

**Bathampton Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup>, April, 2018**  
**in the Village Hall, Bathampton**

Present: Cllrs. J.Helps, S.Andrews and J.Bird.

**1. Apologies:** These were received from Cllrs. M. Brennan, G.Ardrey and L.King. In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-chairman, the meeting was chaired by Cllr. Helps

**2. Declarations of Interest:** There were none.

**3. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup>, March, 2018 had been circulated. Cllr Andrews, seconded by the Cllr. Bird, proposed that the Minutes, be accepted. Carried unanimously.

**4. Matters Arising**

The Clerk reported that he had only just managed to speak to the Handyman this eveing concerning a list of his tasks. He would talk to him more and agree a list.

**CLERK**

Cllr. Andrews reported that the Canal & River Trust have agreed to renovate the heritage diamond-shaped, weight restriction signs on the canal bridge.

The Clerk reported that he had registered the Council with the Keep Britain Tidy Campaign. This means that we can get assistance if we decide to run a special litter pick.

Concerning our own street lights, Mr Burrell of B.& N.E.S. Council does not appear to be in a position to help us. In the meantime, the Clerk is to contact S.S.E. and query why the maintenance contract is out of date.

**CLERK**

Cllr. Andrews said that the cutting back of the foliage on the Warminster Road by St.George's Hill now seems to be finished. There is still concern about the amount of litter on the main roads. B.& N.E.S.Council say that they are dealing with it but we have seen no apparent improvement, as yet..

The Clerk will remind Cllr. Mayo about getting the Meadows footpath put on the Definitive Map.

**CLERK**

It has been reported that the kissing gate where the footpath from Hantone Hill emerges onto the old plate railway track has been repaired by the Cotswold Wardens.

Following the last meeting, the date of the Annual Parish meeting has been fixed for Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup>, May.

Concerning the blue shed which Cllr. Andrews reported at the last meeting, B.& N.E.S.Council are trying to trace the owner.

**5. Finance**

**a) Approval of the Financial Report for March, 2018**

Cllr. Bird, seconded by Cllr. Andrews, proposed that the report be approved. Carried unanimously.

Cont'd.....

**5. Finance(Cont'd.)****b) Approval of Expenditure for April 2018**

The Clerk reported that two invoices had been received this month as follows:-

S.S.E.Contracting	Street Light main'tnce (Qtr.end 31/3)	£ 64.16(+VAT)
E.D.F. Energy	Electricity (Qtr. Ending 31/3/2018)	£ 107.77(+VAT)

Cllr. Helps, seconded by Cllr. Bird, proposed that the first invoice be paid and asked for agreement to the second being paid by direct debit. Carried unanimously.

**CLERK**

The Chairman then mentioned the repairs required on the playground. A new cradle swing seat and chains are required. We have a quote for £ 200 from G.B.Sport & Leisure but this did not include fitting. The Clerk was asked to obtain a revised quote including the fitting. It was unanimously agreed to accept this if it came to less than £300.

**CLERK**

The Clerk said that B. & N.E.S.Council had offered to do our Playground Inspections for the coming year for the same charge as last year(£ 229.50) plus 2%. The Chairman, seconded by Cllr. Bird, proposed that we accept this offer and it was carried unanimously.

**CLERK**

We finally received a quotation from Idverde Ltd for doing 12 cuts of the grass on the playing field and the allotments during the 2018 growing season. It was in the sum of £1531.04 plus VAT. As we needed to get the grass cut urgently, the Councillors had been circulated before this meeting. Cllrs. Brennan, Ardrey, King and Bird all agreed that the price was reasonable and the Clerk was asked to order the grass cutting immediately. The first cut has already been done.

**CLERK****c) Clerk's Report**

The Clerk confirmed that the six monthly payment of our precept and the grant had been received into our bank account.

He also said that we had been notified by B.& N.E.S.Council tha the grant for the vegetation clearance along the footpaths had been increased to £645.66p.

A public paths Modification Order has been received. This is for path BA1/32 which is the path from the Tynning Road level crossing to Bathford crossing the river via the railway bridge at Bathford. There is now a period of six weeks in which objections and representations can be made.

Our insurance is due for renewal on 1<sup>st</sup> June and a renewal quote has been received from Zurich Insurance. To be considered at the May meeting.

Finally, the Clerk reported that he had received the papers for the external audit. They come from a new auditor and have been sent out for the first time by email. In the meantime, he has contacted our internal auditor who will be able to do the internal audit again this year.

**6) On Going Items****a) Village Shop**

It seems that the premises were purchased prior to the auction and that the purchaser intends to convert them to residential use. Other than that, there is no news. The Clerk had been contacted by a resident who is very concerned about the demise of the shop. She would be very happy to help run it as a community shop but would not want to be the organiser!

**6) On Going Items(Cont'd.)****b) 19 Down Lane**

Even though Mrs. Batterbury said that she would park her car on her drive as soon as the skip was removed, this will not now happen for some time. Major building work is taking place involving scaffolding which prevents cars or skips being parked on her drive.

**7. Group Reports****a) Planning & Conservation Group.**

The report had been circulated.

It was noted that two extensions at properties on Hantone Hill to which we had objected because they were out of keeping with the surrounding properties, have been permitted. In the absence of Cllrs. King and Ardrey, there was no further discussion.

**b) Highways Group**

Concern was expressed at the persistent lack of litter clearance along all the main roads in the area, despite alerting B.& N.E.S.Council to the problem.

It seems that funds are available for a feasibility study into transport links in the area under R.I.S.2 (Road Investigative Strategy). This would obviously include the N. S link.

B.& N.E.S.Council are consulting on a proposed Congestion Charge for Bath and are proposing to include the Cleveland Bridge in the area. This would mean that any one living in Bathampton would have to pay to get to the motorway.(Cleveland Bridge or Toll Bridge). Cllr. Helps said that she would put a note about it in the Newsletter.

**c) Footpaths**

It is believed that the volunteers will be beginning to cut back the vegetation along the footpaths.

**D.M.****d) Leisure & Amenities Group**

The report had been circulated.

The Chairman said that she was concerned at the state of the noticeboards. The lettering was peeling off and they need re-varnishing. She would ask the handyman if he could do this.

**J.H.**

She also suggested consideration of a separate noticeboard for adverts that would usually appear in the shop window,

**e) Communications**

The Chairman said that she had tweeted the Art Exhibition and mentioned the problems with getting new councillors. She had heard from a lady who was interested in being on the Council but it was not clear if she lived in Bathampton. The Clerk said that he would look out the Rules for being a parish councillor.

**CLERK**

Cont'd.....

**f) Policy & Finance**

The Annual Parish Meeting has now been fixed for Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup>., May at 7.30 pm.

The next meeting of the Parish Council on 17<sup>th</sup>., May is the Annual Meeting at which the Chairman and Vice-chairman are elected.

**8.. Open Forum**

The Chairman said that the deadline for getting reports for the Newsletter is Friday, 27<sup>th</sup>.,April.

She said that the Brownies will be without a Brown Owl as the present one is a student who will be finishing her course and moving away.

She also mentioned the Hospital Taxi service run through Age Concern. She felt that this is one of the items which could be publicised in our noticeboards.

**9. Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup>.,May, 2018  
at 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.00 pm.

Signed..... Chairman,  
17<sup>th</sup>.,May, 2018