

Bathampton Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th.,March,2011
in the Village Hall, Bathampton

Present: Cllrs. A. McCann, S.Christley, H.Horler, K.Jones, L.King, M. Richards ,
 K.Rossiter and S.Wing

1. Apologies: These had been received from Cllr. D.Mayo.

2. Minutes of the last Meeting:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17th.,February, 2011 had been circulated. Two amendments were made. Firstly, the year date on the heading was changed from “2010” to “2011”. On page 2 of 3, at the end of the Highways Group Report the following was added after the word “tractor” – **“and that we have asked B.&N.E.S. Council to include Devonshire Road in their gritting schedule, although we understand that cost and equipment limitations will make this unlikely.”**

Following these amendments, Cllr. Rossiter, seconded by Cllr. Wing proposed that the Minutes be accepted. Carried unanimously.

3. Finance:

a) To Approve the Financial Report for February, 2011

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

e) To Approve Expenditure for March,2011

Three invoices had been received since the last meeting which were as follows:-

B. & N.E.S.Council	Grass Cutting(Allotment)	£886.46(+VAT)
B. & N.E.S.Council	Grass Cutting(Playing Field)	£450.78(+VAT)
C.P.R.E.	Renewal of Membership	£ 29.00

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

CLERK

1. Parish Council Election

A Parish Council Election is due to be held on 5th.,May if there are sufficient nominations. The Clerk distributed nomination papers to the present councillors so that they can stand again. He reported that he will put posters in the noticeboards on Monday,21st.,March indicating to residents where they can obtain nomination papers if they wish to stand for the Parish Council. Completed nomination papers have to be delivered to the Guildhall by 4th.,April.

Cont'd.....

2. Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting has been arranged for Thursday, 14th.,April in the Village Hall. It was agreed to have the same format as for last years meeting, that is to have questions after each individual report. The Clerk will discuss the finalized agenda with the Chairman and put up the required notices. Cllr. Mayo gave his apologies for absence.

CLERK6. Group Reportsa) Planning & Conservation Group

The report had been circulated,

Cllr. King said that appeal against B. & N.E.S. Council's decision to refuse planning permission for the four houses on the triangular field had been turned down by the Inspector. B.& N.E.S. were well-prepared and presented their case well. The appellant, on the other hand, was ill-prepared and unco-ordinated.

Cllr. King had heard that the Old Rectory is applying for a licence for weddings. None of the Council had any knowledge of this.

b) Highways Group

The report had been circulated.

Cllr. Rossiter reported that a new date had been arranged for the closure of the A.36 in order that some tree felling can be done between Trossachs Drive and the end of Devonshire Road. It is now to be closed on 20th.,March.

A lady resident has complained of a "hacked" hedge in Holcombe Lane. It is not known who did it but Cllr. Rossiter will contact B. & N.E.S. Council to try and find more information.

K.R.

Cllr. Rossiter reported that the survey of the towpath from Widcombe to Dundas had now been completed.

Regarding the Safer Routes to School in these times of cut-backs, the cheaper option has been agreed.

The parking restrictions in Tying Road are moving ahead.

c) Leisure & Amenities Group

The report had been circulated.

Cllr. Richards reported that the replacement cherry tree has been planted in Jubilee gardens. The total cost including removal of the old tree and stump is around £235. The Clerk was asked to write a formal letter of thanks to the gentleman who is underwriting the cost.

CLERK

Cllr. Richards has noticed a small hut in the corner of Jubilee Gardens as well as a small area which was previous cultivated as a garden or shrubbery. He expressed concern as the roof of the hut is damaged and could present a hazard if children played on it. He will talk to the manager of "The George" to find out if he knows anything about the ownership of the hut. In the meantime, it was agreed to ask Jon Kear if the Youth Group would be interested in restoring the garden area.

M.R.
Cont'd.....

6. Group Reports(Cont'd.)

c) Leisure & Amenities Group(Cont'd.)

We are still awaiting a quotation for cutting the grass on the playing field in the coming financial year. In the meantime, the contact at B.& N.E.S. Council has left and set up on his own. Cllr. Richards has asked him for quotes for cutting the grass on both the allotments and on the playing field and for strimming the grass bank. He will also get quotations from other sources so that we can make a decision on who to have to do the cutting.

M.R.

It seems that outside the Methodist Church is the only suitable place for a bus shelter at present. It was agreed to discuss this at the Annual Parish Meeting.

There have been further reports of dogs on the playing field. Cllr. Christley is looking into updating the displayed notices.

S.C.

The Clerk said that it was time to review the allotment rents. Cllr. Richards, seconded by the Chairman, proposed that the rents are increased by 50pence per lug as from 1st.,April,2012. Carried unanimously. The Clerk will give formal notice of this increase to £4.50 per lug from 1st.,April, 2012 to tenants with the rent demands this year.

CLERK

Cllr. Richards said that he had ordered a skip to be placed on the allotments for the removal of non-compostable rubbish. The cost is £150+VAT.

d) Policy & Finance Group

The report had been circulated.

The Chairman said that there seems to be a mystery concerning the Transport Commission. No information seems to be forthcoming. District Councillor Dewey is investigating.

An individual has asked the Secretary of State for a Judicial Review because of procedural irregularities made by B. & N.E.S. Council in the meeting which consented to the Bath Transport Package.

Another individual has made an application for a Village Green which could stop the whole Rapid Transport Route. There will be an informal inquiry before a Q.C. appointed by B.& N.E.S. Council. The Compulsory Purchase Orders of land for the route have not yet been made.

The Chairman reminded councillors that the deadline for copy for the newsletter is tomorrow (18th.,February).

The Clerk had received a letter from Bathampton Gardeners Association asking for permission to erect a Marquee on the Playing Field for the Annual Flower Show from Wednesday, 7th., until Monday, 12th., September. It was agreed unanimously to grant permission. The Clerk to reply.

CLERK

e) Clerk's Report.

The Clerk had received a reply from Mr.Ron Taylor. He is no longer willing to plant up or water the tubs during the season. However, he is happy to supply any plants to whoever we find to do the task.

The S.L.C.C. have alerted us to a Government Consultation on "Resolving Disputes". Passed to the Chairman.

7. Matters Arising:

The Village Hall Management Committee still wish to have a representative from the Parish Council who could also be a Trustee. After considerable discussion, it was agreed to leave this matter in abeyance until after the new Parish Council is formed in May.

8. Open Forum

- a. Cllr. Richards said that it is still not clear who owns the Jubilee Gardens wall.
- b. The Chairman informed the Council that H.M.R.C. have instructed all Parish Councils that from henceforth, the Clerk and any paid employees will be subject P.A.Y.E.
- a. Cllr. Christley thought that it would be a good idea to organize a community event in the marquee after the Flower Show.
- b. Cllr. Jones reported that our Beat Manager, Nick Sheppard is doing extra patrols in the area looking for parking on pavements and on corners. He will also patrol the canal towpath.
- c. Cllr. Rossiter had noticed that the footpath sign in Mill Lane is missing. Cllr. Horler said that she would check and get it replaced.

H.H.

9. Date of Next meeting: Thursday, 21st.,April 2011
At 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.36 p.m.

Signed..... Chairman,
21st.,April 2011