

Bathampton Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th, May, 2012
in the Village Hall, Bathampton

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

1. Apologies: These were received from Cllr. Richards.
2. Election of Chairman:
Cllr. Rossiter, seconded by Cllr. King, proposed Cllr. McCann as Chairman for the coming twelve months. Carried unanimously.
3. Election of Vice-chairman:
The Chairman, seconded by Cllr. Christley, proposed Cllr. Rossiter as the Vice-chairman for the coming twelve months. Carried unanimously.
1. Composition of Sub Groups:
The Highways, the Leisure & Amenities and the Policy & Finance Groups would remain as during the previous year. However, due to the resignation of Cllr. Wing, it was agreed that Cllr.Ardrey would join the Planning & Conservation Group. Futhermore, it was agreed to co-opt Mrs.S.Wing on to the Planning & Conservation Group for the time being.
5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th,April, 2012 had been circulated. An amendment was made to the first paragraph of the Highways Group Report. It now read as follows:-
“Cllr. Rossiter reported that a further meeting of the V.P.A. with the Highways Agency took place yesterday. The Highways Agency has a four year plan for the A.36 which does not include any new capital expenditure in either Bathampton or Claverton, the temporary V.A.S. at the western end of the Village is to be made permanent. Parish and Town councils can contribute to highways improvements if they so wish but Cllr. Rossiter felt that if we wish to have a second V.A.S. on the Warminster Road, we would have to fund it fully as it is doubtful if the Highways Agency would be prepared to pay any of the cost. He will ask the H.A. what the full cost of supplying and installing a second V.A.S. would be. “
Cllr. Mayo, seconded by Cllr. King, proposed that these amended Minutes be accepted. Carried unanimously.
6. Finance:
 - a) To Approve the Financial Report for April, 2012
The report had been circulated. It was proposed for approval by Cllr. Rossiter and seconded by the Cllr. Ardrey. Carried unanimously.

6. Finance (Cont'd.)

b) To Approve Expenditure for May, 2012

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

Bath & N.E.S.Council	Printing Newsletter	£ 158.00
Valley Parishes Alliance	Annual Membership	£ 150.00
Came & Co.	Annual Insurance Premium	£ 912.98
	(Ditto with 3 Year Agreement)	£ 867.33

The Clerk pointed out that we had insured with Came & Co for three years now and the previous 3 year agreement had come to an end. After some discussion, it was agreed to request a further 3 year agreement and so benefit from the reduced premium. It was proposed by Cllr. Christley and seconded by Cllr. Rossiter that these invoices should be paid. Carried unanimously.

CLERK

7. Group Reports

a) Planning & Conservation Group

The report had been circulated

Cllr. King reported that a planning application for Yew Tree Barn had been passed and this was the first we had heard of it. The Clerk was asked to write to the Planning Department and query why we had not been consulted.

CLERK

Evidently, the owner of the Café Boat has put in a retrospective application for the outside seating area, but we have not heard anything yet.

Cllr. Rossiter had been informed by B.&.N.E.S P.R.O.W. Officer that Network Rail wish to close the level crossing at the end of Tynning Road and divert the footpath. There is no definite detail at present. The Clerk would ask about this when contacting the Planning Department.

CLERK

b) Highways Group

The report had been circulated.

Cllr. Rossiter circulated a costing which he had received from the Highways Agency for providing a V.A.S. on the A.36 at the eastern end of the Village. At around £18,000, this was felt to be very excessive and designed to put the Parish Council off doing anything. He would make enquiries from B.& N.E.S. Council what their costs are for supplying a V.A.S. Cllr. Rossiter reported that responsibility for maintaining the A.36 has now passed to a different contractor –Skansa.

Following our acceptance of the Parish Agency Scheme for maintaining footpaths in the Parish, the volunteers involved are Jennie Regan, Jeremy Henley, Bob Cole, Simon Potton and Tim Slator.

There was much discussion about the footpath which runs down the east side of the triangular field. It can get very overgrown and it was suggested that B.& N.E.S. Council should be responsible for cutting back the heavy overgrowth.

Cont'd....

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

The report had been circulated.

Cllr. Richards had sent a report that there had been no progress on a suggested refreshment cabin for the playing field. The unfinished area at the Down Lane entrance to the allotments is still unresolved. The contractor has left and has not tendered an invoice.

The Clerk reported that all the allotment rents had now been received.

d) Policy & Finance Group

The Chairman reported that an invitation had been received for Parish Councillors to attend the Scout troupe A.G.M.

The Chairman requested a report from each group so that he could formulate his Chairman's Report for the Annual Parish Meeting. This will be followed by an "Open House" where all those attending would be free to ask questions on any of the Council's work and activities. Following this, we will be addressed by Luke Devial of Wessex Water who will talk about "Water Supplies in the Bath Area".

Following Cllr. Rossiter's attendance at the Green Infrastructure Strategy meeting, a draft response has been formulated by the Valley Parishes Alliance. The Chairman asked for approval from the Parish Council. This approval was given.

e) Parish Web Site

Cllr. Mayo said that the site had 39 visits during the past month of which 25 were new persons. On average, each visitor was viewing 5 to 6 pages per visit.

f) Clerk's Report

Jacob Rees-Mogg had replied to our letter asking him to urge the Communities Minister to push for an early adoption of the Sustainable Communities Act.

Mr. Ray Bennet has requested the use of Jubilee Gardens for a combined Anglican and Methodist Service on 1 July. All agreed to give permission.

The Clerk reported that the V.A.T. for the year 2011 to 2012 had been repaid to our bank account.

B.& N.E.S. Council had requested an invoice for the sum of money which we will receive as part of the Parish Agency Agreement. The Clerk had sent an invoice to them.

The Clerk read out the reply received from Mr. Maling regarding the hedge on the corner of Down Lane and the Warminster Road. He intends to cut it towards the end of May.

The Clerk had received a notification from the Audit Commission that there will be a change of auditor from the year 2012-2013 onwards.

CLERK

8. Matters Arising:

There were none.

Cont'd.....

9. Open Forum

Cllr. Ardrey said that he had no comments on the Planning Protocol Draft. He has finished the “bare bones” of the Community Asset Register and feels that this should be left for the time being.

He had noticed that the noticeboards were dirty and it was difficult to read the notices through the Perspex. It was agreed that on some of them, the Perspex was going opaque and there was little we could do apart from replacing the Perspex.

Cllr. Jones alerted Cllr. Mayo to a muddy footpath off Meadow Lane.

Cllr. Christley reported that the Chairman of B.&N.E.S.Council is visiting the Dry Arch Growers.

Cllr. Christley reported that the arrangements for the Jubilee celebration were going ahead. Copies of the Programme are now available and are selling at £2 each. She then asked for approval of expenditure of £21 to cover the licence application. This was approved unanimously. It was also agreed that the parish maps could be sold at the event.

10. Date of Next meeting: Thursday, 21st.,June, 2012
At 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.11 p.m.

Signed..... Chairman,
21st.,June, 2012