

Bathampton Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th., December, 2011
in the Village Hall, Bathampton

Present: Cllrs. A. McCann, G.Ardrey, K.Jones, M. Richards, K.Rossiter
and S.Wing.

1. Apologies: These were received from Cllrs. Christley, King and Mayo.

2. Minutes of the last Meeting:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17th., November, 2011 had been circulated.

An Amendment was made as follows:- In the third line of the Highways Group Report, "and other items " was added after "a second V.A.S." Cllr. Richards, seconded by Cllr. Jones, proposed that these amended Minutes be accepted. Carried unanimously.

3. Finance:

a) To Approve the Financial Report for November, 2011

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

b) To Approve Expenditure for December, 2011

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

S.L.C.C.	Annual Membership	£110.00
B. & N.E.S.Council	Printing Newsletter	£ 145.50

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

CLERK

4. Group Reports

a) Planning & Conservation Group

In the absence of Cllr. King, Cllr. Wing reported.

The Parish Council's response to the retrospective application for the wooden cabin on land adjacent to the canal and Meadow Lane had been circulated with the report. It is not known when the decision will be made.

Agents for Vodafone have sent information concerning an application which is to be forthcoming for a mobile phone mast in Jewsons Yard (on Tynning Road). We will await the actual application before making any comment.

b) Highways Group

The report had been circulated.

Cllr. Rossiter reported that B. & N.E.S.Council has misunderstood the situation on the Canal. They have no co-ordination on canal issues and refer to boaters as "water travellers".

The response from our M.P. concerning High Hedges has been disappointing.

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4. Group Reports(Cont'd.)

b) Highways Group(Cont'd.)

The draft V.P.A. response to the B.& N.E.S. consultation paper on Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, which has been prepared by Dave Batho(Claverton P.C.) and Cllr. Rossiter was circulated with the report. The Chairman, seconded by Cllr. Wing, proposed that we approve this draft response. Agreed.

K.R.

It was stated that there was unlikely to be any publically owned land in our Parish which could be identified as a suitable site. Much is Green Belt and not eligible.

In the absence of Cllr. Mayo, it was agreed to leave discussion of the Parish Agency Scheme for the maintenance of footpaths to the next meeting.

c) Leisure & Amenities Group

The report had been circulated.

As nothing had been heard from British Waterways concerning the small hut at the corner of Jubilee Gardens, Cllr. Richards wondered if our Local History Research Group would like to take an interest in it. It could be listed as a "Local Asset" and put in a Local Plan.

M.R.

Jeff Havvock has been instructed to remove the dead trees on the allotments and to proceed with making a parking area by the Down Lane entrance.

The Clerk reported that he had applied for a grant under the auspices of a Ward Councillors Initiative to cover the cost of repairs to the childrens' play area.

The Clerk then said that as we have agreed to change the allotment rental year to begin on 1^{st.}, January as from 1^{st.}, January, 2013, we need to agree any increase in rent for that year now so that we can give twelve months notice of the increase. The Chairman, seconded by Cllr. Richards, then formally proposed that we increase the rents by 50p. per lug as from 1^{st.}, January, 2013. This was agreed unanimously.

CLERK

d) Policy & Finance Group

The report had been circulated.

The Chairman said that there was nothing further to add.

He then gave advance warning of the deadline for the next Newsletter. This would be Friday, 20^{th.}, January, one day after our next meeting.

Cllr. Ardrey had circulated a report on his attendance at a Neighbourhood Planning Protocol Briefing. This is a new aspect of planning associated with the Localism Act which is due to come into force next April. Neighbourhood Plans, though not compulsory, can be formulated by parish councils or by a neighbourhood forum.

e) Parish Web Site

In Cllr. Mayo's absence this item was carried over to the next meeting.

MIN/DEC/11

4. Group Reports(Cont'd.

f) Clerk's Report

P.C.S.O. Greg Doyle has asked if we have settled on a date yet for the next PACT. Meeting. As we are planning on having a joint meeting with Claverton P.C., Cllr. McCann said that he would liaise with Mr.David Batho to decide which of our scheduled or otherwise meetings could be a PACT meeting.

A.M.

B.& N.E.S.Council have written to say could they have our Precept request by 6th.,February,2012.

Letters have been received requesting grants from the Parish Council. These are from Bathampton Cricket Club, Bathampton Gardeners' Association and Bathampton Local History Research Group.

Mr. G.Hogg of 2 Holcombe Lane has replied to our letter about the noisy cockerel. He confirms that he has a cockerel but disputes the fact that its crowing is annoying to neighbours. He says that aeroplanes and seagulls make more noise than his cockerel. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Mr. Godfrey(from whom the original letter of complaint came) and suggest that hereports it to the B.& N.E.S.Council's Environmental Health Department.

CLERK

Finally, the Clerk confirmed that our membership of the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust has been renewed.

5. Matters Arising:

The Chairman reminded councillors that we still need to find a "Mission Statement" for the Web-site.

Also, Cllr. Rossiter reminded the Council that we were to consider putting a bus shelter in Holcombe Lane by the shops. However, the Chairman said that the No.4 route is to be upgraded to a Showcase route and it would therefore be best to postpone any decision at present.

The Clerk said that he had not yet written to the owner of the house in The Chestertons whose fir trees are encroaching on to the footpath of the Warminster Road opposite Hantone Hill. He would write as soon as the number of the house was confirmed.

CLERK

7. Open Forum

(a) It was suggested that a note should be put in the Newsletter reminding residents that it is their responsibility to stop vegetation from their gardens overhanging footpaths.

(b) Cllr. Richards reported that Alan Saunders is to be commended for repairing an item of the Council's equipment.

8. Date of Next meeting: Thursday, 19th.,January, 2012
At 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.42 p.m.

Signed..... Chairman,
19th.,January, 2012