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| **Bathampton Parish Meeting 29th May 2019** | |
| **Draft Minutes** | |
| **Present:** Cllrs Andrews, Ardrey, Brennan, Helps, King, Mayo and Purpuri with approximately 25 members of the public. | | |
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| **2019 PM / 1** | **Introductions** | |
|  | The Chair opened the meeting thanking those present for coming to the Bathampton annual parish assembly and explaining it was a chance for the parish council (PC) to update the village on the things they have worked on over the last year and to give everyone who lives in Bathampton a chance to discuss the issues that concern them. | |
|  | The Chair introduced the Council.  Chair, Moira Brennan; Vice Chair, Lin King; Councillors, George Ardrey, Jan Helps, Stuart Andrews and David Mayo. Tony Purpuri was a new councillor and a welcome addition to the team. The new Clerk was Ali Taylor who replaced Don Smith in November 2018. | |
|  | The Chair thanked Jacqueline Bird for the work she did during four years as a councillor, noting that Ms Bird did not stand for re-election and only six councillors stood for nine posts so there was no election. Tony was co-opted as a Councillor at the May meeting, meaning there were two vacant posts. She encouraged anyone interested in joining the parish council to speak to one of the councillors later. | |
|  | The Chair confirmed that the two new ward councillors representing Bathanpton on the BANES council were Sarah Warren and Kevin Guy. It was early days for them as they found their feet, and Bathampton Parish Council looked forward to working with them. Cllr Warren was welcomed to the meeting and it was hoped she would be able to stay for drinks at the end with a chance to meet some local people. | |
|  | The Chair announced there was a change to the agenda and the meeting would start by hearing about Truespeed. William Jones, the publicised speaker, was unable to come to the meeting and Tony Najdoski had stood in at short notice. The meeting would then hear from some of the Bathampton parish councillors and residents would have a chance to ask questions at the end of each report. After an update on the progress of Safer Routes to School including the latest news about the Conker Crossing there would be a chance to have an informal chat over a glass of wine. | |
| **2019 PM / 2** | **Apologies for Absence** | |
|  | There were none. | |
| **2019 PM / 3** | **Minutes of the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting** | |
|  | The chair advised that the minutes of last year’s meeting had been distributed to the councilors, there were copies around the room and they were available on the parish council website. She asked for any comments regarding their accuracy. There were none. | |
|  | Cllr Helps proposed the minutes were adopted and this was seconded by Cllr Ardrey. | |
|  | The Chair declare the minutes were Approved and adopted. | |
| **2019 PM / 4** | **Chair's Report** | |
|  | The Chair reported as follows. | |
|  | **Finance** | |
|  | Although the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019 have not yet been audited she gave a brief run-down of the council’s income and how it was spent. In the year 2018/19 income was £30,044 which was higher than the previous year by around £1,500. The precept raised through council taxes was the same at £23,000. The council tax support grant of £1,270 which Bathampton used to receive from BANES had ceased in the current financial year. As ever this means the council had to manage its costs carefully | |
|  | Grants received in a year were always very variable. In 2017-18 Bathampton received around £2,000 in one off grants towards playground repairs and tools for our footpaths. We did not receive similar grants in 2018-19, but on the positive side the village received just over £3,000 of Community Infrastructure Levy (or CIL). This was a new scheme whereby developments in the parish above a certain size had to make a contribution towards local infrastructure. This was one of three payments which will eventually total in the region of £9,000. | |
|  | It was the PCs intention to use this money to replace five street lights that were quickly becoming obsolete at a cost of about £7,200 (including VAT). Because the income was received last year and the spend will take place this year it contributed to the council showing a surplus of income over expenditure last year and will cause a deficit in the current financial year. The PC also took the decision not to replace two street lights in Chapel Row. It was going to cost a couple of thousand pounds, they serve a small number of houses and are not on a through route. The PCs conclusion was that it could not justify that amount of public money when so many much more cost-effective lighting solutions were available to the few homes affected. | |
|  | The council’s largest spend, just under £12,000 was on salaries paid to the clerks, Don Smith and subsequently Ali Taylor and the handyman, Alan Saunders. The PC gave grants totalling £1,450 to various village enterprises including contributions to the Village Show, maintenance of the churchyard, the Maxi Club, the Cricket Club and Friends of Bathampton Meadows Riverside. This was a reduction from last year when the council also gave £1000 towards the planning costs of the Conker Crossing. The PC was delighted to no longer be providing support to the Historical Society – whilst their work was valued enormously - it was a great delight that they had published their very well received first book and were now financially independent. Congratulations were given to the Historical Society and those who had read *A hill divided*, awaited their next book eagerly. | |
