

Bathampton Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th, January, 2017
in the Village Hall, Bathampton

Present: Cllrs. Brennan, S.Andrews, J.Bird, L. King, G.Ardrey, J. Helps
and D. Mayo.

1. **Apologies**: These were received from Cllr. L. McMurray.

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

3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15^h, December 2016 had been circulated. In the absence of any amendments, Cllr.Ardrey, seconded by Cllr. King proposed that the Minutes, be accepted. Carried unanimously.

4. **Matters Arising**

The Clerk reported that he had received a reply from the resident of West House concerning the trees in Meadow Lane. He has not yet done any work but the situation is hampered by not knowing the ownership of the verges of Meadow Lane. The Parish Council has replied saying that there is no need for updates but we would much appreciate them.

CLERK

It was resolved that Cllr. McMurray would be asked to put in place an email address of clerk@bathamptonparishcouncil for the clerk.

L.M.

Concerning the Meadow Area, it was reported that signage would be in place by the end of the month.

Cllr. Helps reported that the repairs had been done to the Zip Wire the day before our last meeting.

5. **Finance**

a) **Approval of the Budget for the year 2017 to 2018**

A draft budget had been drawn up by Cllrs. Brennan, King, Helps and the Clerk. This had been circulated. After some discussion, a sum of £100 was itemised for footpath tools. Following this alteration, Cllr. Ardrey, seconded by Cllr. Andrews, proposed that the budget be approved. Carried unanimously.

b) **Approval of Grants for the year 2017 to 2018**

It was proposed by the Chairman that the grants to Village organisations and the Honorarium paid to our Planning Consultant should remain at £2100 and £1050 respectively. This was seconded by Cllr. Helps and carried unanimously.

c) **Approval of the Precept for the year 2017 to 2018**

As a result of approving the proposed budget, Cllr. Helps, seconded by Cllr. Mayo, proposed that we set the precept at £23,000 as in previous years. This was carried unanimously.

CLERK

d) **Approval of the Financial Report for December,2016**

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

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5. Finance(Cont'd.)**e) Approval of Expenditure for January,2017**

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

S.S.E. Enterprise.	Streetlight M'tce (Qtr. End 31/12/16)	£ 64.16(+VAT)
G.B.Sport & Leisure Ltd.	Repairs to Zip Wire	£280.00(+VAT)
Cllr. Mayo	Gifts for Footpath Volunteers	£ 30.00(+VAT)

Cllr. Ardrey, seconded by Cllr. Helps, proposed that these invoices be paid.

Carried unanimously.

f) Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that he had passed a Public Rights of Way Modification Order onto Cllr. Mayo who said that it is for a path near to the University and Sham Castle field. He fears that the Order may not be granted and the use of the footpath will be lost.

Our M.P. Jacob Rees-Mogg has acknowledged receipt of our response to the Joint Spatial Plan and the Joint Transport Plan.

A Rural Facilities Questionnaire has been received from Bath & N.E.S.Council asking about any changes to the facilities in our parish. It was thought that there had been no changes and so the Clerk was asked to reply accordingly.

CLERK

6. Ongoing Items**a) Community Speedwatch**

Cllr. Bird reported that the Speedwatch is up and running. With two persons manning the observation point, one records the speed with the radar gun whilst the other has to record the number plate, colour and make of the vehicle. This is not an easy task. Details of those exceeding the limit are then passed on to the Police. Speeding drivers get a warning letter only if the number plate and vehicle details match. She said that vehicles definitely slow down when the driver sees them in their Hi-Vis jackets. She ended by saying that more volunteers are needed.

Cllr. Andrews said that there has been a request for funding for some signage to alert drivers. Also, perhaps some 20 mph stickers to go on refuse bins etc. He will ask the co-ordinator to put a proposal to us for what she would like.

S.A.

b) Meadows Cycle Track

Cllr. King said that a donation had been received which will pay for the grass cutting this year. A plan has been put forward for all the signage.

B.& N.E.S.Council's Waterscape Plan will be published soon.

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6. Ongoing Items(Cony'd.)**c) Park & Ride**

The Council is to make its decision on which site it prefers at a meeting at the Guildhall on 25th., January. Speaking slots are being allocated and the Chairman said she hoped to have one. Posters are being put up and she urged everyone to do everything they can to support. She asked the Clerk to contact the Clerks of Batheaston and Bathford Parishes to ask if they would be willing to support a Judicial Review financially, if the need should arise and to advise us on the legality of us doing so.

