

Bathampton Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th., March, 2015
in the Village Hall, Bathampton

Present: Cllrs. A. McCann, S. Batterbury, M. Brennan, L. King, N.Land, D.Mayo
and M.Richards

1. Apologies: These were received from Cllr. G.Ardrey.

2. Minutes of the last Meeting:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th., February, 2015 had been circulated. Cllr. King, seconded Cllr. Richards, proposed that these Minutes be accepted. Carried unanimously.

3. Finance:

a) Approval of the Financial Report for February, 2015

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

b) Approval of Expenditure for March, 2015

The Clerk reported that only one invoice and had been presented. It was for £150.00 being the annual membership subscription to the Valley Parishes Alliance.

It was proposed by the Cllr.Brennan and seconded by Cllr. Mayo that it should be paid. Carried unanimously.

CLERK

c) Approval of New financial Regulations

Model New Financial Regulations had been circulated by N.A.L.C. These have been modified to suit our Council and the draft had been circulated. The Chairman, seconded by Cllr. Batterbury, proposed that these be approved. Carried unanimously.

d) Updating the Council's Computer

The Clerk had circulated a further paper concerning the replacement of the Parish Council computer. There was discussion concerning whether a desktop or a laptop was best. It seems that a desktop would cost £600 to £700 whilst a laptop would be slightly cheaper being around £500. Cllr. King felt that a laptop would be preferable as it could be passed on to a subsequent Clerk more easily.

The Clerk agreed to pursue his enquiries and to come back to the next meeting with firm proposals.

CLERK

4. Group Reports

a) Planning & Conservation Group

Cllr. King reported the plan for an annex at the rear of 74 Holcombe Vale was unusual in that it is a separate dwelling. We have no objections as long as it is tied legally to the main house and cannot be sold off separately.

Bath & N.E.Somerset Council is doing some work on the new cycle/footpath across the meadows in consultation with Avon Wildlife Trust and the Cotswold wardens.

Regarding the plants etc. on the canal bank, B.& N.E.S. Council say that it is the Canal & River Trust's responsibility to sort it out.

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

The report had been circulated.

B. & N.E.S. Council have written to us asking us to nominate a Flood Representative for the parish. There was discussion about whether we really need one. Finally, it was agreed that we don't need one and that the Clerk should write and ask for the name of a contact to whom we could always report flooding problems.

CLERK

Cllr. Mayo reported that the temporary timetables put in the bus shelter outside the Village Hall imply that the replacement evening service (whilst the A.36 is closed) will be coming along Holcombe Lane. In fact the service is run by larger buses which go straight up Down Lane. (as do the normal 265 service).

A request had been received for some steps to be installed in footpath BA1/11 where there is a slippery slope on the exit from Mr. Berry's field.

D.M.

It seems that the triangular field is on the market for development, even though we have designated it as a "Local Green Space" in the Placemaking Plan.

c) Leisure & Amenities Group

Cllr. Richards said that the Canal & River Trust have asked if the Parish Council would take on the lease of the Lengthman's Hut now that it has been renovated. It was felt that this would affect our insurance and the Clerk was asked to enquire from our insurers.

CLERK

There was discussion and the general feeling was that C.R.T. should keep responsibility for it.

Cllr. Richards had obtained four quotes for cutting back the allotment boundary hedges. (See report). Cllr. King, seconded by Cllr. Mayo, proposed that we accept the cheapest one at £250 +VAT from William Wolfe. Carried unanimously.

M.R.

Cllr. Richards reported that the Playground Renewal Group are continuing to meet and are going ahead with ideas.

It was reported that the hedge in the triangular field is overhanging Bathampton Lane and needs cutting back. Cllr. Brennan will contact B. & N.E.S.

M.B.

d) Policy & Finance Group

The report had been circulated.

The Chairman had attended the V.P.A. meeting. As all the candidates in the forthcoming election are in favour of the link road and the V.P.A. oppose both the Park & Rail and the Link Road, a letter was drafted out to be sent to "The Chronicle". This was agreed by 8 votes to 1. Subsequently, the letter has not appeared in the paper. The Chairman will contact Simon Coombe to find out exactly why the letter was not published.

A.M.

The Chairman asked if contributions for the next newsletter could be with the editor by Friday, 10th., April.

ALL

MIN/MAR/15

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4. Group Reports(Cont'd.)

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

The Chairman pointed out that the next meeting is after the nomination date for the new Parish Council. The Council will need to be cautious about any decisions it takes as it will be the new Council which implements them.

e) Parish Web Site There was nothing to report.

f) Clerk's Report

We have been offered free cycle stands by Life Cycle (UK). We have to install them ourselves within a certain time period. After discussion, it was agreed that we would not apply for them.

The Clerk reported that he had received the documentation for doing the audit for the financial year, 2014 to 2015.

5. Matters Arising:

The Clerk confirmed that he had written to "The George" concerning the line of trees alongside the old skittle alley which were cut down. He had received no reply.

6. Open Forum

Cllr. Batterbury said that the disruption due to building work in Dark Lane had continued despite the police being involved. This had gone on for over a year and parents taking their children to school had suffered from, at times, a very restricted passage.

Cllr. Land said that the bus company are now putting a charge on texting to find out when the next bus is due. This was free but will be charged from 1st., April. We should all object.

B.& N.E.S. are having a litter-picking day. It was suggested that perhaps we should have our own village clean-up. Possibly for the new P.C. to organize?

7. .Date of Next meeting:

Thursday, 16th., April, 2015
At 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.05 p.m.

Signed..... Chairman,
16th., April, 2015