|  | The PC spend around £1,000 on subscriptions, most of which was the insurance premium. The council also paid for electricity and maintenance of street lighting in some parts of the village not supported by BANES. This cost £670. The spend on leisure and amenities was largely related to managing the playing field and playground as well as the allotments and Jubilee Gardens. The spend last year was £3,800, about £4,000 less than the previous year – when the council funded £6,650 for the new fence around the playground. This years spend included £1,000 for new goal posts. | |
|  | Cllr Helps had put in a lot work to make sure the village amenities were safe and well maintained. The Chair also recognised the work the Clerk has done to support Cllr Helps, particularly around supporting allotment holders and managing contracts. This was greatly appreciated. | |
|  | Other costs included the newsletter, maintaining equipment, payments to the PC’s planning adviser etc. The total expenditure was £22,500 which delivered a surplus for the year of £7,500. Reserves at year end were £52,235 compared to £44,420 at the end of last year. Of these reserves £7,200 was earmarked for the replacement of the lights and just over £3,000 was needed for rebuilding a stonewall and management of the boundary of the allotments. | |
|  | The last few years had shown the importance of having some funds available to defend against various schemes that threatened the village. In the last few years alone there had been the Park and Ride debacle, the renewed threats of a link road, the actions of Network Rail on Tyning Road, the concerns that a poorly designed Clean Air Zone could clean central Bath’s air by shifting the problem and the traffic on to the next available roads which include Bathampton’s. Some of these continued as threats – in particular the council understood that the new Lib Dem led council intend to re-examine the evidence as to whether their predecessors where right to exclude cars from the clean air zone. | |
|  | However, the PC were keen to use the funds available to improve the facilities of the village. The play area is dated but much loved and investigations had shown that even small changes can cost tens of thousands of pounds. The Council welcomed ideas for improving the village’s amenities and encouraged residents to speak to a member of the council after the meeting or to consider becoming a councillor helping to make ideas a reality. | |
|  | **Review of the previous year** | |
|  | Number 25 | |
|  | One outstanding highlight was the launch of Number 25, Bathampton’s cafe, shop, post office and social hub. The Chair proffered a massive thank you to Kay, the owner, and her team, for all the work they had put in – but most importantly for having such an open mind and a determination to listen to what local people wanted and to try and make that a reality. | |
|  | Clean Air Zone | |
|  | The Clean Air Zone was another major piece of work last year. It was clear that different people in the parish could have been affected in different ways, depending on where they lived and what kind of vehicle they owned. It was also clear that some people welcomed the plans and would like to see them extended to include the village while others viewed them as a threat to their way of life and hoped the scheme would disappear. Whatever the individual views the parish council’s role was to make sure people get a chance to have their say and understand the possible implications of a poorly designed scheme. | |
|  | The PC acknowledged that all too often people were busy with work and family and despite BANES’ best intentions local people do not always pick up that things like the Clean Air Zone could affect them. With this in mind the PC set up a meeting on 17th November to give local people a chance to hear about the plans from the BANES officers. The Chair thanked those who attended – and gave another massive thank you to the volunteer deliverers who delivered information about the meeting to every house in the village at very short notice. | |
|  | The Council knew that the change of leadership of B&NES could still result in a change in the design of the Clean Air Zone and it would continue to monitor the situation and keep people informed. | |
|  | The Meadows | |
|  | The other area of concern was trying to achieve some kind of long term protection for the Meadows. The PC had seen a lot of statements in the recent run up to the local elections from political parties committing to protect the Meadows. The previous Conservative led council were in talks with Avon Wildlife Trust, discussing some kind of management contract which would see the Meadows being managed as a wildlife habitat with more public access. Ideally the parish council would like to see the Meadows transferred out of local authority ownership to a new owner with the ability to protect them for the future. This was difficult as B&NES spent tax payers’ money to acquire the Meadows and as such they were accountable to show value for money – which makes gifting them to a body like the National Trust challenging. None the less, despite all the talk Bathampton needed to see action to secure the Meadows future, not just words, and needed to see it quickly. | |