CLERK**d) Placemaking Plan**

We are still awaiting the Inspector's report which will now probably be in the Spring!

e) Playground Repairs

Cllr. Helps had circulated details of quotes for fencing from four different suppliers. The costs varied from around £6,000 to over £12,000. After discussion, it was agreed that we should go with Idverde who have quoted £6,650 for a galvanised steel fence or £6,800 for a wooden fence. Having seen pictures of the two types of fence, a majority of the Council decided to go for the steel fence as it would probably last longer.

CLERK

As we had still not paid for the grass cutting last year, Cllr. Helps asked the Clerk to contact Idverde to find out why we had not had the invoice.

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

The report had been circulated.

Cllr. King reported that Mrs. Vivian had not appeared at court to answer the charge of criminal damage arising from when she dug up the access track after having had planning permission refused, followed by an appeal which was then dismissed. Mrs. Vivian has also applied for a judicial review following the refusal of planning permission for four self-build houses and an appeal which had been dismissed. The judicial review was not allowed and B. & N.E.S. Council have been awarded costs.

The Prior's Walk Group are writing to M.P. Jacob Rees-Mogg again to see if action can be taken concerning the Leylandii trees.

The plan for temporary shepherd huts at New Leaf Farm has been refused and a considerable amount of tree work at the Abbey Rectory has been approved.

b) Highways Group

The report had been circulated.

On the canal, there are problems with boats overstaying their mooring period. One boat has been burnt out. There was discussion about who should be emptying the litter bins along the canal. They get full with dog

mess bags and do not have liners. Our Handyman has a supply of lining bags but it is not really his job to empty them.

Cllr. Andrews said that there are problems with cyclists and walkers sharing the towpath. There have been many incidents. He is to write to the C.R.T. to urge them to get the signage installed as soon as possible and to ask them to consider what else could be done.

S.A.

There was no further news about The George car park.

Cont'd.....

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7. Group Reports(Cont'd.)

c) Footpaths

There was nothing to report.

d) Leisure & Amenities Group

Cllr. Helps said that there was nothing further to report.

The Clerk said that the allotment rents are beginning to come in.

Cllr. Helps produced a draft of a letter which she would like to put in the newsletter. This is addressed to the allotment tenants in the village. The Council felt that part should be included but some should be sent directly to the allotment holders.

J.H.

e) Communications

In the absence of Cllr. McMurray, there was no report.

f) Policy & Finance

The report had been circulated.

A Parking Questionnaire sent by B.&N.E.S.Council requires a response by 3rd.,February. Cllr. Ardrey volunteered to draft a response.

Another request from B.& N.E.S.Council is they want our opinion about the Bathavon Forum. Should it meet in the centre of Bath or should it split into two separate areas? The Chairman said that it did not seem to have good attendance at its meeting and rarely had a quorum. Also it seems to duplicate the work of the Parish Liaison Meetings. The Clerk to draft a reply.

CLERK

8.. Open Forum

Cllr. King mentioned the Safer Routes to School programme. Parents and children were being encouraged to walk to school. Included in this, is pushing for an investment in safety signs etc.,in Mill Lane.

It was reported that residents were contributing to raise £6000 for the upgrade of the Broadband box at the top of Down Lane which should give better Broadband coverage for the higher parts of the village.

Cllr. Ardrey reported that he had reviewed the reconciliation of the Accounts for the quarter ending 31st.,December,2016.

He also reported that he had attended the Bath Preservation Trust's Environs Committee Meeting. The main topic was the Park & Ride East of Bath.

Mrs. Sandy Carter who has regularly litter-picked on a Friday in the Village has written to thank the Parish Council for nominating her for a Community Award. However, she is not able to attend the award ceremony.

She also says that she is leaving Bathampton and moving to Devon.. She is keen that someone else should take on the role and is willing to pass on details of the task and the route she takes.. The Clerk was asked to reply to her, sending a map for her to record her route. The Chairman said that she

CLERK

would mention this in the Newsletter.

M.B.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday, 16th.,February, 2017

At 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.20 p.m.

Signed..... Chairman,

16th.,February, 2017