

Minutes of Bathford Parish Council Meeting

held on 20th October 2014 at 7.30pm in the Parish Office, Bathford Hill, Bathford

Present:

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| Councillor Stan Cherry (Chair) | Councillor Hugh Baker |
| Councillor Wendy Chambers | Councillor Andy Ginn |
| Councillor John Lloyd | Councillor David Le Lohé |
| Councillor Peter Martin | Councillor Maureen Millbank |
| Councillor Richard Wickham | |

Clerk: Jon Cooper

1. Public Five Minutes

Ryan Dunn, the youth worker at St Swithun's, and Tony Cook, the diocese youth coordinator led a group of children from the youth club in a presentation to make a case for funding. The request was for £3,000 per year for 3 years, which they estimated would equate to an average £3.87 increase per household in Bathford as an addition to their precept portion of Council Tax. They outlined the activities that take place and how these benefit the participants.

The total cost of the youth worker would be £9,000 but the remainder would be sourced from other locations, it was felt that if a Parish Council provided funding it would help the case for matched funding elsewhere such as the St John's Trust. The group, being locally owned and run, has approximately 70% of the attendees from the village. There was a recognition that there were competing groups but this was trying to fill the gap of being non uniformed, as opposed to The Scouts for example, and not focussed on sport. The Parish Council thanked them for their presentation and would get back in touch in due course.

The youth group left the meeting at 7.40pm.

2. Apologies for absence

Councillor Susan Barclay Councillor John Budd

3. Declarations of interest in any item on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest stated.

4. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting (15th September 2014)

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

While the content of the minutes were approved, Cllr Wendy Chambers asked for clarification on "Roger Millbank - Grass strimming for play area" regarding the work that

was completed. The Clerk agreed to amend the description to make it clearer that it included strimming the playing field and not just the play area.

Action: The Clerk

5. Matters Arising

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

6.1.4) Check play area gate, Stan Cherry reported there were still some minor issues to resolve on this.

Action: Cllr Stan Cherry

9.2) Liaise with parishioners expressing interest in tennis court, Cllr David Le Lohé e-mailed Emma Jackson stating that the Council were happy to support any scheme but would need to be initiated by parishioners. The project would need a number of parishioners to take it up for it to be realised.

6. Committee Reports

6.1. Amenities

6.1.1. The sports pavilion had been delivered and was due for completion within the week. It had been agreed that the Parish Council, due to retaining ownership of it, would fund the insurance of the new building.

6.1.2. The play area repainting was nearing completion.

6.1.3. The logs from the felled trees on the playing field were proving more problematic than expected to be removed in return for payment, further options were being investigated.

Action: Cllr Stan Cherry & Cllr John Lloyd

6.1.4. Avonvale Rugby Club had offered to provide the labour to replace the paving slabs outside the scout hut if the materials were provided.

6.2. Communications

6.2.1. Jubilee Stone, ongoing concerns were raised regarding the placing the stone due to its weight and positioning. Cllrs Chambers, Lloyd and Baker to meet on site to agree how to overcome these.

Action: Cllr Wendy Chambers, Cllr Hugh Baker & Cllr John Lloyd

6.2.2. Bathford Bulletin advertising costs were being increased from £7.50 to £10 & £30 to £40 with immediate effect.

6.3. Finance and Administration

6.3.1. The Finance Committee approved a donation totalling £80.03 for Bathford Guides, this included the remainder of the allocated youth funding received from BANES.

6.3.2. The Clerk had taken advice on internet banking from the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC), who stated that Parish Councils were free to bank in this way. It was agreed to set up an account with Unity Bank for the Wynne Willson income and expenditure with a view to moving the main business reserve here if this proves successful.

Action: The Clerk

6.3.3. The Clerk was requested to add a note to the budget explaining why the office expenses were over budget, this was due to a de-humidifier needing to be purchased and would be added as a note on the monthly accounts.

Action: The Clerk

6.3.4. It was suggested that a letter of apology be sent to Tom Ledbury regarding issues surrounding his payment last month.

Action: The Clerk

6.3.5. A discussion was held regarding the youth presentation at the start of the meeting. It was agreed it was a good presentation from a valuable community asset. Concerns were raised regarding the long term nature of the funding especially with a full Parish Council election next year and not wanting to commit possible future members to high spending. There were also concerns about a precedent being set with other groups requesting funding which would ultimately be unsustainable. A suggestion was made for a one year donation rather than any addition to the precept, with this being revisited next year with evaluation of the expansion and continuing success of the youth club. The Finance Committee were asked to look into the options and make a suggestion at the next full meeting.

Action: Finance Committee

6.3.6. A donation to the Royal British Legion Branch in respect of Remembrance Sunday for £75 was proposed by was proposed by Cllr John Lloyd and seconded by Cllr Wendy Chambers. The Council resolved to make the donation.

6.4. Highways

6.4.1. The footpath survey was reported as ongoing, work had been requested opposite 'The Shed'. The Cotswold Voluntary Wardens would undertake this work if the materials were provided.

6.4.2. BANES had agreed to spray the weeds along the pavements in the village.

6.4.3. A request to allocate £50 for a thank you event for the litter pickers was proposed by Cllr David Le Lohé and seconded by Cllr Peter Martin. The Council

resolved to make the allocation. Jane Thomas, Bathford Village Shop Manager, had kindly offered to provide mince pies and host the event for cost of coffees.

