

Minutes of the Annual Residents Meeting held on 31st May 2023

Present: The meeting was attended by Bathampton Parish Councillors Lin King (Vice Chair), David Beard, Jan Helps, Tony Purpuri, Rob Bash, and Clerk Liz Daly with approximately 14 members of the public.

1	Welcome: The Vice Chair of the Parish Council, Lin King took the role of Chair as the Chair of the Council, Moira Brennan was not present. Lin King introduced herself and welcomed those present to the 2023 Annual Residents Meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Lin introduced the councillors present and highlighted their areas of responsibility. Ward Cllr Kevin Guy was also introduced.	
2	Apologies: Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Moira Brennan & George Ardrey.	
3	To approve the 2022 Annual Parish meeting minutes. It was resolved to approve the minutes, and these would be duly signed by the Vice Chair.	
4	Introduction	
	<p>Lin King reported that there was approximately 80k in the Parish Council bank account and approximately a year's worth of general reserves had been set aside. It was noted that just over £37k had been earmarked as funds to go towards upgrading the village playground which was expected to cost around £90k. Lin highlighted that the Clerk would shortly be re-applying for funding from the National Lottery to help acquire funds to complete phase 1 of the Project.</p> <p>Lin King referred to areas that had been the focus of the Parish Council following the last Residents Meeting, including traffic and road safety as part of the Liveable Neighbourhood Scheme which would be covered by Tony Purpuri later in the meeting.</p> <p>Thanks were expressed to Cllr Kevin Guy and BANES regarding the additional funding to help reinstate the bus service for Bathampton after the number 11 bus was cancelled last year.</p> <p>Lin King referred to the West of England Local Authority (WECA), West Local Scheme which is a fund for communities to design and run their own public transport service to better suit their needs. It was highlighted by Lin that whilst this isn't something that would be set up and run by the Parish Council it was worth consideration by Bathampton residents should this be of interest.</p> <p>It was reported by Lin that the Parish Council have been prioritising Climate Emergency and noted that the Parish Council have arranged Share and repair Café's in the Village Hall to encourage repair of equipment. Also available with guidance and information available to attendees regarding recycling and energy efficiency.</p> <p>It was also highlighted that the Parish Council had arranged planting on the green at Holcombe Vale and they are also looking to acquire a thermal imaging camera which could be brought to residents houses to look at inspecting and assessing energy efficiency, detecting areas of heat gain or loss, and identifying areas where insulation may need to be improved.</p> <p>The planning applications for new pitches and lighting at the University of Bath were additionally noted and it was highlighted that the Parish Council, with the Bath Preservation Trust (BPT) were looking to help keep the skies dark by minimising light pollution.</p>	

	Lin noted that it had been over a year since the National Trust (NT) had taken over the Meadows and invited Joanna Rolfe from the NT to provide an update.	
5	National Trust	
	<p>Joanna Rolfe introduced herself as the Project Manager for the Meadows at the National Trust. Joanna noted that the Meadows was the first green corridor to be announced by the NT and that the objective's for the green corridors is to increase nature by enhancing habitats, welcoming all, addressing unequal access to nature and encouraging active lifestyles.</p> <p>The work that the NT are undertaking to get a better understanding of the land was highlighted by Joanna referring to Paleo environmental and hydrological surveys as well as understanding its history and heritage through magnetometry surveys and digs following first century artefacts being discovered. It was additionally noted that the NT had carried out hedge laying and tree planting along the hedgerow.</p> <p>Joanna noted that the NT were keen to work with the community to get an understanding on how they would like the Meadows to look. Community participation events would be arranged which would be publicised via their noticeboard and via the Bathampton Meadows specific webpage which has recently gone live on the NT website.</p> <p>Joanna invited questions from the floor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A resident asked whether the NT had plans to get young children involved to help with the conservation activities or to help provide ideas e.g., natural children's play areas on the site. Joanna noted that the Community Engagement Manager had been in contact with the local schools, and they were very keen to collaborate with the schools and to get the children involved. • David Beard queried whether there were any plans for the NT to improve the drainage on the path leading from Bathampton to Batheaston as it is prone to flooding. Joanna noted that the NT will be looking to maintain the pathways on the Meadows, but this would be part of a larger project to include extending the existing pathways. Joanna highlighted that this would require significant funding and would not form part of their short-term plans. <p>Cllr Kevin Guy highlighted that as part of the Bath Riverline Project, there would be a budget to improve the cycle pathways in that area, but this is unlikely to happen for another 3-4 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following a query regarding the NT plans for the Meadows, Joanna noted that the data collated via e.g., surveys would help the NT understand what can be done within each area of the land, but their intention was to base their plans around community feedback and how the community would like to see the space used. The NT would then work with the landscape architect to help develop this. <p>With no further questions, the Vice Chair thanked Joanna for her presentation and time.</p>	
6	Truespeed	
	<p>The Chair invited Andy from Truespeed to provide an update.</p> <p>Andy Moore introduced himself and provided some history on Truespeed and their recent connections in the area. The benefits of connecting to full-fibre broadband were highlighted. Andy</p>	