|  | Link road | |
|  | The threat of a link road still bubbled up occasionally but Bathampton was seeing more support from various sources, including Highways England, for improvements to the A350 to bridge the missing link between the M4 and the south coast ports. The Chair confirmed that there were no current plans and certainly no funding the PC would continue to keep a watching brief. | |
|  | Review of the BANES wards | |
|  | Last year the Chair had raised the issue of the Local Government Boundaries Commission review of the BANES wards. Historically Bathampton was part of a ward known as Bathavon North. The ward had three councillors and also included Batheaston and Bathford. Under the initial proposal from the review, Bathampton would have become a new 1 councillor ward called Bathavon East along with Claverton, Monkton Combe and Southstoke. The PC submitted a response to the consultation saying that our local affiliation was to Batheaston and Bathford and not with Southstoke. At last year’s meeting the Chair had reported that Bathampton’s concerns had been ignored. This was because the Boundary Commission had made some changes following the first consultation but no mention was made of the Bathampton situation. However, when the final boundaries were announced Bathampton’s concerns had been dealt with and the village was back with Batheaston and Bathford in a two councillor Bathavon North. | |
|  | One continuing question for the parish council is how it communicates with the local community. For some time this has been through a newsletter delivered four times a year to every house in the village. For a while we had a councillor who was active on social media who set up twitter and Facebook accounts – but unfortunately the Council did not have the resource to manage these outlets, which only reach a small percentage of the population. BANES recently closed down their printing facility making the newsletter substantially more expensive to produce in future. This encouraged the Council to think about what the PC communicates and when. The Parish Council welcomed the community’s thoughts on the subject by email to the clerk at bathamptonparishclerk@gmail.com. | |
|  | The Chair repeated her request for volunteers. Having already mentioned that the PC was short of two councilors, the village hall had been without a Chairman for over a year and it now also needed a Secretary. The Chair was also aware that Mr. K. Jeffries was looking for a new secretary for the Village Show Committee. None of these roles were onerous and she suggested they offered their own rewards in terms of meeting new people and getting a great feeling of satisfaction. At the recent Village Hall AGM the team had reflected on how proud they were in the way the village hall currently looked and what a team effort it had been to get the hall looking smart and able to host so many local groups. If residents were interested in any of the roles they were invited to contact the PC chair about the Village Hall Committee, Cllr Mayo or Mr. Jeffries about the Village Show and any of the Councillors about the parish council. | |
| **2019 PM / 5** | **Planning & Conservation** | |
|  | Cllr King reported as follows. | |
|  | The Shop | |
|  | Unfortunately the village lost the shop and the PC were intrigued to find out who the new owners were and to speak to them, but to no avail. The council subsequently received an application, which had since been approved by BANES, for a rear extension, and to reconfigure the accommodation upstairs to provide 5 flats; the shop part was left more or less as is, with no proposals for changes. The PC were disappointed that there was no consultation and that there seemed to be no attempt to use the premises as any kind of shop; the council still hoped that a shop would be viable and so would resist any attempt to use the shop area for more accommodation. | |
|  | Network Rail | |
|  | BANES decided **not** to enforce against Network Rail (NR) to compel them to return the site to its original green state. We had a meeting with NR who when they heard how we all felt about the issues agreed to reinstate around 75% of the field, take out a gate, replace the hedgerow and re-seed over the Site of Special Scientific Interest. The PC understood that NR had done most of this. In terms of usage they expected to have about 10 instances per year of vehicles delivering ‘plant’ and had undertaken to be extra careful. They would advise of any overnight work and had promised to be quiet and to respect local residents. The PC knew they failed on the very first of these, complained and NR had apologized saying it would not happen again. Cllr King had asked people to keep the PC informed but there were no reports of further incidents and the council had to assume that NR were keeping their promises. | |
|  | The George | |
|  | The PC have appreciated members of the community still being able to park in the George car park, and thanks were given Debbie and the staff for this. However, there was concern both in the George and in Bathampton Mill that commuters were leaving cars there during the day and this was also true on some roads in the village. The PC were keeping this under review and Cllr King again asked that residents let the council know of any problems. | |
|  | Batheaston/Bathampton Pedestrian and Cyclist Bridge and track | |
