

Bathampton Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th.,April, 2015
in the Village Hall, Bathampton

Present: Cllrs. A. McCann, G.Ardrey. M. Brennan, N.Land and D.Mayo

1. Apologies: These were received from Cllrs. S. Batterbury, L. King and M.Richards
2. Minutes of the last Meeting:
 The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th.,March, 2015 had been circulated. Cllr. Land, seconded Cllr. Brennan, proposed that these Minutes be accepted. Carried unanimously.

3. Finance:

a) Approval of the Financial Report for March, 2015

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

b) Approval of Expenditure for April, 2015

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

Cllr. Richards	Miscellaneous L.& A. Expenditure	£35.73(+VAT)
SSE Contracting	Street Light Maintenance	£64.16(+VAT)
EDF Energy	Electricity (Qtr. end 31/3/15)	£ 95.42(+VAT)
B'ton Village Hall	Annual Hiring of Rooms	£141.90

It was proposed by the Cllr.Mayo and seconded by Cllr. Ardrey that it all four invoices should be paid. Carried unanimously.

CLERK

c) Updating the Council's Computer

The Clerk had made further enquiries concerning the replacement of the Parish Council computer. There was general agreement that a laptop was best as it could be passed on to a subsequent Clerk more easily.

It seems that a 15.5" laptop would cost around £600 whilst a17.3" laptop would be slightly more being around £700. It was agreed that there was no need to pay for the Microsoft Office software as there is free software which will cope with word processing and spreadsheets.

The Clerk said that he would prefer the larger screen. Cllr.Ardrey, seconded by the Chairman, proposed that we purchase the 17.3" laptop. Carried unanimously

CLERK

4. Group Reports

a) Planning & Conservation Group

In the absence of Cllr. King, Cllr. Ardrey reported.

He said that even though permission had been granted for the housing development on the old Warminster Road M.O.D. site, there were many conditions attached.

At 76 Warminster Road, the plan for a side dormer has been refused because it is too big. It is suggested that the dormer is reduced in size

and fitted with frosted glass. However, the neighbour is still concerned. As a Parish Council, we have no objection in principle.

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4. Group Reports(Cont'd)

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

A plan has been received to put permeable block paving on a grasscrete access drive in Miller Walk. This includes a public right of way and allows access to owners of the adjacent fields for maintenance only. There seems to be no reason for the improvement and the parish council therefore recommended refusal.

An application has been received for a first floor extension and a single storey extension to provide garaging etc. at Braeside in Bathampton Lane. We have not responded, as yet, and have had an extension until 27th.,April to respond.

Concerning the unauthorized planting on the canal bank, the C.R.T. refuse to talk to us about it.

There are some proposals to link up the new foot/cyclepath from Batheaston across the meadows to the canal towpath by "The George", but we have no details as yet.

b) Highways Group

The report had been circulated.

Several items to be reported to Bath & N.E.Somerset Council were mentioned. They include potholes, a street light not working and the exit gate onto Mill Lane from the new foot/cyclepath not self-closing .

The Clerk reported that the swing bridge has now been acknowledged as a footpath and is being added to the Definitive Map. The paperwork was passed to Cllr. Mayo for information.

The Clerk also confirmed that the first installment of the Parish Grant for clearing vegetation from footpaths had been received.

c) Leisure & Amenities Group

Cllr. Richards had circulated a report but could not be present at the meeting.

The Clerk had written to the Canal & River Trust stating that we were not aware that we were to take on the lease of the Lengthman's Hut now that it has been renovated. A reply had been received which says that it was always understood that we would take on the lease and it would be used by our Handyman. It was agreed that we would ask Cllr. Richards what his understanding of the position is.

CLERK

There was then discussion about dog notices for the playing field. The exact wording was disputed by Cllr. Ardrey. It was agreed to tell Cllr. Richards to go ahead and order the notices after liaison with Cllr. Ardrey.

d) Policy & Finance Group

The report had been circulated.

The Chairman reported that the grant had now been paid to Bathampton Village Show in order to support the Flower Show. They had also asked if their newsletter and Show Schedule could be included and delivered by the volunteers who deliver the Parish Council Newsletter. It

was felt that some volunteers might not wish to do this because of the extra bulk to carry. Decision left for the new Council.

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4. Group Reports(Cont'd.)

e) Parish Web Site There was nothing to report.

f) Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that he had received quotations from B.& N.E.S. Council for cutting the grass on both the allotments and the playing field for the coming season as follows:

Allotments £ 996.32 +VAT

Playing Field £ 505.51 +VAT

These costs represent an increase of 2% over last years charges.

Cllr. Ardrey, seconded by the Chairman, proposed that we accept these quotations. Carried unanimously.

CLERK

5. Annual Parish Meeting

Cllr. Land gave his apologies for the meeting and Cllr. Brennan said that she would have to leave early.

After the business meeting, two project managers from First Great Western will tell us about the electrification of the main line to London and the effects on the local area while the work is being carried out.

6. Matters Arising:

Cllr. Mayo said that steps are to be installed on the slippery section of the BA1/11.

The Chairman said that the vehicle activated sign in Bathampton Lane needs to be changed now that the speed limit has changed to 20mph. Also some 30 mph signage remains.

It seems that the letter to "The Chronicle" from the VPA was not intended for publication but only to promote discussion. Following on from this, Batheaston P.C. has refused to pay its membership fee. However, there will be a new Parish Council in May.

6. Open Forum

Cllr. Mayo expressed his thanks for their years of service to the Council, to the Chairman and Cllr. Richards, both of whom are not standing for re-election. This was supported by the rest of the Council.

Cllr. Brennan mentioned the diagonal footpath in Holcombe Vale which is blocked by builders' materials. It seems that it is not a public right of way and so we cannot do anything about it.

7. .Date of Next meeting - the Annual Meeting.

Thursday, 21st., May, 2015
At 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.35 p.m.

Signed..... Chairman,