

# Bathampton Parish Council

## Minutes of the Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup>, March, 2014 in the Village Hall, Bathampton

Present: Cllrs. A. McCann, G.Ardrey, M. Brennan and M.Richards

1. Apologies: These were received from Cllrs. S. Batterbury , K. Jones, L. King and D. Mayo

2. Minutes of the last Meeting:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup>, February, 2014 had been circulated.

Cllr. Ardrey asked if paragraph 5 (a) could be amended as follows: Replace “much concern” by the words “some concern”. Also he asked that in section 7, the end sentence of the fourth paragraph be deleted. Following these amendments, Cllr Brennan, seconded by the Cllr. Ardrey, proposed that these Minutes be accepted. Carried unanimously.

3. Finance:

a) Approval of the Financial Report for February, 2014

The report had been circulated

It was proposed for approval by Cllr.Ardrey and seconded by Cllr. Brennan. Carried unanimously.

b) Approval of Expenditure for March, 2014

The Clerk reported that two invoices had been presented for payment as follows:-

A.L.C.A.	Annual Affiliation Fee	£ 265.41
Massey & Harris(Engs.)	Parts for See-Saw	£ 43.00(+VAT)

In addition, Cllr. Richards asked for re-imburement of £10.00 which he had spent on a gift voucher for Mr.Ray Book in recognition of the work he did in setting up the Christmas tree.

It was proposed by the Cllr. Brennan and seconded by the Chairman that all three sums should be paid. Carried unanimously.

**CLERK**

4. Group Reports

a) Planning & Conservation Group

Cllr. Ardrey reported in the absence of Cllr. King.

He mentioned that the proposed development at the former Jewson's Yard would necessitate relocation of the mobile telephone mast and that this would probably be more obtrusive.

Tasburgh House Hotel have applied for an illuminated sign but we still do not know what it will look like when illuminated.

York House in Bathampton Lane has applied for permission for a detached greenhouse to which we have no objection.

Prior to the meeting, the residents of 4 Down Lane, who have applied for planning permission for a two storey side extension and a parking area, came to alert us to a problem. B.& N.E.S.Council are planning to install a raised kerb for the bus stop immediately in front of their house exactly where they require a dropped kerb for access to their proposed parking area. They have made representations to B.& N.E.S. but have received no answer. Cllr. Richards said that he has been in touch with the B.& N.E.S officer concerned with the renovation of the bus stops and he would raise the matter with him.

**M.R.**

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

Cllr. Brennan reported that B.& N.E.S. will undertake an audit of our lighting to understand the work needed to get it to a level at which they could adopt it. Our contract with E.D.F. comes up for renewal in September. We have agreed with B.& N.E.S. that we will maintain flexibility by either using their supplier or seeking a one-year extension with E.D.F. rather than entering into a new long-term contract.

The Chairman mentioned that some small black boxes have appeared on lampposts in Bathampton Lane and the High Street. Their purpose is unknown.

Cllr. Brennan said that the drains have been cleared and the pot holes in Down Lane reportedly repaired but there was some doubt about this. She had attended the V.P.A./H.A. Meeting. The 3 month closure of the A.36 will now take place next January. This is for major work to be done due to a geotechnical failure. Our temporary V.A.S. is to be permanently sited between nos. 29 & 30 Warminster Road. This is scheduled for July. At the same time a 50mph speed limit through Claverton will be introduced.

Regarding the work done on the footpaths along the A.36, the Clerk had a reply from Gill Huggins detailing the problems which still exist. The Clerk was asked to write to her again mentioning that Skansa had still not signed off the work. **CLERK**

Cllr. Brennan said that the HA have scheduled a complete resurfacing of the A36 from St Georges Hill to Hantone Hill with work on resetting the drains. This is scheduled for December 2014 but is likely to be done when the road is closed.

There have been reports of materials being accumulated on the canal bank opposite the school. This seems to be deliveries of logs for the narrow boats.

Cllr. Richards will keep a watching brief. **M.R.**

c) Leisure & Amenities Group

Cllr. Richard's report had been circulated.

He said that he had a new tenant for an allotment and he had allocated her to half of the vacant plot 20. There are still two rents outstanding. He asked the Council's agreement to hiring a skip in early April for the disposal of non-compostable rubbish. He said that the cost would be about £228 incl. V.A.T. This was agreed unanimously.

Cllr. Richards reported that he had been getting quotations for the repair of the fence along the southern edge of the allotments. Approximate costs were:-

Wooden posts £545, Angle iron posts £600 and galvanized posts £1,000. After discussion, it was agreed that the angle iron posts would be preferable.

He will obtain more accurate quotations. **M.R.**

Cllr. Richards had been in touch with CURO about the overgrown area by the Council's garage and behind it. This belongs to CURO and is their responsibility.

d) Policy & Finance Group

The report had been circulated.

The Chairman reported that the V.P.A. had met yesterday but there was nothing further to report on highways.

The cost of Habitat mapping for the whole valley would be £90 per parish and it would be paid by the V.P.A.

The drop-in session for the Housing Needs Survey will be on Saturday

morning, 10<sup>th</sup>.,May in the Village Hall.

The Chairman asked that copy for the Newsletter should be in by Friday, 11<sup>th</sup>.,April.

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Cont'd....

4. Group Reports(Cont'd.)

e) Parish Web Site

There was nothing to report.

f) Clerk's Report

The Bath Preservation Trust has written to confirm our membership.

Bathampton Gardeners Association has written to ask permission to erect a Marquee on the playing field from Wednesday ,10<sup>th</sup>., until Monday, 15<sup>th</sup>.,September in order to accommodate the Annual Flower Show. This was agreed unanimously.

**CLERK**

The Prior's Walk Management Group has written with two concerns. Firstly, they would like the Parish Council's support concerning the overgrown Leylandii trees and secondly they have drawn our attention to the dangerous state of the footpath linking Down Lane with Bathampton Lane (BA1/11). It was agreed that we share their concerns and the Clerk was asked to reply that we would be supporting them and the matter of the footpath would be passed to Cllr. Mayo to bring to the attention of Bath & N.E.S. Council.

**CLERK**

Another bus stop upgrade plan has been received. It is for the bus terminus in Holcombe Vale. There are the usual raised kerbs and road markings, but the shelter is to be installed on the opposite side of the road. Passed to Cllr. Richards. **M.R.**

The Clerk reported that he had received the Audit papers from Grant Thornton for the forthcoming end of financial year audit.

5. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

6. Open Forum

The Chairman mentioned that he had received a letter from the Harbutts Residents Association. It asked what had happened about the proposed pedestrian crossing across the High Street and the bus shelter at the bottom of Down Lane. He said that since neither of them is likely in the foreseeable future, he would reply. **A.M.**

Mr. David Wilmot of Downside Close has reported that the road at the junction of Holcombe Lane with Downside Close can become very slippery in icy weather and he asked if a grit bin could be located there. Cllr. Richards said that he would contact B.& N.E.S. Council.

**M.R.**

The Chairman had received a request that the parking spaces outside the shops should be "en echelon" to make it easier to get in and out of them. After some discussion it was agreed to leave the markings as they are. The Chairman to reply.

**A.M.**

Cllr. Ardrey advised the Clerk of a few minor alterations to the Rural Facilities Audit which he will forward to Bath & N.E.S.Council.

**CLERK**

7. Date of Next meeting:

Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup>.,April,2014  
At 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.03 p.m.

Signed..... Chairman,  
17<sup>th</sup>.,April,2014