

Bathampton Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th, October, 2015
in the Village Hall, Bathampton

Present: Cllrs. M. Brennan, G.Ardrey, S. Andrews, J. Helps, L. King,
D. Mayo and L. McMurray.

1. Apologies: There were no apologies.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17th, September, 2015 had been circulated. Cllr. King, seconded by Cllr. Andrews, proposed that these Minutes, be accepted. Carried unanimously.

3. Matters Arising

Regarding a possible site for a textile recycling bin, It was suggested that "The George" car park would be a suitable site if there was not already a bin there. A check would be made to see if this was the case and if not we would forward the letter to them asking them to consider it.

We have now heard that the triangular field and all of the open space adjacent to Miller Walk have been included as Open Amenity Areas in the Placemaking Plan. Landowners have a period in which they can make comment prior to ratification at a meeting of the Cabinet.

4. Finance:

a) Approval of the Financial Report for September, 2015

The report had been circulated. It was noted that at the half way point through the financial year, we had spent more than half of the budget. The Clerk was asked to provide a breakdown of the spending to date for the next meeting. The report was proposed for approval by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr. King. Carried unanimously.

b) Approval of Expenditure for October 2015

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

Massey & Harris	See Saw Seats	£ 75.00(+VAT)
EDF Energy	Electricity (Qtr.end 30/9/15)	£ 93.12(+VAT)
SSE Contracting	Street Light Maintenance (")	£ 64.16(+VAT)

In addition the Chairman had claimed travelling expenses of £8.10 and the Maxi Lunch Club is set to continue and would be pleased to receive the second half of their grant amounting to £50.

It was proposed by Cllr.Ardrey and seconded by Cllr.Helps. that these should all be paid. Carried unanimously.

CLERK

c) Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that the second installment of our precept and the grant had been paid into the Council's bank account.

5. Group Reports

a) Planning & Conservation Group.

The report had been circulated.

Cllr. King highlighted the plan to put four self-build houses on the site near Miller Walk bounded by the Leylandii hedge and which is included as a site of Open Amenity Value in the Placemaking Plan. It was agreed that we are strongly opposed to the plan and the Clerk was asked to write to our District Councillors Veal and Ward asking them to do all they can to ensure that both the triangular field and the land adjacent to Miller Walk are included in the Placemaking Plan when the final decision is taken by the Cabinet.

CLERK

Cllr. King said, that concerning the management of the cycle track across the meadows, it now appears that we are being asked for a contribution of £200 towards a survey. She proposed that we pay the £200. This was seconded by Cllr. Mayo and carried unanimously.

There are grants available for doing the work which includes signage at each end of the track as well as by the Church and the School. Cllr. King said that the present signage is confusing and needs to be replaced. It was agreed to put a hold on this for the moment.

D.M.

b) Highways Group

Cllr. Andrews reported that notices had been served on those canal boat occupants who had property on the canal bank. He had no information about when the expected clean-up will take place.

Cllr. Andrews reported that we had received copies of a traffic survey conducted by residents at the junction of Down lane and the High Street. This showed that the traffic along the High Street was roughly equally divided between Down Lane and Bathampton lane. He had contacted Mr. Bob Holbeche who ran the Community Speedwatch in the past. He explained the conditions and restrictions imposed on those volunteers who took part. It was felt that the speed humps did not restrict speed and only the whole width tables did. As a means of measuring the speed of vehicles, it was suggested that twin air tubes across the road would be considered. A group of residents are keen to become involved in a Speedwatch Scheme to address the culture of speeding. It was agreed that Cllr. Andrews would speak to Stefan Chivers to understand what would be needed to make the issue of the failing speed humps a priority for B.& N.E.S.Council and would ask for volunteers for a Speedwatch in the October Newsletter.

c) Footpaths

Cllr. Mayo had circulated the report. At this time of year, there was nothing further to mention.

d) Leisure & Amenities Group

The report had been circulated.

Cllr. Helps reported that the Playground Group was now down to three persons. She would like to appeal in the Newsletter for more people to take part. She would also like to include a questionnaire with responses being posted in a box in the Village Hall or shop.

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

She had obtained quotes for a swing seat for a disabled child, the preferred option being £1300 +VAT. It can be fitted to the existing frame replacing one of the normal seats. She is pursuing a grant under our District Councillors Initiative.

J.H.

A tree surgeon had inspected the trees alongside the playing field which a resident had complained about and reported that they are all safe and do not need any attention.

The Playground Group is looking at improvements which can be done without too much cost. One suggestion is goal posts and nets. It was queried whether the fencing around the enclosed area was sound.

J.H.

Finally, Cllr. Helps was reminded that we usually have a Christmas tree outside the Village Hall. It was agreed that we would fund it and would not seek sponsorship.

J.H.

e) Communications

The report had been circulated.

Cllr. McMurray reported that there had been many “tweets” concerning the proposed Park & Ride and the Link road.

He has contacted Mark Hull of Cosmic Computers and proposed that he look into the costs of engaging him to provide our website infrastructure. This will keep it in the Village.

f) Policy & Finance

The report had been circulated.

Park & Ride East of Bath

Again much time was spent on discussing this. There was a good turnout at the Consultation. It had been agreed with Batheaston P.C., that we should send a joint response and a draft response had been received. Cllr. King felt that we should include asking how the responses are going to be analysed and assessed. Evidently, Cllr. Alison Miller has asked to be present during this assessment. Peter Dawson, at the consultation, said that air pollution and traffic congestion on the London Road would not be reduced by the Park & Ride. A number of amendments to the letter were proposed. The Chairman would try to agree our proposed amendments the next day and it was unanimously agreed to submit the joint letter.

M.B.

Proposed Link Road

The Link Road is being mentioned again but as it will come under the auspices of Highway England, it will be in the future compared to the Park & Ride, which is imminent. As feeling in the village about this will probably be mixed, we could consult with residents after the Park & Ride situation has been finalised.

The Chairman then suggested that we bring forward the Newsletter because of the Park & Ride with the deadline for copy being Friday,23rd.,October This was agreed.

Cllr. Andrews mentioned that some people had expressed surprise that Tony McCann was not thanked in the last Newsletter. It was pointed out that Tony and Mike had been thanked and given leaving gifts at the AGM.

f) Policy & Finance(Cont'd.)

The Chairman reminded the Council that there is a "Give & Take Day" in the Village hall on Saturday 31st.,October. Should we be present? Should we sell the Village maps? It was agreed that we should attend and the Clerk and Cllr. McMurray were asked to inquire about getting badges.

CLERK/L.M.

6. Open Forum

Cllr. Ardrey had attended the A.L.C.A. Annual General Meeting. The affiliation fee will remain unchanged for next year. The new Chairman is willing to visit parish councils to explain what A.L.C.A. does for them

Cllr. Ardrey is also to attend the Parishes Liaison meeting on Wednesday,21st.,October.

7. .Date of Next meeting

Thursday, 19th.,November, 2015

At 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 10.00 p.m.

Signed..... Chairman,
19th.,November, 2015