

Bathampton Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th., January, 2014
in the Village Hall, Bathampton

Present: Cllrs. A. McCann, S. Batterbury, G.Ardrey, L. King, M.Richards
and D. Mayo

1. Apologies: These were received from Cllrs. M. Brennan and K. Jones.

2. Minutes of the last Meeting:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th., December, 2013 had been circulated.
Cllr. Ardrey, seconded Cllr. King, proposed that these Minutes be accepted.
Carried unanimously.

3. Finance:

a) Approval of the Budget for 2014 to 2015

A proposed budget, prepared by the Policy & Finance Group, had been circulated. The Chairman stated that we are to receive the same grant of £1270 from Bath & N.E.S.Council again as well as around £600 Parish Agency Grant for looking after footpaths. He felt that we should keep the precept at £23000, the same figure as last year's. After some discussion, Cllr. Richards proposed that the Council should approve the budget. This was seconded by Cllr.Ardrey and carried unanimously.

b) Approval of Grants to Village Organizations

It was suggested that the grants to village organizations should remain the same as last year's except that the grant to Bathampton Gardeners Association should be increased by £50 to £750. This would give total grants of £2050. Proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr. Richards. Carried unanimously.

c) Approval of Honorarium for the Planning Consultant

It was suggested by the Policy & Finance Group that this should remain at £1000. Proposed by Cllr. Ardrey and seconded by Cllr. King.

Carried unanimously

d) Approval of the Financial Report for December, 2013

The report had been circulated

It was proposed for approval by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr. Batterbury. Carried unanimously.

e) Approval of Expenditure for January, 2014

The Clerk reported that four invoices and one bill had been presented for payment as follows:-

E.D.F.Energy	Electricity (Qtr. end 31/12/13)	£ 140.51(+VAT)
S.S.E.Contracting	Street Light M'ance(")	£ 64.16(+VAT)
Fine Pines	Christmas tree	£ 133.33(+VAT)
Safety Green Ltd.	Zip Wire Repair	£ 320.00(+VAT)
Cllr. Mayo	Gifts for Volunteers	£ 21.63(+VAT)

It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr. Batterbury that all five should be paid. Carried unanimously.

CLERK

5. Group Reports

a) Planning & Conservation Group

Cllr. King reported that a further application for Jewson's Yard had now been received. This is for the access road along the boundary of the site and which will also give access to Bathampton Farm and enable Glass's Level Crossing to be closed to vehicular traffic. Cllr. Batterbury reported that the Headmaster of the Bathampton School is in favour of the development even though he is concerned about the amount of traffic outside the School. She said that there are problems in the morning and afternoon with parents stopping their cars near to the school entrance. There have been several near misses. Cllr. Jones has reported the matter to our P.C.S.O. in the hope of getting some police presence at the busy times. Cllr. Batterbury wondered if the parking spaces either side of the church entrance and one on past the school entrance could be made for disabled badge holders only. Cllr. Mayo to ask Cllr. Brennan to make enquiries.

The application for Candywood Leys went before the Development Control Committee yesterday.. After a prolonged hearing, the application was given permission by 5 votes to 3. However, there were several conditions attached.

M.B.

b) Highways Group

In the absence of Cllr. Brennan, Cllr. Mayo reported. There are still problems with flooding across the Warminster Road at the top of Down Lane which have been reported to B. & N.E.S. Council.

B.& N.E.S.Council responded quickly to our request when we reported flooding at the side of the triangular field. They have taken some remedial action but a stream is still flowing. However, regarding potholes in the upper part of Down Lane, they promise to attend to them as soon as possible.

The Highways Agency have finished working on the footpaths along the Warminster Road. However, one resident's letter of complaint has been forwarded to the Highways Agency for its attention.

Cllr. Mayo reported that footpath BA1/25 has been much improved with a gravel topping and B.& N.E.S.Council are planning to improve the bridleway up to the Downs from the Scout Hut.

Cllr. Richards mentioned that there seemed to be much litter along the banks of the canal. Also, he was concerned about parking for the shops and surgery. There were fewer spaces available now that the two new bus stops were in use. He asked if people were parking all day and riding into town by bus. To establish if this were true, would need observation over a whole day.

c) Leisure & Amenities Group

Cllr. Richards said that about two thirds of the allotment rents had been received. One tenant had given up and he had a vacant plot which had been offered to all those on the waiting list. However, no one appeared to want it.

M.R.

Cont'd....

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5. Group Reports(Cont'd.)

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

Regarding the Lengthman's Hut in Jubilee Gardens, Cllr. Richards had met with a man from the Canal & Rivers Trust who thinks that it should be preserved. He went away to consider what could be done. Possibilities were:- doing it up themselves, selling it to the Parish Council and there was even a suggestion that they might sell Jubilee Gardens to the Parish Council. The Chairman asked the Clerk to look up the letting agreement to see how long it is for and what notice is required to end the agreement.

CLERK

Cllr. Richards said that he is now considering repairing the see-saw. The spare parts will cost £48 but the labour to install them could be around £100. There was unanimous agreement to spend £150 to repair the see-saw.

M.R.

d) Policy & Finance Group

The report had been circulated.

The Placemaking Plan documents had been sent to B.& N.E.S. Council by the required deadline. The Council will be looking at them in detail during February.

The Chairman then asked if copy for the Newsletter could be with the editor by Friday, 24th.,January.

e) Parish Web Site

Cllr. Mayo suggested that member's email addresses should be on the web-site. This was rejected but it was felt that the Clerk should have a specific Parish Council address. This was agreed.

D.M.

f) Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that he had received from B.& N.E.S. Council the form to apply for next year's precept.

Also from B.& N.E.S.Council, we have received notification of the new P.R.O.W. Officer replacing Stuart Ballard.

6. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

7. Open Forum

Cllr. Mayo asked for clarification concerning the route cyclists will take when they emerge on to Mill Lane from the new cycle path across the Meadows. He thought the gate into Jubilee Gardens was an obstacle. He was told that cyclists already use this entrance with no problem.

Following the presentation before the meeting, it was agreed that all Councillors would look at the specimen Housing Needs Survey form

which had been left with us. Any amendments, alterations or additions could then be passed to the Chairman so that we can tailor the Survey to the needs of Bathampton.

ALL

Cont'd....

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7. Open Forum(Cont'd.)

The Clerk mentioned that our Ward Councillor had sent an email saying that he had £1000 to allocate under his Ward Councillors Initiative. It now seems that this has been allocated but another Councillor, Martin Veale still has some to allocate. The Clerk was doubtful if this is still available.

An email had been received asking if there are any events planned in Bathampton to mark the beginning of the First World War. It was felt that this would be an event not to commemorate.

Cllr. King mentioned a pre-planning application request on behalf of Vodaphone.. Because of the proposed development of the Jewson's Yard site, they would have to move their phone mast. It was agreed to reply that we will make our comments when we see the Planning Application.

8. Date of Next meeting:

Thursday, 20th.,February,2014
At 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall

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

Signed..... Chairman,
20th.,February,2014