

Bathampton Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st., June, 2012
in the Village Hall, Bathampton

Present: Cllrs. A. McCann, G.Ardrey, S. Christley, L.King
D. Mayo, and K.Rossiter

1. Apologies: These were received from Cllrs, K.Jones and M. Richards.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17th., May, 2012 had been circulated.

Cllr. Christley, seconded by Cllr. Rossiter, proposed that these amended Minutes be accepted. Carried unanimously.

3. Finance:

a) To Approve the Annual Accounts for 2011-2012

The annual accounts had been circulated previously. Cllr. Rossiter queried the explanation for the 2010-2011 outgoings being much greater and suggested that there was another reason as well as the payment of the K.& A. Celebration proceeds to the Friends of Bathampton School. The Clerk said that he would look into it and add any extra reason.

CLERK

Cllr. Rossiter, seconded by Cllr. Ardrey, proposed that the accounts be approved. Carried unanimously.

CLERK

a. To Approve the Governance Statements

The Chairman then read out each statement in turn and asking the Council whether the answer was "yes" or "no". It was agreed that the answer to all questions was in the affirmative. The Chairman, seconded by Cllr. King, proposed that the Governance Statements be approved.

CLERK

c) To Approve the Financial Report for May, 2012

The Financial Report for May had been circulated. Cllr. Rossiter, seconded by Cllr. King, proposed that it be approved. Carried.

d) To Approve Expenditure for June, 2012

The Clerk reported that three invoices had been received since the last meeting as follows:-

Cllr. McCann	Annual Parish Mtg. Expenses	£ 41.36(+VAT)
M.K.Crockett	Annual Internal Audit	£ 175.00
Cllr. Christley	Reimbursement Licence Fee	£ 21.00

It was proposed by Cllr. Ardrey and seconded by Cllr. King that these invoices should be paid. Carried unanimously.

CLERK

e) New Signatories for the Bank Account

The Clerk reminded the Council that we need two more councillors to act as signatories for the bank account. Cllrs. Christley and Rossiter volunteered.

Cont'd...

3. Finance (Cont'd.)

f) Contributions to Community Bodies

Discussion of this topic was to be considered under paragraph 4(d) Policy & Finance.

4. Group Reports

a) Planning & Conservation Group

The report had been circulated

Cllr. King that there was nothing further to report.

b) Highways Group

The report had been circulated.

Cllr. Rossiter reported that a revised estimate is coming from the Highways Agency for providing a V.A.S. on the A.36 at the eastern end of the Village.

Cllr. Mayo reported that an estimate is coming for the installation of 40 or 50 steps on the footpath which runs from Holcombe Lane to the swing bridge. The installation will be done by conservation volunteers. He also said that some of the benches along the canal are being restored.

Cllr. Jones had sent a message to say that she is entering Bathampton for the Village of the Year Competition.

Cllr. Christley reported concerning the Jubilee fete held on 16th., June. It had taken around £1900 but there were some expenses to come. As far as the Parish Council is concerned, it was agreed to pay £345.25 (less £150 already paid to Bathford) for the cost of producing the programme. Although it was previously agreed to sponsor the fete up to the sum of £500, Cllr. Rossiter, seconded by Cllr. Christley, proposed that the balance of the £500 be paid to Friends of Bathampton School. This was agreed unanimously.

CLERK

c) Leisure & Amenities Group

The report had been circulated.

In the absence of Cllr. Richards, it was agreed to leave consideration of the purchasing of a jubilee plaque to go on the churchyard memorial until the next meeting.

d) Policy & Finance Group

The Chairman proposed that in consideration of the excellent talk given by Mr. Luke Deval of Wessex Water at the Annual Parish Meeting that the Council should donate £100 to Wessex's charity Water Aid. This was seconded by Cllr. King and agreed unanimously.

Cllr. Rossiter had attended the Parishes Liaison Meeting the previous evening and the following items were of interest.

1. A new standards regime is evolving. The N.A.L.C. has a Model Code of Conduct and parish councils are being encouraged to consider using this instead of devising their own.

Cont'd....

4. Group Reports(Cont'd.)d) Policy & Finance Group(Cont'd.)

1. Rural Broadband is being launched across the south west. However, in Bathampton, we are already have good Broadband.
2. Bath & N.E.S. Council is launching a new website in July. It will have 1800 pages on 4 levels and there will be links to Parish Council web sites.
3. The Inspectors Report on the Core Strategy is still awaited.
4. The consultation on proposed sites for gypsies and travelers is on going.
5. Concerning the recent publicity about fracking, a request has been made that no licences are issued for the Mendip area as it could possibly cause disruption to the hot water springs in Bath.

Contributions to Community Bodies

Cllr. Rossiter then made out a case for financial support for the Church. He summarized all the activities undertaken by the church which supported the community as a whole.

The Clerk said that Parish Councils can only make non-ecclesiastical contributions. These would include maintenance of the churchyard and maintaining the fabric of the church.

Cllr. Rossiter re-iterated his feelings that we should be contributing more to the church. The church maintenance grant is £400 per year at present. Cllr. Ardrey proposed that it be increased to £1000. Cllr. Rossiter felt that this was not enough and should be increased to £2000. Cllr. Christley seconded this.

A vote was taken: For 2, Against, 3 Abstentions 1

For the original proposal of an increase to £1000,

A vote was taken: For 3, Against, 3 The Chairman then used his casting vote for.

It was therefore agreed to increase the Churchyard maintenance grant to £1000 per annum paid as four quarterly payments of £250. The Clerk would write to inform the Rev. Paul Burden.

CLERKe) Parish Web Site

Cllr. Mayo said that the site had 49 visits during the past month by 33 different computers. On average, each visitor was viewing 2 to 3 pages per visit.

f) Clerk's Report

The Insurance Documentation had been received. It was passed to the Chairman for his information.

Jacob Rees-Mogg had sent a reply he had received from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. They hope to make the Sustainable Communities Act law in the next few months.

C.P.R.E. Avonside has sent an invitation to it's A.G.M. to be held on 7th., July.

The British Red Cross have sent an appeal for volunteers.

Cont'd.

5. Matters Arising:

There were none.

6. Open Forum

Cllr. Christley reported that the fence around the play area is loose in one section and requires some repair.

M.R.

Cllr. King alerted the Council to a large amount of ivy growing on the Down Lane wall adjacent to the allotments.

A.M./M.R.

Cllr. Rossiter then said that he was resigning from the Council. He felt that he could not stay as a member of a Council which was not supporting the community. Cllr. King said that she disagreed and the Council did a lot for the village and the community. Nevertheless, he re-iterated that the Council was not doing enough to support the community and he was resigning.

Following this resignation, an appeal was made for another councillor to act as a signatory for the bank account. Cllr. Ardrey agreed to do so.

- 7. Date of Next meeting: Thursday, 19th., July, 2012
At 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.20 p.m.

Signed..... Chairman,
19th., July, 2012