

Bathampton Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th.,April, 2012
in the Village Hall, Bathampton

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

1. Apologies: These were received from Cllr. Jones.
2. Minutes of the last Meeting:
The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th.,March, 2012 had been circulated. Two amendments were made as follows:-
In the sixth Paragraph of 4b). Highways Group Report, the following wording was deleted: “now have a new arrangement for the Parish Liaison Meetings. It...”
Secondly, in the second paragraph of 5.Matters Arising, the word “educate” was changed to “advise”.
Cllr. Rossiter, seconded by Cllr. Richards, proposed that these amended Minutes be accepted. Carried unanimously.

3. Finance:

- a) To Approve the Financial Report for March, 2012

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

- b) To Approve Expenditure for April, 2012

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

Bathampton Vill.Hall	Hire of Room	£ 27.00
SSE Contracting	Street Light M'tnce	£ 64.16(+VAT)
EDF Energy	Electricity	£140.51(+VAT)
N.A.L.C.	Subscription to L.C.R.	£ 15.50
Bathford Summer Festival	Festival Brochure Grant	£ 150.00

It was proposed by Cllr. Richards and seconded by Cllr. Ardrey. that these invoices should be paid. Carried unanimously.

CLERK

In addition, the Clerk said that he would pay the affiliation fee to A.L.C.A. which had been approved at the March meeting.

4. Group Reports

- a) Planning & Conservation Group

The report had been circulated

Cllr. King reported that we had objected to the plan for 99 Hantone Hill. It contains a glass balustrade which is out of keeping and overlooks neighbours.

The proposed Orangery at York House is acceptable even though it entails demolishing some parts of the old house.

4. Group Reports(Cont'd.)a) Planning & Conservation Group(Cont'd.)

The Enforcement Officer is writing a detailed report on Candywood Lees which is then presented to a higher authority. The owners then have 28 days in which to appeal. Further action cannot then be taken for a further six months.

Concerning the Raft Café, the owner has been recommended to put in his own planning application for the external decking.

b) Highways Group

The report had been circulated.

Cllr. Rossiter reported that a further meeting of the V.P.A. with the Highways Agency took place yesterday. The Highways Agency has a four year plan for the A.36 which does not include any new capital expenditure in either Bathampton or Claverton, the temporary V.A.S. at the western end of the Village is to be made permanent. Parish and Town councils can contribute to highways improvements if they so wish but Cllr. Rossiter felt that if we wish to have a second V.A.S. on the Warminster Road, we would have to fund it fully as it is doubtful if the Highways Agency would be prepared to pay any of the cost. He will ask the H.A. what the full cost of supplying and installing a second V.A.S. would be.

K.R.

Concerning the Kennet & Avon Canal, there was little to report. Cllr. Rossiter and Mr.David Batho have decided not to apply for individual seats on the Partnership Board.

Cllr. Mayo reported on several footpath matters. British Waterways object to the proposed change of status of the swing bridge which was applied for in our recent application to incorporate it in the Definitive Map. In the meantime, the footpath to the east of St.Nicholas Court has now been approved for inclusion on the Definitive Map.

Cllr. Mayo has done a survey of the benches along the canal towpath. One by Candy's Bridge is in a poor state of repair and two others need minor repairs(Probably costing £50 and £150). He suggested that the bank opposite the School might be a suitable place for a new bench.

Cllr. Mayo then presented a report giving details of the Parish Agency Scheme for maintaining footpaths. This would give us a grant of £593 per year for the first year followed by an annual grant of £587. After some discussion, it was agreed unanimously to go ahead and enroll into the Scheme.

D.M.

Cllr. Christley then asked if there was any prospect of getting funding for the pedestrian crossing by Harbutts. The answer was no.

c) Leisure & Amenities Group

The report had been circulated.

Cllr. Richards reported the removal of the hump at the Down Lane entrance to the allotments had left an unfinished area. He was now considering perhaps using perforated tiles for the surface.

M.R.

Cont'd....

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

The Chairman reported that Cllr. Rossiter will be attending a meeting on the Green Infrastructure Strategy.

K.R.

The Chairman mentioned the Annual Parish Meeting which takes place on Thursday, 24th, May. He wished to change the format. Rather than having individual reports from each group, he suggested that his report covered all aspects of the Council. This could be followed by an "Open House" where all those attending would be free to ask questions on any of the Council's work and activities. He then suggested that we have a speaker to give a short presentation to conclude the meeting. He had three possibilities in mind and he would make the arrangements.

A.M.e) Parish Web Site

Cllr. Mayo said that the site had had 6 hits in one day. He was asked to put a link to the VPA site.

f) Clerk's Report

Miss Gill Huggins, on behalf of Bathampton Local History Research Group had written to thank us for the recent grant.

St. John's Ambulance have written with an offer of a Community Defibrillator. It was felt that the best place for one to be situated would be in the Village Hall. Details were passed on.

C.P.R.E. Avonside Branch have invited us to take part in the "Village of the Year Competition". As Cllr. Jones, who organized this two years ago was not present, it was agreed that she would be asked if she would organize it again.

A.M.

The Clerk reported that he had signed the contracts for cutting the grass on both the allotments and on the playing field.

The audit papers have been received from Mazars. The accounts have to be approved by the June meeting of the Council.

We have received notification from Bath & N.E.S. Council that the grant of £780 for repairs to the childrens play area has been paid into our bank account. This was obtained through our Local Councillor's Initiative. The Clerk agreed to write and thank him.

CLERK

A letter of thanks has been received from Bathampton Cricket Club for the grant.

5. Matters Arising:

There was much discussion about the possibility of having a small café on the playing field. It was felt that it would compete with the Village Stores and so it was agreed that Cllr. Richards would talk to the management of the Stores to determine their feelings on the matter.

M.R.

6. Open Forum

Cllr. Ardrey said that he is receiving many press releases and notification of meetings on Localism and he is not sure how much he should be involved at this stage. It was pointed out that the Neighbourhood Planning Protocol is up for consultation at present and Bath & N.E.S. Council will not approve it until after the consultation ends. It was suggested that he waits until after this for a local meeting to attend.

Cllr. Christley said that a brochure of the Jubilee events would be circulated when it was available. The Village event at the Bathampton School would be on Saturday, 16th., June.

Cllr. Mayo said that he needs headlines for the website to direct people to the Minutes and Reports.

Cllr. King had noted a press release from an organization- Local Works, asking us either individually or as a parish council to support the Sustainable Communities Act Regulations which have been delayed by over nine months. It asks us to write to our M.P. urging him to write to the Communities Minister, Greg Clark. After discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Jacob Rees-Mogg on behalf of the Parish Council.

CLERK

Cllr. Wing said that plans had been drawn up for a disabled access to the Village Hall. She passed the copy around. The Council gave its approval.

7. Date of Next meeting: Thursday, 17th., May, 2012
At 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall

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

Signed..... Chairman,
17th., May, 2012