6.4.4. Landscaping of the footbridge, it was currently planned to be laid to tarmac by BANES but we had requested cobbles. BANES had problems with contractor.

6.4.5. The bus shelter by The Crown had been removed and a new one could not be fitted due to problems with its supports underground. BANES were investigating how to resolve this. There were also plans for a new shelter opposite the school and an electronic sign opposite Dovers Lane. Clarification would be sought that a shelter was not being placed at the drop off only stop at the top of Dovers Park. It was also felt a shelter was not required next to the railway bridge on the A363 but a RTI pole had been requested in lieu.

6.4.6. Cllr David Le Lohé planned to meet BANES representative regarding dropped kerbs on Mountain Wood, which had been requested by a parishioner.

Action: Cllr David Le Lohé

6.4.7. Cllr Peter Martin & Cllr David Le Lohé attended the 'Transport East of Bath' event hosted by BANES, Cllr Peter Martin reported that Park and Ride, A46/A36 link road were all discussed but no decisions or firm plans were announced and it appeared that the scheme had gone back to new Consultants to review.

6.4.8. The VAS on A4 Box Road that had previously been agreed by Cllr Veal was scheduled to be installed in the near future.

6.4.9. A request for adoption of Eastwoods has been received, it would not be adopted or funded by the Parish Council but it was suggested to the residents they take up the matter with BANES.

6.4.10. A blocked drain on the end of Birdcage Walk had been reported to CURO who would arrange for it be cleared.

6.5. Planning

6.5.1. BANES were planning on implementing a £100/ square meter levy on extensions and new builds. This would significantly increase the costs of any work undertaken. It was being challenged as being too high, especially when compared to other local councils.

7. School Governors representative report

7.1. A group of Parish Councillors met with Matt Stone, Head of Bathford Primary in September. He stated that he would try and attend a Parish Council meeting and it may be possible to move the governors meetings so they are not held on the same days. The issue of the public booking the hall was raised, as community use was a condition of the new halls construction, issues surrounding the caretaker having to lock up were raised as potential problems to this happening. The Parish Council feel this issue of lack of community access should be overcome as the Parish Hall is now booked most of the time. Cllr Susan Barclay, a member of the Parish Hall committee

to raise the issue with them to see if any bookings that are turned away from the hall due to lack of availability could be directed to the school.

8. Correspondence

No correspondence was discussed.

9. Items to report

9.1. It was noticed the contact details for Bathford Parish Council were incorrect on the BANES website, Clerk to contact them to update.

Action: The Clerk

9.2. Following the rail electrification event it was reported that in July and August next year there would be 2 trains an hour to London, one along Trowbridge line and one starting in Chippenham and being served by bus. The Box Tunnel was scheduled to be closed for 6 weeks. When the work reaches Bathford it should only cause disruption for one night and Network Rail will give advanced notice of any works.

10. Items for the 'Bathford Bulletin'

Due to the deadline being prior to the meeting, the following items were agreed to be submitted to the Bulletin before the meeting by email.

- 10.1. Car vandalism
- 10.2. Allotment invoicing
- 10.3. Dog fouling

11. Items for the next meeting

- 11.1. Budgets
- 11.2. Youth Club Funding Request

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 |
| J Cooper - Clerk's Salary | £433.33 |
| Corsham Print - Bulletin Printing | £133.00 |

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|---|-------------------|
| The Phone Co-op August & September | £27.28 |
| Precept transfer to Wynne Willson (PAID PRIOR TO MEETING) | £2,500.00 |
| R J Boakes - flower show prizes | £55.00 |
| Grant Thorton - audit fee | £300.00 |
| John Lloyd - expenses for wood preservative & Tarmac | £230.73 |
| Online Playgrounds - paint for play area | £123.60 |
| EDF | £42.06 |
| ALCA- Finance course fee | £75.00 |
| Withington Hill Ltd, Sports Pavillion (PAID PRIOR TO MEETING) | £18,400.00 |
| Withington Hill Ltd, Sports Pavillion (PAID PRIOR TO MEETING) | £4,600.00 |
| Transfer of Rugby Club Rent to WW (PAID PRIOR TO MEETING) | £353.00 |
| Bathford Players (Parish Plan Funding) | £500.00 |
| Guides - youth funding | £80.03 |
| Roger Millbank - Grass strimming for village | £180.00 |
| Broker Network LTD - Sports Pavillion Insurance | £40.48 |
| Batford Royal British Legion Branch - Donation | £75.00 |
| Total | £28,273.51 |

Wynne Willson Account

| Description | Amount Due |
|--|----------------|
| Tom Ledbury - Mowing of Wynne Willson Playing Field (July & Aug) | £90.00 |
| Complete weed control | £246.00 |
| John Lloyd - grass seed | £97.20 |
| Roger Millbank - Grass strimming for play area | £180.00 |
| Total | £613.20 |

Allotment Account

| Description | Amount Due |
|--------------|----------------|
| Wessex Water | £273.95 |
| Total | £273.95 |

13. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 17th November at 7.30pm in the Parish Office, Bathford Hill, Bathford.

The meeting closed at 9.29pm

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....