|  | Cllr King reported that the cycle track continued to be widely used and a pleasure for all. BANES did the work on the Crack Willows in the autumn and earlier in the spring the volunteers added a willow dome which appeared to be growing well. The one obvious problem was the gate, the post of which was broken last July by some people in a car using the area. The council wanted to encourage visitors but not cars or camping. Peter Fear had liaised at length with BANES about mending or replacing the gate. This had eventually resulted in a proposal from BANES for a shorter 7ft gate to replace the existing one, which will be locked although accessible by the emergency services. There will be a 1.7m gap for pedestrian/cyclist access. The cost would be shared between BANES, FOBMR and the Avon Frome Partnership. | |
|  | The PC was concerned that open access onto Mill Lane would be less safe for children, but this had been the case since the gate was broken so it was minded to accept this proposal from BANES but asking if the entrance could be set back even more from the road to improve safety. Cllr King asked that anyone with comments or suggestions speak with her after the meeting or contact the Clerk? Cllr King also again thanked Peter Fear for his hard work in managing the area and organising the volunteers. | |
| **2019 PM / 6** | **Highways & Canal** | |
|  | Cllr Andrews presented his report. | |
|  | This covered the perennial problems with speed and requests for and endeavours to implement more effective traffic control. He noted the improved signage implemented in the area of the George, the Church and the School stressing that the proposed Conker Crossing was necessary to ease congestion and improve safety in the area of the school, especially in the mornings. | |
|  | He had met with residents to discuss concerns about on street parking in the area of Holburne Place, a development which he suggested would exacerbate the problem. He also highlighted the forthcoming B&NES consultation on the proposal to extend the double yellow lines along parts of Down Lane, acknowledging there were arguments for and against the proposal. Cllr Andrews concluded this part of his report by advising that resurfacing work on a stretch of Bathampton Lane was scheduled for the summer. | |
|  | Moving on to the subject of the canal, Cllr Andrews reported on the Parish Councils attempts to get the relevant organisations to address issues such as anti-social behavior, the state of parts of the tow path, rubbish, ad hoc encampments etc. The organisations concerned included B&NES, the Canal & River Trust (CRT) and various charities. | |
|  | In conclusion Cllr Andrews encouraged residents to report issues direct to Highways England, B&NES and the CRT as applicable. | |
| **2019 PM / 7** | **Leisure & Amenities** | |
|  | Cllr Helps reported as follows. | |
|  | Allotments | |
|  | A number of allotments had changed hands over the last year and there was one person currently on the waiting list. A small number of owners had been approached regarding the condition of their plots and the PC working with them to improve the situation. | |
|  | The PC had taken one plot out of use due to the amount of shade cast across it by a tree over which the PC had no control. This would be reviewed this situation in the future. | |
|  | The hedgerow had recently been managed with some trees around the site reduced in height and arrangements were in hand for the repair of a section of dry stone wall on the eastern side. | |
|  | Grass cutting | |
|  | Grass cutting had begun on all areas of the village and Cllr helps was grateful to those members of the village who alerted her or the clerk to any issues arising. | |
|  | Grass cutting remained a considerable expense and it had proved quite difficult to find suitable contractors who want the job and are affordable. At various times, there have been suggestions that allotment holders could mow the paths around their plots and the council could be responsible for the main paths. The PC had considered this but were aware of those people without access to appropriate equipment or the ability to transfer it to the allotments. However, the PC remained open to other suggestions and if anyone knew of good local contractors, the council would be pleased to hear about them. | |
|  | Playground | |
|  | Regular inspections continue to be held and the council had reserves enabling repairs and maintenance on the play equipment and surrounds. Repairs over the last year included some new fittings on the zip wire and replacement of the chains to the big swings. | |
|  | It was sad to report that vandals had cut up the net belonging to the lower goal and the council were disinclined to replace it at the moment. | |
|  | The PC would continue to monitor and make changes to the playground as and when funding becomes available. | |
|  | Christmas tree | |
|  | Once again the village had a Christmas tree outside the village hall. Thanks were due to Alan Saunder and Ray Book for their help with providing, installing and decorating the tree. | |
|  | Planters | |
|  | The planters around the village continued to be cared for by residents of the village | |
|  | Cllr Helps thanked Alex Robertson, Emma McGuiness, and Eric Greaves for their care of the planters and Ray Book for looking after the memorial at the church. A big thank you was also due to Ron Taylor for growing the flowers for the planters each year. | |
| **2019 PM / 8** | **Footpaths** | |
|  | Cllr Mayo reported next. | |
