

Bathampton Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th., March, 2012
in the Village Hall, Bathampton

Present: Cllrs. A. McCann, G.Ardrey, S. Christley, K.Jones
D. Mayo, M. Richards, K.Rossiter and S.Wing.

1. Apologies: These were received from Cllr. King.
2. Minutes of the last Meeting:
The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th., February, 2012 had been circulated. Two amendments were made as follows:-
The final sentence in the Highways Group Report was amended to Read "He reported that a lady living in Devonshire Road, a former Footpath Warden, raised some footpath issues."
Secondly, "Ex-" was inserted in front of "Park & Ride site on Bathampton Meadows" in the Policy & Finance Group Report.
Cllr. Christley, seconded by Cllr. Jones, proposed that these amended Minutes be accepted. Carried unanimously.

3. Finance:

- a) To Approve the Financial Report for February, 2012

The report had been circulated. It was proposed for approval by Cllr. Rossiter and seconded by the Cllr. Wing. Carried unanimously.

- b) To Approve Expenditure for March, 2012

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

Andrew Dolman	Setting up Web Site	£ 200.00
A.L.C.A.	Affiliation Fee	£ 304.10
C.P.R.E.	Annual membership	£ 29.00
Country Mini Skips	Hire of skip	£160.00(+VAT)

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

CLERK

The Clerk said that he would withhold payment of the affiliation fee to A.L.C.A. until after the start of the new financial year.

4. Group Reports

- a) Planning & Conservation Group

The report had been circulated

In the absence of Cllr. King, Cllr. Wing reported that the plan for a permanent dwelling at New Leaf Farm had been refused, one of the reasons being that it was not accessible to public transport.

Regarding 33 Devonshire Road, it was felt that the proposed change to the roof gable is not visually acceptable.

New applications have been received to build a wider garage at Glebe Cottage, Bathampton Lane as well as a covered way and for an extension with a flat roof and glass balustrade at 99 Hantone Hill.

Cont'd....

4. Group Reports(Cont'd.)a) Planning & Conservation Group(Cont'd.)

Cllr. Rossiter asked if there was any news of a planning application for the Miller Walk field . The Miller Walk Residents Group would strongly oppose any access from Miller Walk. The Clerk replied that no such application had yet come forward. The Clerk also said that there is an application on the way for Yew Tree Barn in Church Close. It is proposed to demolish the conservatory and to build a two-storey extension including a double garage with bedroom over.

Regarding Candywood Leys, the Enforcement Officer is taking action but it will be prolonged. First, he must write a comprehensive report. There is then a period of 28 days in which an appeal can be made. Finally, there is a period of 6 months notice before enforcement action can be taken.

The owner of the Café Boat has now been told to remove the decking off the canal bank as it does not have planning permission. He had been told that British Waterways were making the application, but this has not materialized. Cllr. Rossiter said that he would try to bring about a meeting of the owner with both representatives of B.&.N.E.S.Council and British Waterways at the same time to sort out the problem.

K.R.b) Highways Group

The report had been circulated.

Cllr. Rossiter reported that the meeting of the V.P.A. A36 sub-committee with the Highways Agency on 1st., March was reasonably successful. The Bath/Wilts Safety Study will yield no improvements as all plans have to be submitted nationally and hence there is very little chance of available capital. It seems that Parish and Town councils can contribute to highways improvements if they so wish. Cllr. Rossiter felt that the proposed HGV ban at Beckford Road in Bath could reduce some of the heavy traffic on the A.36 through the village.

Concerning the Kennet & Avon Canal, the V.P.A. will not be offered a seat on the Partnership Board. It was said that only individuals are eligible to be on the Board.

Cllr. Mayo reported on several footpath matters. A permissive footpath parallel to the canal towpath near Meadow Lane had been queried. This was because a diversion from the designated footpath had been made by the land owner. A request had been made for a dog gate alongside the stile at the Tynning Road Level Crossing. However, it was stated that eventually the gate would be replaced by a kissing gate.

Cllr. Mayo then gave a few details of the Parish Agency Scheme for maintaining footpaths. If we opt in we have a grant of £593 per year for the first year followed by an annual grant of £587. It was queried who deals with litter? After some discussion, it was agreed that we need to have more information. Cllr. Mayo would bring this to the next meeting.

D.M.

Cont'd....

4. Group Reports(Cont'd.)b) Highways Group(Cont'd.)

Regarding the application to add the Bathampton Swing Bridge to the Definitive Map of footpaths, Cllr. Mayo handed all the paperwork over to the Clerk to send. Evidently, it takes around four years for the process to be completed.

CLERK

Cllr. Rossiter said that B.& N.E.S.Council is supporting the rural broadband project.

Cllr. Ardrey said that he had attended another presentation on Localism which was much the same as before. We are waiting for B.& N.E.S.Council's Good Neighbourhood Plan which is due to be published in April followed by the adoption in June.

Cllr. Rossiter said that the Parish Cluster Meeting was concerned mainly with items of interest to Batheaston P.C. B.& N.E.S. Council had withdrawn its Dog Control Order but the intention is to re-issue it in 6 weeks time. No planning application has yet been put in for the footpath on the meadows(From the proposed new Batheaston footbridge to Mill Lane). Concern was also expressed about the proposed Fracking in the Mendip Hills.

c) Leisure & Amenities Group

The report had been circulated.

Cllr. Richards reported that the second skip had been placed on the allotments to assist tidying up the area.

He said that a new bench had appeared in Jubilee Gardens. The removal of the hump at the Down Lane entrance to the allotments had now been completed in order to accommodate more car parking. The suggestion for an avenue of trees in Mill Lane to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee was discussed but there was no great enthusiasm for the idea.

Cllr. Rossiter commented that it was a pity that there was not a small café on the Playing Field. Many families gather there especially after school and a small stall providing drinks and snacks would be a great asset.

d) Policy & Finance Group

There was nothing further to report.

e) Parish Web Site

Cllr. Mayo said that the site is now operational.

f) Clerk's Report

Our insurers, Came & Co. have set up a new insurance for Charitable Organisations. Passed to a representative of the Village Hall Management Committee.

CLERK

Bathford British Legion have written to ask if we would like to send a representative to their Advisory Group. It was felt to be a mistake that this invitation had been sent to us.

Cont'd.....

5. Matters Arising:

The Clerk had not heard anything from the Methodist Church in reply to our request for a meeting to discuss the possibility of using their parking area on occasions.

Cllr. Rossiter said that he had spoken to the Warden of St. Nicholas Court about the need to advise the residents into the ways of recycling their waste.

6. Open Forum

Cllr. Rossiter reported he had received a copy of B.& N.E.S. Council's proposed road works for the coming year. There was no provision for any work to be done in Bathampton.

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

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.36 p.m.

Signed..... Chairman,
19th.,April, 2012