

Bathampton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th., October, 2018 in the Village Hall, Bathampton

Present: Cllrs. M. Brennan, S.Andrews, G.Ardrey, J.Helps L.King and D.Mayo.
District Councillors A.Millar and G. Ward also attended.

1. Apologies: These were received from Cllr. J.Bird.

2. Declarations of Interest: There were none.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20th.,September, 2018 had been circulated. Following the deletion of the words “dogs on the playing field.” to replace “dog fouling.” in the last line on Page 4 of 5, Cllr, King seconded by the Cllr. Ardrey, proposed that the Minutes, be accepted. Carried unanimously.

4. Matters Arising

Cllr. Mayo was reminded again that he should be spending the Community Empowerment Grant as we have to report to B. & N.E.S.Council soon how it has been spent. **D.M.**

The Clerk said that he had not managed to contact Mr. Taylor yet to enquire what plants he supplies and to whom.

The mower which was mentioned as being obsolete was not one belonging to the parish council.

The Clerk had written to No.7 The Chestertons whose hedge is overgrown and overhanging the Warminster Road footpath. The owner/occupier is not on the Electoral Roll and it was suggested that the house might be empty.

5. Finance

a) Approval of the Financial Report for September, 2018

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

b) Approval of Expenditure for October,2018

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

S.S.E.Contracting Ltd.	Street Light maintenance	£ 64.16(+VAT)
E.D.F.Energy	Electricity	£ 108.25(+VAT)
Bath Preservation Trust	Annual Membership Renewal	£ 20.00
PKF-Littlejohn LLP	External Audit Fee	£ 200.00(+VAT)

The E.D.F. invoice is paid by direct debit. The Clerk mentioned that the auditors were unable to complete the audit by 30 September which they are obliged to do, so that we can display the results on our noticeboards and website by 30 September. Thus the Audit Statements were returned to us with a report saying that they were unable to complete the review. The invoice was included. After some discussion, it was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr.Ardrey that we pay the other two invoices but withhold the audit payment until the Audit has been completed. The E.D.F. invoice was also sanctioned. Carried unanimously. **CLERK**

Cont'd...

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

The Clerk reported that we had received into our bank account a C.I.L. payment of £3,037.90 being the first instalment of three. This was in connection with the building of two houses at Woodside, Warminster Road. The Clerk was asked to enquire if all three instalments were of the same value. **CLERK**

The second halves of the Precept and the Local Council Support Grant had also been received amounting to £11,500 and £ 130 respectively.

6) On Going Items**a) 19 Down Lane**

The owner still has her car parked in the allotment parking area and the building work is still not finished.

b) Maintenance of Street lights

The Clerk had circulated a report of a conversation he had with S.S.E. After discussion, it was agreed to leave the Chapel Row lights as they are, especially as the majority of the residents were happy to keep them and not go over to L.E.D.'s. If a lamp fails to work, S.S.E. will replace it whilst replacements are still available. It was then agreed to ask for individual quotations for conversion to L.E.D.'s of

1) the light on the footpath from Devonshire Road to Bathampton Lane

2) the two lights in Dark Lane

3) the light at St. George's Hills

4) the light on the recreation field in Holcombe Lane. **CLERK**

c) Avon Wildlife, the Meadows & Cycle Track

There was nothing further to report on whether the area will become a nature reserve.

Cllr. King reported on the cycle track. The main expense now is grass cutting. She wondered if the Parish Council could contribute to this. It was agreed that they could apply for a grant for next year. It was mentioned (Cllr. G.Ward) that Bathford P.C. had obtained money for a play area from a Pucklechurch landfill site. As we are also within 10 miles of the site, it could be that we could obtain a grant from them also. The Clerk agreed to enquire from the Bathford P.C. Clerk. **CLERK**

d) Proposed Clean Air Zone

Bath & N.E.S.Council have been obliged by the government to bring in the Clean Air Zone because of the poor air quality in Bath. The proposal is for a charge of £9 per day for the older most polluting diesel cars. The modelling that B.& N.E.S. has done does not appear to take into account the Toll Bridge. It is feared that the Charge will increase rat-running and also the traffic over the Toll Bridge thereby transferring the air pollution to the outer areas. Responses to the proposal are due by 26th., November. The Chairman will prepare a further response. **M.B.**

e) Highway Review

Cllr. King had circulated the proposals put forward by B.& N.E.S. Highways Dept. There had been no response to the request in the Newsletter for comments. It was agreed that the only way to get a response was by door to door visiting. It was noted that no allowance was made for increased parking spaces.

