

Bathampton Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th.,October, 2011
in the Village Hall, Bathampton

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

1. Apologies: There were none.

2. Minutes of the last Meeting:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th.,September, 2011 had been circulated.

An amendment was made to Section 6(b). The word “not” was inserted in front of “request double yellow lines”.

Following this amendment, Cllr. Mayo, seconded by Cllr. King proposed that the Minutes be accepted. Carried unanimously.

3. Finance:

a) To Approve the Financial Report for September, 2011

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

b) To Approve Expenditure for October, 2011

The Clerk reported that there were four invoices received since the last meeting, as follows:-

Mazars	Audit fee	£285.00(+VAT)
S.E.C. Ltd.	Street Light Maint'ce	£ 64.16(+VAT)
E.D.F.Energy Ltd.	Electricity	£125.69(+VAT)
Bathampton Vill. Hall	Room Hire	£ 24.00

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

CLERK

4. Group Reports

a) Planning & Conservation Group

The report had been circulated,

Cllr. King reported that there is a dying tree in the triangular field. Bath and N.E.S. Council are asking the owner to remove it.

Concerning the log cabin which has been erected on land near Meadow Lane and the canal, a retrospective application is expected under different guide lines.

Regarding the Raft Café, the K.& A. Canal Manager says that Susie Mercer of British Waterways will be putting in a new planning application for a change of the conditions.

Affordable Housing was then discussed. Bath & N.E.S.Council will not do anything until we, as a parish council, have raised the subject and established that there is a need in Bathampton. B.& N.E.S. Council would then do a survey and finally, identify the land available. However, it was felt that suitable land would be hard to find in the Parish.

Cont'd.....

4. Group Report(Cont'd.)a) Planning & Conservation Group(Cont'd.)

In order to see if there is a need for affordable housing in the Village, it was agreed to highlight it in the next Newsletter, at the Annual Parish Meeting in April and on the web-site once it is operating.

Delays are occurring to the progress of both the Core Strategy and the N.P.P.F.(National Planning Policy Framework). B.& N.E.S. Council are formulating the proposals during October, the consultation occurring during November and during December they are proposing to hold a parish council event.

b) Highways Group

The report had been circulated.

Cllr. Rossiter reported that there is still no progress concerning the A.36. There has been a delay because Claverton P.C. are pursuing a 50m.p.h. limit through Claverton. He will keep in touch with Claverton's Chairman.

The damaged wall in Bathampton Lane has been reported to the Highways Department of B.& N.E.S.Council but the repair has not yet been carried out.

Cllr. Mayo reported on possible siting of benches that Bathampton Foopaths Association wish to purchase.

It had been reported that the railings in front of the School had been damaged. They are dangerous and need repairing.

Concerning the canal, some staff of LloydsTSB gave up their spare time to do a litter clearance along the towpath. It was agreed that the Clerk should write a letter of thanks.

British Waterways have been asked if the Rubbish Point by the canal bridge could be moved. No response as yet.

A reply has been received to our letter to B.& N.E.S. Council's Chief Executive concerning the high Leylandii plantation. Basically, it states that they cannot do anything. In the meantime, our M.P. is to take the matter up with the Secretary of State for the Environment.

Finally, Cllr. Rossiter said that a proposed Local Partnership Board is being set up. Originally, it was thought that membership would be open to individuals only but it now seems that organizations can join.

D.M.

K.R.

CLERK

c) Leisure & Amenities Group

The report had been circulated.

Cllr. Richards reported that the hut in the corner of Jubilee Gardens has historical significance as it was used in the early days of the canal, possibly for the collection of tolls. It was felt that British Waterways should look after it. British Waterways are also investigating the fencing problem at the top of the steps by "The George".

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

Rats have been seen on the Allotments and Cllr. Richards felt that he would have to put rat poison down.