|  | The footpaths in Bathampton had been well kept over the last 12 months. The field alongside the path leading to the swing bridge was now being cut by the landowner which gave a much more open feel to the area. The Cotswold Wardens had been assisting the Parish Council with footpath clearance, particularly on the old tramline track and across Bathampton Down. | |
|  | The footpaths working parties made up of volunteers from the local area had met to clear the triangular field and the small path leading from Candy's Bridge to Grosvenor Bridge that runs between the tow path and the railway line. Over the winter Bathampton was awarded a grant from the Community Empowerment Fund which was used to buy more scythes, secateurs and shears. The first cut of the triangular field took place on 28th May with 8 people in attendance. | |
|  | This year the group was looking to claim 5 paths to add to the Definitive Map: | |
|  | \* The Skyline walk across Bathampton Down  \* The narrow path leading from the tow path up to Candy's Bridge  \* The path leading from the south west corner of Holcombe Vale between the houses towards Holcombe Lane  \* The path from the University to the metal path leading away from Sham Castle  \* The path from Hantone Hill to the tram line | |
|  | Cllr Mayo asked for anyone who had walked any of the above paths over the last 25 years to speak to him about filing in some User Evidence forms in support of Definitive Map Modification Orders. These applications were made to give footpaths legal protection, allowing future generations to enjoy these paths as much as the current one. | |
| **2019 PM / 9** | **Communications** | |
|  | Covered by Cllr Brennan in the Chair’s report. | |
| **2019 PM / 10** | **Policy & Finance** | |
|  | Covered by Cllr Brennan in the Chair’s report. | |
| **2019 PM / 11** | **Bathampton Primary Safer Routes to School Group - update** | |
|  | The update was read by Cllr G Ardrey on behalf of Fiona Powell, Cheryl Cook and Terry Wagstaff. | |
|  | *“Having been fortunate enough last year to have been invited to present to the Parish Council AGM on the subject of Safer Routes to School at Bathampton Primary, including the offshoot Conker Crossing project, we wanted to provide an update one year on. We apologise that half term commitments mean that we are unable to attend in person.* | |
|  | *Safer Routes to School* | |
|  | *Our Safer Routes focus remains fourfold:*   * *Understanding how families travel to school through surveys;* * *Understanding what the risks are on the journeys to school;* * *Developing plans to make journeys safer and making the case for investment to make safety improvements happen; and,* * *Encouraging families to travel actively to school more often.* | |
|  | *We appreciate that the school run causes congestion and are committed to playing our part in reducing this through Bathampton and across the Toll Bridge where safe and practical for families.* | |
|  | *Circa half our catchment live in Bathampton and the vast majority of these families usually walk/scoot or cycle to school. Our current focus as a team is reducing car use by families who have further to travel and usually use the car. For example, we took part in Sustrans The Big Pedal before Easter and managed an active travel rate of 71% across the 5-day challenge, which was a very positive result. This term we are trialling Living Streets’ Walk Once a Week challenge and are delighted that 80% of children met this challenge in month one, May. Our usual pattern of activities also continues, for example Bikeability lessons, free bike health checks and hi vis vests for incoming Reception children.* | |
|  | *B&NES is signed up to the national Modeshift Stars accreditation programme and we were delighted to be named B&NES Primary School of the Year at the Modeshift Stars regional awards in November 2018. We are in the process of pulling together our Gold level accreditation submission. Should we achieve this, we would be the first school in B&NES to get to this level, demonstrating that a commitment to active travel is embedded in our school community.* | |
|  | *If anyone is interested to read more about what we do, please visit the Bathampton Primary website where there is a section on Safer Routes to School.* | |
|  | *Conker Crossing* | |
|  | *We hope that residents will have followed progress updates on the Conker Crossing that appear regularly in Parish Council newsletters.* | |
|  | *Having achieved planning permission in February 2019 for the scheme to run a new footpath along the edge of the King Edward’s School playing fields from Dark Lane and onto a new foot and cycle bridge that swings over to meet the towpath by the Primary school, the project has now passed from the community volunteer trustees to B&NES Highways. It is brilliant news that B&NES has indicated that it will adopt the scheme, should the necessary permissions be achieved and has taken ownership of the detailed design phase as a result. £90k has been allocated by the council so far for use in this new budget year.* | |
|  | *We have the strong support of Highways officers and had the support of Mark Shelford as the previous cabinet member for transport. With a LibDem council and cabinet now in place, we are confident that the support of our Bathavon North Councillors, Sarah & Kevin, as well as Cllrs Butters and Wright looking after the transport portfolio, means that there will be no move away from investing in safer walking and cycling route plans such as ours.* | |