noted that Truespeed will be coming into Bathampton in the next 3-4 months and highlighted that whilst they will use BT infrastructure where possible, some digging, and disruption would be likely. They would however be working in collaboration with BANES Highways regarding permits.

Andy noted that communication would be sent out to residents when the village is connected. Andy additionally noted that Truespeed like to work with the local community and usually offer free connection to Community Halls and Primary schools and to get in touch with them if free connection at the Hall is of interest.

Andy invited questions from the floor:

- Lin King asked for clarification on how people express an interest once connection is in place. Andy noted that communication and marketing literature will go out, and salespeople will visit the area. Andy referred to literature which he would leave behind following the meeting.
- Tony Purpuri queried the process of connecting to Truespeed. Andy noted that a green Truespeed cabinet would be installed next to the existing BT cabinets, and everything would be in place so that when a resident wishes to connect they would be connected to the nearest connection point, either underground or via the nearest pole.
- A resident queried the digging up of footpaths and roads and the likelihood of any future work being needed. Andy noted it was future proofed and the likelihood of a customer needing anything further once connected to Truespeed was extremely unlikely.
- The use of poles for connecting was queried. Andy noted that they try to minimize the need to dig due to cost and disruption and sometimes connecting to a pole is the best solution.
- David Beard queried the reinstatement of the footpaths / roads once digging work had been completed. Andy highlighted that Truespeed would put them back to at least the same condition as they were before work took place and they would be working closely with BANES Highways on this.
- A resident highlighted that Truespeed had attended an Annual Parish meeting several years ago where they notified residents of their plans to enter Bathampton and queried why this did not go ahead. Andy replied that at that time they had a different business model that required public interest to justify entering an area. Andy noted that increased investment and a proven model that shows they generate the required number of connections on entering an area means they are now able to complete the work and then look to acquire new customers afterwards.
- A resident queried whether residents would need to keep a separate copper line with BT to keep their analogue line or would they need to convert to a digital line to use it via Truespeed.
Andy highlighted that a customer's phone number can be ported over to Truespeed at an approximate one-off charge of £15 and that there is a special socket on the back of the router that existing analogue phone can be plugged into