He had received several quotes for the removal of three dead trees from the allotments. After discussion, it was agreed to accept the quotation from Jeff Havvock in the sum of £175 to fell and remove two elms and one elder. He had also received quotations for excavation work at the Down Lane entrance to make car parking spaces. There was a big difference in the prices quoted. After discussion, it was agreed that Cllr. Richards would find out from the allotment holders if they needed the car parking space.

Cllr. Richards was asked to make contact with Bathampton Gardeners Association to ask them to keep the area in front of the Trading Hut mowed and tidy.

M.R.

Cllr. Richards had lists of much work that needed doing in the childrens playground. This included safety surfacing, fencing as well as maintenance of the equipment. He had obtained prices for much of the work but it was difficult to compare prices as quotations were not usually for the same work. It was suggested by Cllr. Rossiter that, as our Handyman is not so busy during the Winter, he might be able to do the fencing as part of his job with the Parish council supplying the materials. He would approach him and ask.

K.R.

Cllr. Richards was asked to bring specific details and comparable quotations to the next meeting so that the Council could make a decision.

M.R.d) Policy & Finance Group

The report had been circulated.

The Chairman had circulated a report from Batheaston Parish Council about a plan they had to put a pedestrian footbridge across the river near to the public car park in Batheaston High Street. Cllr. Rossiter was surprised that B.& N.E.S. Council could find £175,000 in grants to fund the bridge and cycle path whereas they could not find a much smaller sum to fund a footbridge over the canal to provide a safer route to school in Bathampton. It was suggested that he draft a letter to B.& N.E.S. Council.

K.R.a. Parish Web Site

The Chairman had looked for other councils' objectives on their Web sites to see if we had omitted anything from ours. He had found that none of them listed any objectives. It was suggested that a "Mission Statement" type wording could be used similar to that on the V.P.A. web site. Cllr. Mayo said that he was still short of three councillor profiles.

f) Clerk's Report

The Boundary Commission have notified us that the parliamentary constituencies are being reviewed and are asking if we know of any special factors which they should be aware of.

Mazars have completed the audit of our accounts for the year 2010 to 2011. The Clerk reported that he had displayed the audit certificate in the noticeboards as required.

Cont'd.....

4. Group Reports(Cont'd.)f) Clerk's Report(Cont'd.)

The S.L.C.C. have sent information about saving money on utility bills. This is of no consequence as a month ago we signed a contract for three years with EDF Energy.

The Clerk reported that the second half of our precept for the year had been received.

Mrs. Ann King of the Normans had written telling us of several problems on the footpath which runs behind her house. There is some overgrown vegetation and dog owners are allowing their dogs to pollute the area. Cllr. Rossiter will see what can be done.

K.R.

Information about beacons to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee have been received. Passed to Cllr. Christley.

S.C.

The C.P.R.E. have cancelled the meeting at which they were to become a limited company.

Southern Electric Contracting have changed their name to SSE Contracting.

5. Matters Arising:

B.& N.E.S. Council Highways Department have now accepted that the wall bordering Jubilee Gardens is their responsibility but there has been no action yet to repair it.

Cllr. Richards has spoken to the Practice Manager of the Surgery about possible sponsorship of something in the Village.

M.R.

Cllr. Christley has spoken with Batheaston P.C. about the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. We will probably have separate events but there may be one or two joint events.

S.C.6. Open Forum

(a) It was suggested that there should be a sign at the top of the Dark Lane footpath directing pedestrians to the shops in Holcombe Lane.

(b) A resident of Devonshire Road has complained that the speed mats in the road do nothing to stop "rat-running". Cllr. Rossiter agreed to draft a letter to B.& N.E.S. Council's Highways Department asking for the speed mats to be replaced by speed tables.

K.R.

(c) Cllr. Rossiter reminded the Council that we had not progressed with putting a bus shelter in Holcombe Lane.

9. Date of Next meeting: Thursday, 17th., November, 2011

At 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.35 p.m.

Signed..... Chairman,
17th., November, 2011