - Clerk's Salary	£433.33
Corsham Print - Bulletin Printing	£133.00
The Phone Co-op August & September	£52.53
Southern Electric - manor	£38.08

CPRE annual membership renewal	£36.00
Corsham Print - Bulletin Printing August (not covered in new SO)	£133.00
Roger Millbank - Grass strimming for village	£360.00
Petty Cash for Dehumidifier (remainder returned to tin)	£160.00
Withington Hill Ltd - Deposit for Sports Pavilion	£5,680.00
Total	£7,150.94

Wynne Willson Account

Description	Amount Due
Paul Ledbury - clear footpath alongside Wynne Willson Playing Field	£180.00
Tom Ledbury - Mowing of Wynne Willson Playing Field (July & Aug)	£654.00
Roger Millbank - Grass strimming for play area	£360.00
Marshall Tree Services - felling of dead trees on playing field	£480.00
Transfer of pavilion money from Wynne Willson to Current Account	£6,750.00
Total	£8,424.00

13. Date of the next meeting

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

The meeting closed at 9.26pm

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....