Cont'd.....

6) On Going Items(Cont'd.)**f) Illegal Encampments**

The encampment at the bottom end of the old plate railway track near the Dry Arch now appears to be deserted but the illegal building is still there. The Clerk to enquire from the Enforcement Officer what the latest position is. **CLERK**

It is not clear who owns the land upon which the illegal boat is parked by the canal and near to the Parish western boundary. Cllr. Andrews to enquire from CRT if it is their land. **S.A.**

g) Grants from BWCE

Cllr. Helps said that she had investigated whether we could get a grant from this organisation. After visiting the website and downloading their information and conditions, she felt that we would not be eligible for a grant.

h) Recruitment of New Clerk

The Chairman said that the new Clerk had been appointed and takes up the office on 22nd. October. She was present and had been introduced to the members of the Council. It had been agreed that the present Clerk would overlap with the new Clerk by one month to assist the handover.

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

The report had been circulated.

Cllr. King said that the two storey side extension at 9 Kennet Park had been permitted despite our concerns over the size..

An application has been received for 21 Holcombe Lane(the former shop) to add a rear extension to convert the premises into 5 flats. The former retail area is not included and no planning application has been received for a change of use for that area.

Cllr. King reported that the application for the Conker Crossing has now been received. Unfortunately, our Planning Consultant is against it. Most residents and the Parish Council are in favour. Cllr. King will formulate a suitable response. **L.K.**

An application has been received for substantial tree work at Osborne House, Bathampton Lane.

Cllr. King had received notification from Network Rail that they are "nearly there" with closing the level crossing at the end of Tynning Road to vehicles and opening the track to allow access to Bathampton Farm.

b) Highways Group

A short report had been received from Cllr. Andrews. There is still no sign of any work being done to repair the damaged wall on the Warminster Road or the removal of the blue hut near to our western Parish boundary. He asked councillors to look out on Wednesday, 24th., October to see if the road sweeper is about. **ALL**

c) Footpaths

Cllr. Mayo reported that the Cotswold Wardens are available to help us in three ways. Firstly, by running Guided Walks from the village. Secondly, by cutting back hedges on a regular basis to an annual plan. Thirdly, they could do a single project if required.

Cont'd.

d) Leisure & Amenities Group

Cllr. Helps had circulated the report. She said that we are in the process of getting quotations for grass cutting for next year. Idverde had sent a quote which was 40% higher than last year's. On enquiring why?, we were told that it was because of the expected increase in the Living Wage!

We are also looking at clearing some of the trees and undergrowth which is encroaching onto the allotments.

J.H./CLERK

Cllr. Helps mentioned that yellow lines had appeared at the top of Down Lane at the corner with the Warminster Road. We had had no notification of this.

It was also mentioned that there is often congestion at the top of Down Lane. The Clerk was asked to contact the Planning Enforcement Dept. to look into it.

CLERK

e) Communications

There was nothing to report.

f) Policy & Finance

There was nothing to report.

The Chairman reminded the councillors, again, that the deadline for copy for the Newsletter is 26th October.

8. Open Forum

The proposed Clean Air Zone was discussed at the V.P.A.meeting. It was felt that this would increase "rat running" so concerted effort is required during the consultation stage.

Cllr Ardrey reported having spoken to B&NES Planning and the owner of the proposed coffee shop concerning the hurdle of justifying the "loss of A1 retail space". Cllr Ward was appraised.

The Canal & River Trust have invited members to a meeting in Bradford-on-Avon.

Cllr. Ardey will attend the Parishes Liaison Meeting on Wednesday, 24th., October and will issue a report.

G.A.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday, 15th., November, 2018
at 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 10.02 pm.

Signed.....

15th., November, 2018