

Bathampton Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th, October, 2013
in the Village Hall, Bathampton

Present: Cllrs. A. McCann, S. Batterbury, M. Brennan, G.Ardrey, K.Jones,
D. Mayo and M.Richards

1. Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllr. L. King

2. Minutes of the last Meeting:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th, September, 2013 had been circulated. Cllr. Ardrey, seconded by Cllr. Brennan, proposed that these Minutes be accepted. Carried unanimously.

3. Finance:

a) Approval of the Financial Report for September, 2013

The report had been circulated

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

b) Approval of Expenditure for October, 2013

The Clerk reported only two invoices had been presented for payment as follows:-

E.D.F.Energy	Electricity (Qtr.end30/9/2013)	£ 140.51(+VAT)
S.S.E. Contracting Ltd.	Street Light M'tance(")	£ 64.16(+VAT)

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

CLERK

4. Group Reports

a) Planning & Conservation Group

In the absence of Cllr. King, Cllr. Ardrey reported. The extensions at 60 Holcombe Vale and 19 Warminster Road have been permitted even though the latter only had a six inch gap between it and the neighbouring property. The detached greenhouse at York House has also been permitted.

The owner of 72 Warminster Road has applied for permission to make a new vehicular access and parking area, We have no objection. We consider that the proposed changes at 63 Warminster Road are too big and we have objected to them. The proposal is to be determined by the Planning Committee next Wednesday.

The time scale for a decision on Candywood Leys has now been extended until November, 10th. The planning application for a permanent dwelling at New Leaf Farm has been refused after a period of nine months. The applicant is to appeal. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council should support him in this appeal.

Evidently, preparatory work is now being done to construct the pedestrian/cyclist bridge at Batheaston.

5. Group Reports(Cont'd.)b) Highways Group

Cllr. Brennan reported that she has been in touch with the B.& N.E.S. Council's Highways Officer concerning road safety in the High Street. He does not consider that there is a speeding problem as the volume of traffic acts to restrict the speed. He did not feel that there was a case for any more signs or traffic calming. It was felt that safety would be improved if there was a School Crossing Patrol person in the afternoon.(Evidently, there is one in the mornings). Cllr. Batterbury would make enquiries at the school to see if anything could be done to obtain one.

S.B.

There was a Canal & River Trust meeting yesterday which Mr. Keith Rossiter attended. He will report to us in due course.

Cllr. Mayo reported improvements have been made to the footpath running from Holcombe Lane to the swing bridge. He is to attend the Parish Online Mapping Event which is taking place on November, 6th.

D.M.c) Leisure & Amenities Group

Cllr. Richards reported that the logs which had appeared in Jubilee Gardens had now disappeared. He said that there are two new allotment tenants and the Clerk is writing to them both with agreements and copies of the Rules. He said that some of the plots are not in a very tidy state and enquired what notice is required to evict a tenant. The Clerk said that he would check the regulations.

CLERK

He reported that the zip wire is being repaired. The see-saw is said to be dangerous and should be scrapped. In case we decide to have a replacement, Cllr. Richards was asked to get quotations.

M.R.

Cllr. Richards had obtained quotations for putting paving around the memorial in the churchyard. It was decided to go for the local builder who quoted £680 even though he was not quite the cheapest.

M.R.

The question of councillors expenses was then raised. The Chairman said that only he was allowed to claim for travel and subsistence and then only if he travelled outside the Parish. It was agreed that the Clerk and the Chairman would meet to see if stationery etc. could be made available to councillors.

A.M./CLERKd) Policy & Finance Group

The report had been circulated.

Cllrs. King and McCann had attended the Placemaking Plan workshop. The Chairman outlined the procedure which is to be followed. First a character assessment of the whole Village is done. This is followed by a landscape assessment of the non-built-up areas. Finally, open areas are assessed for either development or preservation. All this will be done using the B.& N.E.S. tool kit. The deadline for completion has now been moved to 21st.,December.

It was suggested that we might join with other local parish councils in a species mapping exercise as this would cost less than doing it on our

own. The Chairman was asked to find out the cost.

A.M.

Finally, the Chairman asked councillors if they could have their reports for the Newsletter with the editor by Friday, 25th, October.

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5. Group Reports(Cont'd.)

e) Parish Web Site

There was nothing further to report.

f) Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that he had received a quotation from Crymson Property Services for putting paving around the memorial in the churchyard and an update to the Electoral Register which he had passed to the Chairman.

6. Matters Arising:

The Clerk reported that he had written to the Bursar of King Edward's School but had not received a reply as yet.

Cllr. Mayo was reminded that he was going to obtain maps from Parish Online for the Clerk.

D.M.

Cllr. Ardrey reported that the fence alongside the playing field had been repaired.

The Clerk said that he had not advised B.& N.E.S.Council of the up-to-date make up of the Council as he wanted to include Cllr. Batterbury.. He will now advise them.

CLERK

7. Open Forum

The Chairman reminded the Clerk that he was to get the noticeboards refurbished i.e. new perspex/glass and replacement of faulty locks.

CLERK

Concern has been expressed by neighbours about 18 The Chestertons. The house is empty and neglected because the owner has gone into a home. It seems unlikely that he will be returning. It was suggested that B.& N.E.S.Council's Environmental Services Dept. has a section dealing with empty properties and the neighbour should report it to them via Council Connect.

Cllr. Batterbury mentioned that there are deposits of dog dirt in Dark Lane and behind the shops in Holcombe Lane. These should be reported to Council Connect. It was felt that the stub of the broken bus stop sign outside the Stores is a hazard and should also be reported.

Cllr. Richards mentioned that we have been offered a large quantity of trees for planting and did we wish to avail ourselves of this offer. After discussion, it was agreed to decline the offer as we do not have an area large enough to plant a wood. On the subject of trees, it was asked if we shall have a Christmas tree again this year. There was unanimous agreement to have one and to spend up to £150 on it.

M.R.

Cllr. Ardrey had noticed that the A.36-A.46 link road was mentioned in the V.P.A. minutes. He wondered if this was being promoted again. The Chairman said no. It has been in the background all along. It now seems that Wiltshire County Council are in favour of the A.350 being the preferred route.

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7. Open Forum(Cont'd.)

Cllr. Ardey had attended the Parishes Liaison meeting. B.& N.E.S.Council have instituted a Highways Ranger Project. From 1st.,April, next year a workman will be available to parishes to carryout work. There will be a single point of contact and no extra cost involved. The workman will be available on a rota and Clerks will be advised. A Parish Charter is available on the Council's website. There is still talk of the planning applications being sent by email. More details will be available in February.

The Clerk had received notification that the Village Hall would like to have the bookings for January to August next year by this November. The Clerk was asked to book the small room for the third Thursday in each month as usual.

CLERK

8.Date of Next meeting:

Thursday, 21st.,,November, 2013
At 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.10p.m.

Signed..... Chairman,
21st.,,November, 2013