

Bathampton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th., March, 2017 in the Village Hall, Bathampton

Present: Cllrs. Brennan, S.Andrews, J.Bird, J. Helps and L. King.

1. **Apologies:** These were received from Cllrs. G.Ardrey, L. McMurray and D. Mayo .

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

3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th., February, 2017 had been circulated. In the absence of any amendments, Cllr.Bird, seconded by Cllr. Helps proposed that the Minutes, be accepted. Carried unanimously.

4. **Matters Arising**

The Clerk was asked to contact our District Councillor, Geoff Ward to see if he has found out about the legality of financial support for a Judicial Review.

CLERK

There was no news about extra signs for the Speedwatch.

In the absence of Cllr. Mayo, there is no news about getting the Meadows cycle/foot path approved and put on the Definitive Map. The Clerk to enquire.

CLERK

5. **Finance**

a) **Approval of the Financial Report for February, 2017**

The report had been circulated. An amended budget had also been circulated. This was because we had under estimated the cost of grass cutting for the coming season. Some money had been re-allocated from the Playing Field budget but the total budget for Leisure & Amenities remains the same. Both the budget and the Financial report were then proposed for approval by Cllr. King and seconded by Cllr. Andrews. Carried unanimously.

b) **Approval of Expenditure for March, 2017**

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

A.L.C.A.	Annual Affiliation Fee	£ 280.13
Idverde Ltd.	Grass cutting 2016 Season	£ 1635.76(+VAT)
B. & N.E.S.Council	Printing October, 2016 Newsletter	£ 122.00
B. & N.E.S.Council	Printing January, 2017 Newsletter	£ 113.00

Cllr. Helps, seconded by Cllr. King, proposed that these invoices be paid. Carried unanimously.

CLERK

c) **Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported that he had received confirmation from E.D.F. Energy that in future the electricity invoices will be paid by Direct Debit.

He had received an invitation from the Army to a Reception. It was agreed to pass this on to Cllr. Ardrey so that he could attend if he so wished.

Cont'd.....

5. Finance(Cont'd.)**c) Clerk's Report(Cont'd.)**

B.& N.E.S.Council had done a quarterly inspection of the play equipment and the report issued. Cllr. Helps said that there was nothing major needing immediate attention.

Two quotes had been received for the grass cutting of the allotment paths and the playing field area for the coming season. Idverde Ltd.(who cut the grass last year) are quoting £1636.44(+VAT) , an increase of only £0.69, whereas ISS Facility Services are quoting £2772.00 for the same number of cuts. It was proposed by Cllr. Helps, seconded by Cllr.King, that we accept the quotation from Idverde Ltd. Carried unanimously.

6. Ongoing Items**a) The George Car Park**

The management of "The George" are going ahead with putting parking meters in their car park. This has generated much consternation and much email traffic. It seems that the gravel area may be owned by the Canal & River Trust and not by the pub chain as the meters have only been placed in the tarmac area. Cllr. Bird said that she would check the ownership of the gravel area with the Land Registry. Cllr. King said that she is to see the Headmaster to see if he can get B.& N.E.S.Council involved to try and get a school car park.

L.K.**b) Community Speedwatch**

Cllr. Bird reported that, on a recent Sunday, the Speedwatch detected many motorists exceeding the 20 m.p.h. limit in Bathampton Lane. She said that David Boardman, B.& N.E.S.Council's Road Safety Officer is visiting Bathampton on 7th April in order to locate positions for signs.

d) Park & Ride

The Chairman said that we are minded to support a Judicial Review. Batheaston P.C. have promised up to £1000. Bathford have not commented. We need to know whether such financial support is legal and are waiting for replies from A.L.C.A. and our local District Councillor, Geoff Ward. There is a meeting of the Bathampton Meadows Alliance on 22nd March which Cllr. King is unable to attend. Cllr. Helps offered to attend in her place.

J.H.

The Chairman said that Historic England had written a well-worded letter, making the case for not having the Park & Ride on the Meadows.

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

The report had been circulated.

Cllr. King reported concerning the Meadows Area and cycle track. Trees have been planted and a bank account has been set up for the Managing Group. The Clerk is enquiring whether our insurance will cover the volunteers working in the area. The Dog Warden has visited and is recommending signs. Bath & N.E.S.Council are to install a litter bin on the curve of the path.

On planning matters, Cllr. King reported that the Planning Application for an extension at 57 Warminster Road had been permitted despite our objection.

An application has been received for a covered bicycle shed at Bathampton School.

Cont'd.....

7. Group Reports(Cont'd.)**b) Highways Group**

Cllr. Andrews said there was nothing further to report. A representative will be attending the forthcoming V.P.A. meeting.

c) Footpaths

In the absence of Cllr. Mayo, there was nothing further to report..

d) Leisure & Amenities Group

The Clerk said that he was concerned that we are now paying for the grass cutting on areas which were formerly the responsibility of Bath & N.E.S. Council, for example the bank opposite the school and other grass verges. It was agreed that we should identify with Ivdverde exactly which areas are included in their quote.

CLERK

Cllr. Helps said that she had heard nothing further concerning our order for replacement fencing for the playground and she would enquire about progress.

J.H.

Cllr. Helps then asked about the role of the Handyman. With his last pay cheque, the Clerk had sent him a proforma to fill in with details of the tasks he does for a whole month. It was agreed that he is conscientious in many tasks such as emptying litter bins and mowing the grass in the enclosed play area. He also willingly helps out when a situation arises. The main concern is that there is no record of what he does and should he retire, we have no job description to pass on to a successor.

e) Communications

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

f) Policy & Finance

The report had been circulated. The Chairman mentioned that there is still talk of a Freight Consolidation Centre in the valley. We will make further enquiries.

CLERK

She then mentioned that we should make arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting. After discussion, it was agreed that Monday, 15th., May would be a suitable date and to ask a representative from the Bathampton Meadows Alliance to address the meeting. The Chairman to make the arrangements.

M.B.**8.. Open Forum**

a) The new Bathavon North Forum is due to meet on 8th., May. Cllr. Helps said that she might be able to attend if Cllr. Ardrey was unable to.

J.H./G.A.

b) There is a Neighbourhood Plan Landscape Workshop on 30th., May which the Chairman said she will attend.

M.B.

c) A request had been received for a commemorative bench to be installed somewhere along the canal. It was agreed that Jubilee Gardens has sufficient benches and perhaps the Canal & River Trust should be contacted to get permission to put a bench elsewhere along the canal.

d) A handrail at the junction of Bathampton Lane with the Warminster Road has been reported as being contaminated. Cllr. Andrews said he would inspect it to see what could be done to remedy it.

S.A.

e) The Chairman expressed concern over the website. It did not seem to be being kept up to date. She would check with Cllr. McMurray.

M.B./L.M.

8.. Open Forum(Cont'd.)

f) Cllr. King reminded the Clerk that he is to sign up to receive the Funding Bulletin from B.& N.E.S/Council and to check that our two open spaces are still designated as such under the Local Plan.

CLERK

9. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday, 20th.,April, 2017
at
7.30p.m. in the Village Hall

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.10 p.m.

Signed..... Chairman,
20th.,April, 2017