

Bathampton Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th.,November, 2011
in the Village Hall, Bathampton

Present: Cllrs. A. McCann, S.Christley, K.Jones, D.Mayo, M. Richards
 K.Rossiter and S.Wing. Also District Cllr. G.Ward.

1. Apologies: There were received from Cllr. King.
2. Minutes of the last Meeting:
 The Minutes of the meeting held on 20th.,October, 2011 had been circulated. An Amendment was made as follows:- In the third line of the Highways Group Report, "A.36 footpath" was replaced by "A.36 issues". Cllr. Wing, seconded by Cllr. Richards proposed that these amended Minutes be accepted. Carried unanimously.

3. Finance:

- a) To Approve the Financial Report for October, 2011

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

- b) To Approve Expenditure for November, 2011

The Clerk reported that there was only one invoice received since the last meeting. It was for £25 for the renewal of our membership of the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust. It was proposed by Cllr.Rossiter and seconded by Cllr. Mayo that this invoice should be paid. Carried unanimously.

CLERK

4. Co-option of a Councillor

The Chairman proposed that the Council co-opt Mr. George Ardrey onto the Council. He was present and agreed to serve. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Rossiter and carried unanimously. Cllr. Ardrey then signed his Acceptance of Office.

5. Group Reports

- a) Planning & Conservation Group

The report had been circulated,
 In the absence of Cllr. King, Cllr. Wing reported.

The retrospective application for the wooden cabin on land adjacent to the canal and Meadow Lane had just been received. It is under different guide lines, for a temporary agricultural dwelling. There was much discussion about what the Parish Council's response should be. Do we object on the grounds that it would establish a precedent? It might be that enforcement of the boating rules on the canal may cause boaters to try to set up on land.

Plan. Grp.

It was agreed that Cllr. Ardrey would attend the N.P.P. meeting as well as attending a training course for councilors during the next week.

G.A.

Cont'd.....

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

The report had been circulated.

Cllr. Rossiter reported that he had been asked about progress concerning a second V.A.S. and other items on the Warminster Road. He will include this in the items he is to discuss with the Highways Agency.

K.R.

Cllr. Mayo reported that there is a scheme for supplying tools for volunteers to keep footpaths clear. He had earmarked footpath BA1/25 as a site where a bench could be installed but he would need to consult the landowner first.

D.M.

The damaged wall in Bathampton Lane was not considered dangerous enough by the Highways Department of B.& N.E.S.Council to need any attention at present.

Cllr. Rossiter said that the Mooring Strategy Policy is still being discussed.

c) Leisure & Amenities Group

The report had been circulated.

Cllr Richards reported that he had instructed Jeff Havvock to proceed with the removal of the dead trees on the allotments. He had asked amongst the allotment holders, how many would be interested in being able to park their cars at the Down Lane entrance. Seven people had said they would like to be able to park there. The quotations for making a car parking space varied much. This was because there was a big difference in the amount of work that they were proposing to do. After much discussion, it was agreed to accept the cheapest quotation which involved the least amount of work.(Jeff Havvock £ 225). This is just for leveling the area in the first instance.

Concerning the childrens play area, Cllr. Richards said that there was a wide variation in the quotes he had received because some involved relaying the whole of the safety surface and others just repairing the damaged areas. The cheapest quote at £780 was for repairing the damaged areas of the safety surface, repairing the fence and replacing the tyre on the cable ride. District Councillor G.Ward suggested that a grant from the Ward Councillors' Initiative could be applied for to cover the cost, The Clerk to apply for this.

CLERK

Finally, Cllr. Richards asked if a weekly check of the play equipment was being done by our Handyman. There was no information.

d) Policy & Finance Group

The report had been circulated.

The Chairman mentioned the B.& N.E.S.Council's Flood Compensation Strategy which had just been received. The map for the Bathampton Meadows (wrongly labelled Batheaston) includes all the meadows area except the area identified for the Park & Ride.

The Draft Core Strategy is being considered tomorrow (18th.,Nov.) The Inspector has stated that the Core Strategy will be unsound if the Park & Ride site and the Rapid Transport Plan are included.

MIN/NOV/11

5. Group Reports (Cont'd.)

a. Parish Web Site

Cllr. Mayo reported that he was still short of some councillor profiles. The Chairman suggested that we should all think of a suitable "Mission Statement" to include in the Website.

ALL

f) Clerk's Report

The Nat West Bank had sent information about fixed rate deposits for parish councils. The interest rate could be as high as 3% if a minimum of £5000 is left on deposit for a year. The Clerk had been in touch and the deadline for applications had now expired. However, there is to be another offer in the near future and they will contact us again.

A.L.C.A. have written to inform us about the affiliation fee for 2012 to 2013. Our fee based on an electorate of 1300 is £239.85p.

B.& N.E.S.Council have asked for information about any rough sleepers in our area. We know of none at present.

Came and Company, our insurance brokers, have informed us of a change of office address.

B.& N.E.S.Council are organizing a workshop to appraise how the local elections went back in May and wish to have any information.

6. Matters Arising:

Cllr. Rossiter has dealt with the problems raised by Mrs. King of The Normans. He said that the letters to B.& N.E.S. concerning the money being spent on the Batheaston footbridge and the speed mats in Devonshire Road were still pending.

K.R.

Also pending was the possibility of locating a bus shelter near to the shops in Holcombe Lane.

K.R./M.R.

7. Open Forum

(a) A letter had been received from a resident of Miller Walk concerning a noisy cockerel which, it is suspected, is kept at No.2 Holcombe Lane. It seems that residents of Miller Walk, Down Lane and Holcombe Lane are disturbed by the noise. The Clerk was asked to write to the owner in a gentle way, asking him what his intentions are.

CLERK

(b) Cllr. Richards reported that there is an overgrown hedge in one of The Chestertons gardens opposite the bottom of Hantone Hill. The Clerk to write to the owner when advised of the address.

CLERK

(c) Cllr. Rossiter advised the Council that, in preparation for the Winter, B.& N.E.S. Council are asking for volunteer Snow Wardens

(d) B.& N.E.S.Council are consulting on the provision of travellers sites but boaters are not included.

8. Date of Next meeting: Thursday, 15th.,December, 2011
At 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall

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

Signed..... Chairman,
15th.,December, 2011