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A resident noted the change from analogue to digital. Andy highlighted that the telephone signal would go over the broadband, but it could still be a copper connection back to the box. Andy highlighted that dial phones will no longer work. <p>Andy was thanked by the Vice Chair for his update.</p>	
7	Liveable Neighbourhoods.	
	<p>Tony Purpuri introduced himself and provided some background information regarding the Conker Crossing bridge. Tony highlighted that in view of the Conker Crossing not being a feasible option due to costs, the Parish Council have been working with BANES to find alternative solutions to resolve the traffic issues and pedestrian safety over the Canal Bridge</p> <p>Tony took the opportunity to thank Fiona Powell, Lin King, and Terry Wagstaff for their support and efforts to get the project to where it is to date.</p> <p>Tony referred to a previous application submitted to Liveable Neighbourhoods which is funding from central government to make local roads and areas more accessible and safer for pedestrian and cyclists. It was noted that by working with volunteers from the village, the next steps would be to look at the issues in the village and the desired outcomes and then to amend the existing application to include these.</p> <p>It was noted by Tony that if the application is then successful and funding is acquired, a team would put together some design's and through e.g., workshops the community would have the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed solutions and provide an opportunity to influence the outcome. It was additionally noted by Tony that if funding is not successful, the application could be used when looking at other funding opportunities.</p> <p>Lin King highlighted that whilst the Parish Council can help support and facilitate the process, the application needs to be created with the involvement of the community, ensuring everyone is involved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A resident queried whether any mapping is being conducted to look at where people are travelling to and from. Tony referred to the ANPR cameras within the village, in place to register vehicle registration plates. BANES conduct analysis alongside the DVLA to look at where that person lives and where they are going. Tony highlighted that whilst it showed that most traffic is cut through traffic, there is some local traffic e.g., around school drop off and pick up. Tony noted that this analysis could be included to form part of the Liveable Neighbourhoods application. Tony welcomed ideas from the community on road safety which could be sent over to BANES. A resident highlighted electric car provision to help reduce pollution within the village. It was noted by Tony and Lin that the grid is not currently strong enough to support electric charging points. The resident noted that the grid connection has been upgraded for the methodist church which has the capacity to have up to four charging points. Lin highlighted that a conversation with the church on this would be useful and information could be included within the application. <p>The resident additionally queried the No2 monitors within the village and queried whether the height of the cameras had been adjusted. David Beard noted that there was no agreement to extend the trial. Lin noted that initiatives such as this would be looked at in more detail if the application is successful.</p>	

	<p>Regarding adjusting the height, Cllr Kevin Guy said that he would be happy to arrange the height adjustment for the cameras should the Parish Council make a request to do so.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A resident queried whether there was a concise list of things the Parish Council would like to see conducted regarding the Canal Bridge. Tony noted the priority is to improve pedestrian safety over the bridge and stop cars mounting the pavements. • A resident of the High Street highlighted the speeding traffic along the High Street as well as speeding cyclists on the pavements. Tony noted that this is against the law and therefore a police matter. Kevin Guy noted that if the resident could advise usual timings of this, he could get the police community support officer (PCSO) to visit the High Street around that time. • A resident referred to electric scooters along the canal and noted how one of these almost knocked over her young son. Tony noted that it is illegal for scooters to be on the canal. The resident queried the possibility of having signage along the towpath highlighting that electric scooters are illegal. Cllr Rob Bash agreed to raise this with the Canal & River Trust (CRT). Cllr Purpuri highlighted that if the times of this are known, he would be happy to speak with the PCSO to ask him to do a walk around the village. • A resident queried extending the Clean Air Zone in Bath to Bathampton. Kevin Guy noted that extending the zone is possible, but this would also have consequences e.g., residents with non-compliant vehicles or camper vans would incur charges as would deliveries / service vehicles coming into the area, and they would potentially pass the charge onto the resident. A review of this would however be something for consideration. 	
8	Questions and Discussion	
	The Vice-Chair invited members of the public to raise any matters of interest.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Beard queried the poor maintenance of Jubilee Gardens following the Parish Council relinquishing their lease for the land. Another resident queried why the Parish Council had stopped this lease. Rob Bash reported that the Parish Council has sent the CRT communications regarding its maintenance, but no response has been received. Lin suggested discussing this at the next Parish Council meeting. • A resident raised the CRT compound bin and on-going rat infestation. Rob Bash reported that the issue regarding improving the area is slightly more complicated as it is a CRT bin on BANES owned land, but highlighted that BANES are looking to take legal action. He further noted that removing the bin needs more thought to prevent shifting the problem to another area. 	
	The Vice-Chair thanked everyone for attending and invited residents to stay for refreshments.	
9	The meeting closed at 20.49 pm	

Signed:

Chair:

Date: