

Bathampton Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th.,October, 2012
in the Village Hall, Bathampton

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

Apologies: There were no apologies.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20th.,September, 2012 had been circulated.

Cllr. Jones, seconded by Cllr. Ardrey, proposed that these amended Minutes be accepted. Carried unanimously.

3. Co-option of a Councillor.

As the person due to be co-opted had been unable to attend, this item is carried over to the next meeting.

4. New Code of Conduct

Bath & N.E.Somerset have sent a draft Code of Conduct with a suggestion that we might like to adopt it as our own Code of Conduct . Having read it through,the Chairman proposed that we adopt this Code as our own Code. This was seconded by Cllr.King and carried unanimously.

5. Finance:

a) To Approve the Financial Report for September,2012

The Financial Report for May had been circulated. Cllr. Richards, seconded by Cllr. Jones, proposed that it be approved. Carried.

d) To Approve Expenditure forOctober, 2012

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

S.S.E.Contracting	Street Light Maintenance	£ 64.16(+VAT)
E.D.F.Energy	Electricity	£ 140.51(+VAT)
T.C.V.	Repairs to Fencing	£ 267.17(+VAT)
Cllr. Richards	Allotment Gate Keys	£ 8.33(+VAT)

It was proposed by the Cllr.Richards and seconded by Cllr. Christley that these invoices should be paid. Carried unanimously. **CLERK**

6. Group Reports

a) Planning & Conservation Group

The report had been circulated

Cllr. King reported that no further information was forthcoming on Candywood Leys. It seems that the Enforcement Department is undergoing a major restructuring and until this is completed, there will be no action. We await further news concerning the new Enforcement Department.

Cont'd.....

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

The report had been circulated.

Cllr. Christley reported that she had a very constructive meeting with a representative of the Highways Agency and with their contractors. They have a "watchman" process amongst their staff and contractors to report any problems on the A.36. She wondered if this could be extended to include parish councils.

Action is only taken to improve road safety after fatal and serious accidents. Minor incidents such as non-injury collisions, near misses and frightening encounters are not reported. Cllr. Christley suggested that we set up a system of reporting such incidents. This could be done via our website. She was surprised to learn that a second V.A.S, for Bathampton was in the design stage.

Cllr. Mayo reported that two benches on the canal towpath were being restored. The grass bank opposite the Bathampton School was being proposed as the site for a new bench.

c) Leisure & Amenities Group

The report had been circulated.

Following an inspection of the playground, we have been given 28 days to replace the tail chains on three of the flat seat swings. This is because the chain links are very worn. On examination, it was found that the seats themselves are also worn. Cllr. Richards had obtained quotations from three companies for replacing all four seats and their tail chains. He proposed that we purchase them from Charles Mant at £45 each. This was seconded by the Chairman and carried unanimously.

M.R.

Cllr. Richards then mentioned the Village Cross and asked if we are to place a plaque on it to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Also as there is no plaque to commemorate her coronation, should we place one for this also? There was general agreement that we should purchase both and install them. He had obtained three quotations and it was agreed unanimously to accept that from The Sign Maker of Devon for the total sum of £278 for both plaques.

M.R.

Regarding the suggestion of having a Christmas tree, the new Chairman of the Village Hall Committee has agreed to pay for the electricity if we place it outside the Village Hall. Jubilee Gardens was suggested as an alternative site, in which case the electricity supply would have to come from "The George".

Cllr. Richards will talk to the new manager of "The George".

M.R.

The question of insurance was mentioned and the Clerk was asked to write to the Canal & River Trust to ask about siteing a Christmas tree there.

CLERK

d) Policy & Finance Group

A copy of the Bath & N.E.S.Council's new Code of Conduct had been circulated. The Chairman had read this and felt that it was just as suitable for us, as a parish council, to adopt. He formally proposed that we adopt it. This was seconded by Cllr. King and carried unanimously.

The Clerk reported that B.& N.E.S.Council requires all councillors to fill in a proforma to register their interests, copies of which have to be emailed to them.

Cont'd....

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

The Clerk asked that all councillors complete their "Register of Interests" proforma but type their name in the signature space at the end. He requested that these be emailed this to him so that he could forward them to B.& N.E.S. Council. Separately, could all councillors print out the back page as a hard copy, sign it and give it to him.

The Chairman had attended the meeting at which suggested sites for the Park & Ride east of Bath were discussed. This included Charmy Down and several other sites. He stated that Bathampton Meadows was still a possibility. We would discuss this in more detail after the Minutes of the meeting have been published.

The Chairman then asked if copy for the next Newsletter could be sent to the editor by Friday, 26th, October.

ALLe) Parish Web Site

Cllr. Mayo said that the site had 39 visits during the past month and on average each looked at 2.6 pages and spent 1min 27 secs. on the site.

It was felt that we should discuss development of the web-site and the Clerk was asked to put this on the agenda for the next meeting. **CLERK**

f) Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that we had received the second installment of the precept for this financial year.

We have been advised that the Lower Bristol Road Recycling Centre is to close for a period of around six weeks in order that some remedial construction work can be done. Notices have been placed on the noticeboards,

A Mr. Ron Adams has written to say that he is keen to set up a Table Tennis Club for adults. He has already arranged that he could use the Scout Hut and the equipment there. He requires to advertise the idea around the village. The Chairman agreed to put a note about it in the Newsletter.

A.M.

A Mr. Richard Evans is keen to purchase a memorial bench in memory of his father. He asks for advice from the Parish Council about purchasing and siting a bench. Passed to Cllr. Richards to contact him.

M.R.7. Matters Arising:

Cllr. Jones reported that she had still not come up with a suitable event at which the plaque for winning the large village section in Village of the Year Competition could be presented.

She had informed Julian House about the presence of a "rough sleeper" in the field alongside the canal and behind "The George".

It was mentioned that we do not know who our current beat officer and P.C.S.O. are. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries.

CLERK

8. Open Forum

Cllr.Ardrey had reported that he had attended three meetings. Firstly, the A.L.C.A. B.& N.E.S. area meeting where there was much talk of preserving the World Heritage status of Bath. The "Better Together" community engagement project was discussed. It seems that the Mobile Library service is still under threat and could be replaced by book trays in village halls. There was also talk of Place Making Plans which will take account of Neighbourhood Plans.

Secondly, the A.G.M. of A.L.C.A.at which the membership and constitution of Committees was discussed. The affiliation fees for 2013 to 2014 had been decided and a copy of how this would affect Bathampton was handed to the Clerk.

Thirdly, Cll.Ardrey had attended the Parishes Liasion Meeting. It was reported that the Core Strategy was held up by the Inspector who is concerned by insufficient housing and affordable housing provision and also by four other Core strategy policies. The Neighbourhood Planning Protocol is now approved and sets out planning at the parish level, but experiences elsewhere have shown that preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan is time consuming and financially demanding. Also there have been problems with the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to be paid by contractors. There were good reports from parishes on the recent work of the invigorated Enforcement Department.

9. Date of Next meeting: Thursday, 15th.,November, 2012
At 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.25 p.m.

Signed.....Chairman
15th.,November,2012