

Bathampton Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th., May, 2011
in the Village Hall, Bathampton

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

Prior to the start of the meeting, the above five signed their Acceptance of Office Declarations. It was agreed that the three absentees would sign their Acceptances of Office prior to the next Parish Council Meeting.

1. Apologies: These had been received from Cllrs. K.Jones, L.King, &
 S.Wing.
2. Election of Chairman
 Cllr. Richards proposed that Cllr. McCann be elected Chairman for the coming year. This was seconded by Cllr. Christley and carried unanimously.
3. Election of Vice-chairman
 The Chairman then proposed that Cllr. Rossiter be elected Vice-chairman for the coming year. This was seconded by Cllr. Richards and carried unanimously
4. Minutes of the last Meeting:
 The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st.,April, 2011 had been circulated. Cllr. Rossiter asked for the sentence beginning “ In a recent test case....” in the third paragraph of the Highways Report to be deleted. This was agreed and then Cllr.Rossiter, seconded by Cllr. Richards proposed that the amended Minutes be accepted. Carried unanimously.
5. Finance:
 - a) To Approve the Financial Report for April, 2011
 The report had been circulated. It was proposed for approval by Cllr.Richards and seconded by Cllr. Christley. Carried unanimously.
 - b) To Approve Expenditure for May, 2011
 The Clerk reported that there were three invoices received since the last meeting which were as follows:-

Viking Direct	Cartridges for Sagem Machine	£ 59.07(+VAT)
Came & Co.	Annual Insurance Renewal	£ 871.68
V. P. A.	Subscription,2011-2012	£ 150.00

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

CLERK

Cont'd.....

6. Group Reports

a) Planning & Conservation Group

The report had been circulated,

In the absence of Cllrs. King & Wing, the Clerk reported that he had been in touch with the Planning Department concerning the Raft Café. Chairs and tables were being placed on the tow path and the adjacent bank in contravention of their Planning Permission. The Enforcement Officer is looking into it.

It was suggested that we should write to Bath & N.E.S Council again with our objections to the proposed Park & Ride. However, it was agreed to wait until it was clear which political party holds sway in the newly elected Council.

b) Highways Group

The report had been circulated.

Cllr. Mayo had attended the final meeting of Bathampton Footpaths Association. It was agreed to donate £350 to the local branch of the Ramblers Assn. A small committee was formed to look after sales of the walk booklet of which they still have a good stock. They still hold £ 1600, which they decided they would like to donate to the Parish Council to spend on benches to be placed around the parish.

Concerning British Waterways taking on charity status, D.E.F.R.A. are conducting a consultation. The deadline for replies is the end of June so we will consider this further at the next meeting. In the meantime, the K. & A. Canal Trust is doing its own survey and considering three options. Firstly, it could stay as it is. Secondly, it could limit its operations to Heritage activities i.e. boat trips, pumping stations and museums or thirdly it could be disbanded completely. After discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council felt that the second option was the preferred option.

Cllr. Rossiter said that it is not at all clear how this new charity will operate. The Government is reducing the funding to around 60% of that previously and it is also appointing Managers to run it. There will probably be some staff changes.

Cllr. Rossiter reported that with the parking restrictions now in force, it is now much cleaner and less congested in the area around the school and church. It seems to have been a positive change. The High Street is often clearer but at other times is congested. He thought that it was probably dependent upon whether King Edward's School have a sporting fixture taking place on their sports ground.

6. Group Reports(Cont'd.)c) Leisure & Amenities Group

The report had been circulated.

Cllr. Richards reported that there is now some chestnut paling fencing off the dangerous area in Jubilee Gardens. He is approaching the Youth Worker, Jon Kear, to see if the youth group would like to take on the upkeep of the small garden area in the corner.

M.R.

Cllr. Richards said that he is still making enquiries about maintenance of the play equipment. He considers that we should be upgrading the equipment if we can obtain a grant.

M.R.

B.& N.E.S.Council have agreed to move the bus stop to outside the Methodist Church if we put a bus shelter there. However, some of the Council felt that there was not really enough room there for a shelter and also congestion would be caused by the bus stopping there opposite parked cars.

d) Policy & Finance Group

The report had been circulated.

The Chairman said that until it was decided who was running the new Council, there was nothing further to report. The Lib.Dems have grave doubts about the Park & Ride and would probably abandon the rapid Transit Plan. The Local Transport Commission cannot do anything until the new Council is convened.

The Chairman reported that the V.P.A. web site is not yet up and running.

e) Web Site

Cllr. Mayo outlined what he thought should be on our web site. The format was discussed and Cllr. Rossiter suggested a Powerpoint style format. We could look at the V.P.A. web site (when it is on line). There should be headline section with the details being discussed at the previous Council Meeting. A section on the roles and responsibilities of the Council should be included. The Chairman agreed to write this. There should be personal profiles of the councillors but there was some disagreement about how much personal detail should be included. The site would include notices of meetings, the Agenda and Minutes of the previous meeting.

A.M.

f) Clerk's Report

Mr. Gagg had sent his payment for the commemorative tree in Jubilee Gardens with a letter expressing his thanks.

B.& N.E.S. Council had sent forms for any Councillor who wishes to receive the Electors Roll and the monthly amendments to apply for them.

Mr. R. Bennett, on behalf of St. Nicholas Church and the Methodist Church, has asked for permission to hold an open air service on Jubilee gardens on Sunday, 3rd., July. The Council agreed to give permission and asked the Clerk to reply accordingly.

CLERK
Cont'd.....

7. Matters Arising:

The Clerk had asked A.L.C.A. concerning how much notice we need to give if we wish to cancel our affiliation. The answer was probably by 31st., December for the following year, though this might change to say 31st.,January.

8. Open Forum

- a. Cllr. Christley said that the School is running a Summer Fair on Saturday, 2nd.,July and asked if anyone was available to help.
- b. She also said that she was now a little more concerned about dogs on the Playing Field and would be monitoring the situation.
- c. The Chairman said that as District Councillor Dewey had helped us a great deal on the Council over many years, he felt that we should send him a letter of thanks. There was wholehearted support for this. The Chairman said that he would write the letter and circulate copies to the Council.

A.M.

9. Date of Next meeting: Thursday, 16th.,June 2011
At 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.45 p.m.

Signed..... Chairman,
16th.,June 2011