

Bathampton Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th., January, 2013
in the Village Hall, Bathampton

Present: Cllrs. A. McCann, G.Ardrey, , K.Jones,
D. Mayo and M. Richards.

1. Apologies: These were received from Cllrs. M.Brennan, S. Christley and L. King.
2. Minutes of the last Meeting:
The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th., December, 2012 had been circulated.
Cllr. Jones, seconded by the Chairman, proposed that these Minutes be accepted. Carried unanimously.

3. Finance:

a) To Approve the Financial Report for December, 2012

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

b) To Approve Expenditure for January, 2013

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

SSE Contracting	Street Light Maintenance	£ 64.16(+VAT)
EDF Energy	Electricity (Qtr.End.31/12/12)	£140.51(+VAT)

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

CLERK

4 & 5. To Approve the Budget & Precept for the Financial Year, 2013-2014

A proposed budget, including proposed grants to be awarded had been circulated.

The Chairman explained how the rules governing the payment of Council Tax benefit had changed. Basically, B.& N.E.S.Council have decided to award us a grant of £1,270 and we have to take this into consideration when deciding our precept for the coming year.

It was proposed by the Policy & Finance Group that the precept be reduced to £23,000. After some discussion. Cllr.Ardrey, seconded by Cllr. Richards, proposed that the budget, grants and the precept be approved. Carried unanimously.

CLERK

6. Group Reports

a) Planning & Conservation Group

The report had been circulated. In the absence of Cllr. King, Cllr. Ardrey reported further.

The rear extension on the lower ground floor of 9 Devonshire Road had been permitted. A new application had been received to build a bungalow on the existing foundations on land to the rear of 45 Devonshire Road.

Cllr. Ardrey said that there were concerns about

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6. Group Reports(Cont'd.)

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

the roof line and the front gable. They were not in keeping with neighbouring properties.

An application had been received for a permanent agricultural workers residence at New Leaf Farm and at 4 Miller Walk some tree work has been applied for.

An application has been made to increase the intake of Bathampton School by more than 25%. This does not entail any construction of new buildings as the increased numbers can be accommodated in the present buildings. After some discussion, it was unanimously agreed to support this increase and the Clerk was asked to respond.

CLERK

b) Highways Group

The report had been circulated.

Cllr. Mayo reported that B.& N.E.S. are getting quotations for the installation of steps on the footpath down to the swing bridge. He is hoping to talk to the Dry Arch Growers with a view to sharing the cost of some scythes which would then be available for both organizations to use.

D.M.

He then said that he would like to produce a leaflet which would encourage use of our local footpaths. If they were walked more often, there would be less maintenance to do. It was agreed in principle that he could spend money from the B.& N.E.S. Agency Grant on this.

D.M.

On Tuesday, 19th., February, there is a meeting of the V.P.A. with the Highways Agency. Cllr. Christley cannot attend and has asked if anyone else can deputise. Cllr. Mayo said that he would ask Cllr. Brennan if she could attend.

D.M.

It was reported that there is still a sign in Holcombe Lane warning of the speed hump even though the hump has long since been removed. Cllr. Jones said that she would contact B.& N.E.S.Council.

K.J.

c) Leisure & Amenities Group

The report had been circulated.

The Clerk reported that approximately two thirds of the rents had been received. Cllr. Richards mentioned that one tenant is giving up his plot.

It was generally agreed that the Christmas tree and lights had been a great success. Cllr. Richards asked permission to give a small token to Mr. Ray Book for his involvement in connecting up the electricity. This was agreed to unanimously.

M.R.

Regarding the fallen wall at the rear of The Normans, Cllr. Richards had obtained three quotations for its repair:-

A.J.Rich Landscaping	£314.30
Crymson Property Services	£220.00

It was agreed to accept the quotation from Crymson which is a local firm.

M.R.

Cont'd.....

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6. Group Reports(Cont'd.)

d) Policy & Finance Group

The report had been circulated.

The Chairman reported that there was nothing to add.

e) Parish Web Site

The Chairman said that we should delay consideration of the Website until both Cllr. Mayo and Cllr. Christley are present. Agreed.

f) Clerk's Report

The only communication of note is a letter from a resident of the High Street. He thanks the Parish Council for what they have done by the canal bridge and then goes onto suggest that there should be Residents Parking in the High Street as he feels that it is canal boat owners who are parking there.

7. Matters Arising:

There were none

8. Open Forum

(a) Cllr. Richards said that there had been a spate of burglaries especially around The Normans. He was concerned that there did not appear to be a system for reporting problems around the Village. Some areas had Neighbourhood Watch which could inform residents.

(b) Cllr. Mayo said that it was difficult to read the notices in some of the noticeboards either because of condensation inside or because the Perspex had gone opaque. The Clerk said that the noticeboards needed attention as several of the locks were not working. He said he would survey them all and make a list of what was required.

CLERK

(c) Cllr. Ardrey had agreed to attend a Placemaking Plan Workshop on 2nd.,February as well as the Parish Cluster Group meeting on 27th.,, February. At the latter meeting, Cllr. Ardrey is requested to ask what progress has been made in obtaining a short list of three sites for the Park & Ride east of Bath.

G.A.

(d) Cllr. Ardrey drew the Council's attention to a B.& N.E.S. Council's publication on Neighbourhood Planning, which he said was worth looking at. He would email the web address to everyone.

G.A.

9. Date of Next meeting: Thursday, 21st.,February, 2013
At 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.52 p.m.

Signed..... Chairman,

21st.,February, 2013