

Bathampton Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th, May, 2016
in the Village Hall, Bathampton

Present: Cllrs.G.Ardrey, J. Bird. J. Helps, L. McMurray, and D. Mayo,

- 1. Apologies:** These were received from Cllrs. M. Brennan, S. Andrews and L. King.

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr. Helps took the Chair.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st, April, 2016 had been circulated. There being no amendments, Cllr. Bird, seconded by the Chairman, proposed that these Minutes, be accepted. Carried unanimously.

3. Matters Arising

a) Regarding the Leylandi Trees, the Clerk had not yet written to Bath & N.E.S.Council. Cllr. King would be asked to inquire to whom the letter should be addressed.

L.K.

b) The Clerk reported that he had not yet put up the notices concerning the Speedwatch. Cllr. Andrews would email them to him again.

CLERK

4. Bathampton Meadows Cycle/Footpath

Mr. Peter Fear from Batheaston (not on the Parish Council) who is taking a personal interest in the path across the Meadows, addressed the Council. He said that the first phase of the improvements had been done by installing benches. The second phase which he would like to see done is a path leading off the main path, passing under the elevated road and giving access to the grounds of Bathampton Mill. This would give a safer exit on to Mill Lane. The path would pass over a ditch and a wooden footbridge would be needed. Grant funding is available. Mr. Fear then asked if Bathampton P.C. would be responsible for the Third Party liability. There was concern over the financial implications of this. Would this increase our insurance premium? The Clerk to inquire. Also, what happens when the grant aid **CLERK**

runs out? Cllr. McMurray said that he thought it was a bad idea and it would be much better to improve the present exit on to Mill Lane and make it safer. The Council were not in agreement with accepting any further financial commitment but it was agreed to consider this further at the next meeting.

5. Finance:

- a) Approval of the Financial Report for April,2016

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

- b) Approval of Expenditure for May, 2016

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

Zurich Insurance Co.	Annual Insurance premium	£ 604.56
A.L.C.A.	“Being a Good Cllr.” Course	£ 200.00
A.L.C.A.	Good Councillor Guides	£ 20.00

V. P. A.

Annual membership

£ 150.00

It was proposed by the Cllr. Helps and seconded by Cllr. McMurray that all four invoices should be paid. Carried unanimously.

CLERK

Cont'd.....
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5. Finance(Cont'd.)

d) Clerk's Report

We have been notified that £662.41 has been credited to our bank account by H.M.R.C. -the reclaimed V.A.T which we paid during the last financial year.

The Clerk reported that the S.L.C.C. are to have an Extraordinary General Meeting in order to consider separating into two organisations: one to give professional and development advice to members and the other to act as a "Trade Union" for members.

R.O.S.P.A. have sent a quotation for the inspection of Playground Areas. Passed to Cllr. Helps for comparison with B.& N.E.S. charges.

Fields in Trust have written to suggest that an open area could be designated a "Centenary Field". It means that you have to subscribe to their organisation. It was agreed not to pursue this.

6. Group Reports

a) Planning & Conservation Group.

The report had been circulated.

Cllr. Helps reported that the single storey extension at 2 Warminster Road had caused the neighbours annoyance by obstructing their view. The height had been reduced by one course of bricks but this has had a minimal effect. This underlines the fact that one should be aware of any planning applications by neighbours and investigate fully at the time and make objections or comments.

b) Highways Group

Cllr. Andrew's report had been circulated.

Concerning the speedwatch, he said that we are still appealing for volunteers.

There is congestion around the School when parents are bringing or collecting their children. He asked if Cllr. King could get the school to remind parents to use "The George" car park.

L.K.

The re-surfacing of the canal towpath is still proceeding and is due to finish in July.

c) Leisure & Amenities Group

The report had been circulated.

Cllr. Helps reported that a nest swing seat to replace the broken disabled swing seat had been ordered.

The Playground Group have met with HAGS, an equipment supplier who have come up with a refurbishment design.

The grass cutting of the allotments and playing field are proceeding with the new contractor. They have been asked to cut the playing field during the week prior to the Village Show in September.

d) Footpaths

Cllr. Mayo reported that the path between the canal tow path and the railway line is overgrown and the volunteer group will be clearing that.

He also reported that the missing gate on the footpath at the end of Holcombe Lane will be replaced with a new one by B & N.E.S.Council.

Cont'd.....

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6. Group Reports(Cont'd.)

e) Communications

Cllr. McMurray said there was nothing particular to report.

f) Policy & Finance

In the absence of Cllr. Brennan, there was no report. However, the Clerk reported that he was still awaiting the return of the account books and papers from the Internal Auditor. Once these have been received, the accounts will be ready for approval by the Council at the June meeting.

7. Annual Parish Meeting -23rd.,May,2016

Arrangements were in hand. Leaders of the separate groups would present their reports. Mark Evans of the Canal and Rivers Trust would give a brief address followed by refreshments of wine and nibbles. Cllr. Bird had kindly offered to buy these. The Clerk would prepare an agenda and post it in the noticeboards.

8. Open Forum

a) There was some concern over the planning procedure. Some notifications do not appear to be coming via the Clerk. The Clerk will contact the Council to make sure that all notifications come through him.

CLERK

b) Cllr. Bird mentioned that glasses from "The George" are being left on Jubilee Gardens overnight. This is obviously a safety hazard. The Clerk was asked to write to the manager to ask that they clear them regularly.

CLERK

c) Cllr. McMurray mentioned that parts of the Village, especially the higher areas(e.g.Hantone Hill) have very poor Broadband reception. There is a group asking for High Speed Broadband.

d) Cllr.Ardrey said that he had attended the Parishes Liaison Meeting and the BPT Environs Meeting. From both meetings, there seem to be attacks on park & rides throughout the country. He also reported that there is talk of the A.36 being detrunked. From the Parishes Liaison Meeting, he had got the impression that Cllr. Tim Warren is in favour of the West of England Metro-Scheme.

e) Cllr. Helps had reported to Council Connect some graffitti on the bus shelter by Trossachs Drive.

9. Date of Next meeting

Thursday, 16th.,June, 2016

At 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.15 p.m.

Signed..... Chairman,
16th.,June, 2016