

Bathampton Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th, December, 2013
in the Village Hall, Bathampton

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

1. Apologies: There were none.

2. Minutes of the last Meeting:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st, November, 2013 had been circulated. Cllr. Mayo asked that the words "more than" be inserted in front of the words "six levels" in the last paragraph of the Highways Report. Following this amendment, Cllr. Brennan, seconded Cllr. King, proposed that these Minutes be accepted. Carried unanimously.

3. Finance:

a) Approval of the Financial Report for November, 2013

The report had been circulated

It was proposed for approval by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr. Jones. Carried unanimously.

b) Approval of Expenditure for December, 2013

The Clerk reported that only one invoice had been presented for payment as follows:-

Kennet & Avon Canal Trust	Annual Membership	£ 30.00
---------------------------	-------------------	---------

It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr. Brennan that this invoice should be paid. Carried unanimously.

CLERK

4. Response to Outline Planning Application for Former Jewson's Yard

There was much discussion on this. The general feeling was that it would be preferable to have small business units on the site rather than a housing estate. (B. & N.E.S. Council are under pressure to supply these). The development would visually improve the area. It was felt that the affordable housing would be too far from the Village and too close to the more expensive marketable housing. Three questions with no answers- Who would manage the affordable housing and who would allocate them? Also, would they go to those with a Bathampton connection? There was disagreement with the traffic figures quoted. The site is not near a bus route and the approach road- Tynning Road will need to be improved but we would object to extra lighting. The Council was not convinced that flooding would not occur. It was felt that to develop the area would set a precedence, and there would then be calls to infill between there and the Village.

The Chairman then proposed that we respond to B. & N.E.S. Council along the above lines. This was seconded by Cllr. Ardrey and carried unanimously. Cllr. King would draft the reply.

L.K./CLERK

5. Group Reportsa) Planning & Conservation Group

Cllr. King reported that the application for 63 Warminster Road went before the Development Control Committee yesterday but we had not heard the outcome yet. Also, there was no further news concerning Candywood Leys.

b) Highways Group

The Highways Agency have been working on the footpaths along Warminster Road. They have been cutting back overgrowth and the incursion of soil and grass and making the full width of the footpaths again available for use. They are finishing off with a "slurry topping".

The A.36 is supposed to be mechanically swept periodically but Cllr. Richards feels that it is not being done. Cllr. Jones will investigate.

K.J.

No action has been taken concerning the dangerous tree reported by Cllr. Mayo.

It was noted that the A.36 is going to be closed between the Dry Arch and the bottom of Brasknocker Hill from 4th., January until the beginning of April for essential maintenance work.

c) Leisure & Amenities Group

Cllr. Richards said that it was time to send out the rent demands for the allotments for the coming year. The Clerk said that we need to advise the plot holders of any rent increase which will occur on 1st., January, 2015. It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr. Richards that the rent be increased from £5.50 to £6.00 per lug. This was carried unanimously. Cllr. Richards said that several plot holders had allowed their plots to become overgrown with weeds and they need reminding of the Rules. The Clerk said that he would include a copy of the Rules in with the rent demands to remind them of their obligations.

CLERK

In Holcombe Lane, the bus stops had now had new posts and raised kerbs installed. The Christmas tree had been erected outside the Village Hall by Mr. Ray Book and our Handyman. Cllr. Richards had also obtained a promise of sponsorship from the Surgery. The Clerk was asked to write letters of thanks to Wild & Lye, the Surgery, Ray Book and the Handyman. He would also arrange for a plaque to be displayed in front of the tree acknowledging the sponsorship.

CLERK

Cllr. Richards said that he is still obtaining quotes for a replacement see-saw but it looks as though it will cost around £3000.

With the imminent prospect of some snow, it was queried whether we have a Snow Warden in the Parish. The Clerk replied that we did not.

The Clerk was then asked to find out what a Snow Warden's responsibilities are.

CLERKd) Policy & Finance Group

The report had been circulated.

Regarding the Placemaking Plan, the Chairman had circulated the snapshot character summaries and two site assessments which the Working Group had produced. There was some discussion and minor alterations made to the text.

Cont'd....

MIN/DEC/13

Page 3 of 3

5. Group Reports(Cont'd.

d) Policy & Finance Group(Cont'd)

It was proposed by Cllr. Brennan, seconded by Cllr. Jones, that the documents be approved and forwarded to Bath & N.E.Somerset Council. Agreed unanimously. The Chairman then thanked the Working Group for all the work they had done on the Placemaking Plan.

Mott McDonald had presented their draft strategy document to the British Transport Commission, but it has not yet gone to the Committee. It seems that the Park & Ride East of Bath is still on the agenda but will probably be mixed up with the Placemaking Plan.

A.M.

At the meeting of the V.P.A., it now looked as if a Westbury bypass might be resurrected. Wiltshire County officials may now be in favour of the A.350 being the preferred South Coast to M.4 route instead of the A.36.

e) Parish Web Site

There was nothing further to report.

f) Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from A.L.C.A. quoting the Affiliation Fee for our membership for 2014 to 2015. There was also a reminder that if we wish to cancel our membership, it must be done by 31st.,December,2013

6. Matters Arising:

The Clerk is still enquiring into Section 106 agreements.

7. Open Forum

Cllr. Mayo mentioned that a resident of the Warminster Road had witnessed some dangerous overtaking outside his house. It was suggested that he went back to the person and asked him to fill in the incident report form on our website.

D.M.

Cllr. King mentioned that the St. George's Hill Residents Association were very pleased with the improved noticeboard. Also, they had noticed a large pot hole in the road outside the Tasburgh Hotel.

M.B.

8. Date of Next meeting:

Thursday, 16th.,January,2014
At 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.44 p.m.

Signed..... Chairman,
16th.,January,2014