

Bathampton Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th, July, 2017
in the Village Hall, Bathampton

Present: Cllrs. M.Brennan,,G.Ardrey, J.Bird, L. King and D. Mayo.

1. Apologies: These were received from Cllrs. S.Andrews, J. Helps and L. McMurray.

2. Declarations of Interest: There were none.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th, June, 2017 had been circulated. After two minor amendments, Cllr. Ardrey, seconded by the Cllr. Bird, proposed that the Minutes, be accepted. Carried unanimously.

4. Matters Arising

Idverde Ltd. have now replied saying that they have removed the grass bank opposite the School from their contract and have sent a revised quotation. The Clerk will compare this to the original quote. **CLERK**

The Clerk had received an answer from Bath & N.E.S.Council's Planning Department saying that the trees alongside the old skittle alley of "The George" had been given permission to be reduced in height by 2m. (Except for one which could be removed). In fact, they were all cut to the ground. It was agreed that there was nothing more we could do at present. **CLERK**

Cllr. McMurray is to be reminded he is writing a guide to Twitter. **L.M.**

There appears to be a lack of road sweeping around the Village. To be discussed next month when Cllr. Andrews is in attendance. **CLERK**

5. Finance

a) Approval of the Financial Report for June, 2017

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

b) Approval of Expenditure for July,2017

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

Mr.R.Taylor	Supplying Plants for planters	£ 69.90
S.S.E.Contracting	Street Light M'ce (End June,2017)	£ 64.16(+VAT)
Valley Parishes Alliance	Annual Membership Fee	£ 150.00
E.D.F.Energy	Electricity (End of June,2017)	£ 97.55(+VAT)

The Clerk pointed out that E.D.F. Energy are due to collect this payment by Direct Debit on 31st, July. It was agreed that the Clerk would wait until after this date to see if the Direct Debit is put into operation. The Chairman, seconded by Cllr. Ardrey, proposed that the other three invoices be paid.

Carried unanimously. **CLERK**

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5. Finance(Cont'd.)

c) Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from Avon & Somerset Police who wish to extend their Neighbourhood Watch activities within the Parish. There are one or two areas already operating. After discussion, it was agreed that we would ask to be registered as a Parish and ask to be kept updated with events within the Village. We would also ask for a list of the existing Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in the Village.

CLERK

The Clerk reported that he had sent details of our street lights to B.& N.E.S.Council so that they could quote for changing them over to L.E.D. lighting but no reply had been received. The Clerk to chase up.

CLERK

Another update to the Electoral Roll has been received. There are only 3 deletions this time.

The Minutes of the Valley Parishes Alliance meeting held on 5th., July have been received and circulated.

6. Ongoing Items

a) The George Car Park

The situation has not changed. However, the new manageress has arrived and appears to be a "New Broom". Cllr. King will visit her again. Cllr. King had also visited Bathampton Mill to see if there had been any knock-on effect. There had not. The Clerk had written to B.& N.E.S.Council about the lights. They do not need planning permission unless they are illuminating signs. If the lights are too bright and causing a nuisance, one can complain to the Environmental Services Department.

L.K.

b) Community Speedwatch

Cllr. Bird reported that at the Bathampton Lane site, 26 vehicles had exceeded the speed limit of 20 mph. The top recorded speed was 36 mph and 21 letters were sent out by the police. At the Warminster Road site, 37 vehicles had exceeded the speed limit of 30 mph. The top recorded speed was 42 and 32 warning letters were sent out.

c) Park & Ride

The B.& N.E.S. Council's decision not to go ahead with the Park & Ride was welcomed. The chairman said that in view of this, there would be no need for us to donate £1000 to the Bathampton Meadows Alliance. This was agreed. It was further agreed that we are extremely grateful to the Meadows Alliance and that we should formally thank them for all the hard work which they had done in fighting the Plan and for this successful outcome.

M.B.

d) Placemaking Plan

This has now been adopted.

e) Neighbourhood Planning

We had been advised by Rosemary Naish (A.L.C.A.) that it would be a good idea to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan which would protect the Meadows as a Local Green Space. Even though B.& N.E.S.Council are the owners of the land, they would not be able to develop the land unless they were able to give us an equivalent open space within our Parish. There is no such area available. All the councillors were in wholehearted agreement and it

was agreed that we should apply to B.& N.E.S.Council for designation immediately.

Cont'd.....

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6. Ongoing Items(Cont'd.)

e) Neighbourhood Planning(Cont'd.)

The whole process could take a year or more. We need to work in parallel with Batheaston P.C. and a meeting would be organised with them. Grants are available and we would need to use a Chartered Landscape Architect. Much evidence already exists as gathered by the Meadows Alliance.

M.B.

f) Village Shop

There are rumours circulating about the continuance of the Post Office and the shop. In the absence of any concrete information, Cllr. Ardrey agreed to contact the Practice Manager of the Surgery to get this information.

G.A.

g) Community Empowerment Fund

A letter had been received from B.& N.E.S. Council about Joint Working Initiatives. These are the Parish Charter and the Community Empowerment Fund. This latter initiative has £810 available as a grant to us to enable us to improve our area. This grant is dependant on "match funding" either by money, volunteer time or expertise. We would like to upgrade our childrens' play area but play equipment is very costly.. There is also the possibility of grants available under our Local Councillors Initiatives. This is ongoing and the Council were asked to consider it in the long term.

7. Group Reports

a) Planning & Conservation Group.

The report had been circulated.

Cllr. King reported that the Planning Application for a rear extension at Manor Barn had been refused.

The application for an extension at 3 Devonshire Road had been permitted in error and it seems that nothing can be done to change the decision. The Planning Department are going to talk to the owner to try and reach a more acceptable proposal.

The Weeping Willow tree, at the bottom end of The Normans, is again causing problems. The owner has had permission to cut it back but has not done so. The Clerk was asked to write and encourage the owner to cut it back.

CLERK

Cllr. King reported that some tree work is now being done in Meadow Lane.

Cllr. King mentioned that there is an isolated plot of land between the Jewson's Yard site and the railway which is in the Green Belt and which has attracted attention as a potential building site.

b) Highways Group

In the absence of Cllr. Andrews, there was discussion on several points. Firstly, in Mill Lane, procedures have started to introduce a speed limit. There is a suggestion that the footpath will be widened. Also some attention may be given to the crossing point from "The George" car park to the Churchyard.

We are trying to arrange a meeting for Kelvin Packer (B.& N.E.S.Council Highways Dept.) to meet with the Parish Council and other interested parties.

L.K.

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7. Group Reports(Cont'd.)

c) Footpaths

Cllr. Mayo reported that the Cotswold Wardens are offering help. They will install a kissing gate at the bottom of Meadow Lane once it has been supplied by B.& N.E.S. Council. He also reported that the second cut of footpath clearing is about to start.

d) Leisure & Amenities Group

Cllr. Helps had sent her report. There were no further matters of concern.

e) Policy & Finance

The Chairman had circulated the report.

An Eastern Relief road was mentioned as one of the Transport initiatives to be looked at by B.& N.E.S.Council. This will be the next battleground.

The Councillors were reminded that the deadline for Newsletter copy is Friday,28th.,July.However, Cllr. Ardrey mentioned that he had attended the B.& N.E.S. Council Liaison meeting and the Parish Charter was the main topic of discussion.

8.. Open Forum

No items were raised.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday, 21st.,September, 2017
at 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall

Signed..... Chairman,
21st.,September, 2017