|  | *In the meantime, and as these Councillors settle into their roles, we will continue to press for each next step in the quickest possible timeframe.* | |
|  | *Finally, we would like to extend our thanks again to the very many individuals, businesses and organisations who have supported the Conker Crossing in the past year.* | |
|  | *Those to thank include local organisations and businesses – our Parish Council, Ward Councillors, local schools (Bathampton and King Edwards School), The George Inn, Mac McKillop of Bathampton Farm, as well as wider Bath-based donors such as The Medlock Trust, St John’s Foundation and Orseis Trust. Individuals have also been very generous, contributing £7,171 in total in personal donations and fundraising events. Organisations contributed £4,754.* | |
|  | *We are extremely fortunate to live in a community with professionals willing to give their time and skills to bring forward our design and planning application supporting materials for reduced rates or pro-bono. For their involvement we thank Format Engineers as our designers, as well as the network of businesses supporting the application including LPC Trull, Nicholas Person Associates, Hillside Trees and Planning Heritage Ltd. accessed through the network and financial support of Alastair Gibson at Charlcombe Homes.* | |
|  | *We will continue to update our website as progress happens and also via Parish Council newsletters.*” | |
| **2019 PM / 12** | **Questions and discussion** | |
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|  | Paul Childs, the “PCSO for the canal” | |
|  | PCSO Childs introduced himself and outlined his role in relation to the canal and its users. He advised that he met regularly with various stakeholder groups, including the Canal & River trust (CRT) and told the meeting how best to report incidents to himself and more generally. | |
|  | The following statements and questions were put by members of the public. | |
|  | One resident who lived near the canal was glad to hear that some of the issues relating to the canal were being addressed and expressed concern about the noise from motorbikes using the bypass. He suggested they were breaking the speed limit. PCSO Childs said he would pass this on. | |
|  | Another member of the public suggested the CRT were not enforcing their own rules especially amongst the owners of unregistered boats and the situation was getting out of control. He was encouraged to attend the forthcoming CRT consultation meeting at Bradford on Avon. | |
|  | Other residents were worried about “militant action” by some boat dwellers. PCSO Childs asked for further details to be emailed to him so he could try and follow this up. He advised that fires were not a criminal offence and if residents were concnerend about these they should report it to the CRT. | |
|  | Ward Councillor Warren: Bathampton Meadows and the Clean Air Zone proposal | |
|  | Ward Councillor Warren introduced herself and summarised the initiatives being considered to safeguard Bathampton Meadows and Riverside for future generations. These included, for example, discussions with the National Trust and the Avon wildlife Trust. She undertook to keep Bathampton informed of developments, involved in consultations and noted the suggestions from residents to, e.g., include the adjacent farm land in the proposals. | |
|  | She continued that she might be appointed as the Cabinet member for taking forward the Clean Air Zone (CAZ) proposal, adding a review of the process followed to date was in progress. The administration was keen to promote public and alternative means of transport before excluding private cars from the city zone. Some members of the public expressed concern that any form of CAZ would have an adverse effect on Bathampton because of increased traffic volumes, especially heavy traffic, leading to more noise, higher levels of pollution, an increased risk to personal safety and so on. There were also concerns about the visibility and profile of e.g., weight limit and width restriction signs. Ward Cllr Warren indicated that B&NES would monitor traffic flows and act accordingly. She would look into making any figures and subsequent analysis available publicly. | |
|  | In response to a question about removing the CAZ once the required in improvement in air quality had been achieved, Ward Cllr Warren said it remained an aspiration, but it would depend on future circumstances. | |
|  | Trees and access to Mellor walk and Symonds Close | |
|  | Another resident asked about the possibility of removing the leylandi trees along Mellor Walk and Symonds Close. The meeting was reminded of previous efforts by the Parish Council to get the threes cut back if not removed. Cllr Brennan explained there was nothing the Parish Council or B&NES could do under current legislation however if concerned residents were willing to negotiate with the land owner to see what could be done the Parish Council would consider contributing to the cost. | |
|  | Ash Die Back | |
|  | A resident who owns land between the railway and the canal reported that trees on her land had been confirmed as infected with Ash Die Back. Trees on land belonging to the CRT were also infected. She was liaising with the CRT and other interested parties to agree how best to handle the infection and would report back to the Parish Council. | |
|  | There being no other questions the meeting closed at 21:90. | |
|  |  | |