

Batheaston Parish Council

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Batheaston Parish Council held in
The Rhymes Pavilion on Tuesday 20th March 2012 at 7-15 pm**

Present :- Cllrs V Pecchia (Chair), J Beresford-Smith, P Blanking, L Brass, K Eardley, S Fremantle, K Hawkins, J Heffer, M Johns, D Lavington, D Robins, M Tabb, V Trenchard, P Fear and M Townley (Clerk)
Apologies : Cllrs D Gledhill, G Riley and P Burcombe, S Cast
In attendance: Cllr M Veal

C-573 Declarations of Interest

None raised

C-574 Minutes of Meeting held 31st January 2012

Proposed D Lavington } RESOLVED – That the Minutes be formally approved as presented.
Seconded J Hawkins } (Unanimously)

C-575 Matters Arising from the above Minutes

(a) Nothing raised.

C-576 Chairman's Report – V Pecchia

(a) River Crossing

Cabinet members at the February Cluster meeting were embarrassed there had been little progress. Feed back from a pre-application planning meeting appeared to confirm that the “rejected” steel design, across the widest part of the river, was preferred. In addition because of time lapsed the EA was now asking for a re-modelling of the flood risk assessment.

Glen Chip had agreed to address the Parish Council at the Village annual meeting on this issue. If B&NES were to pursue the Pre Planning application advice mooted above, BPC agreed it would prepare and submit its own Planning application at a cost between £500-£1000 to ensure it had a meaningful say and seek independent and fair consideration on design and siting, through the planning appeal process if necessary.

Cabinet and senior officers are urging their designers to re-think, more due news in April.

(b) Cluster Meeting 21 February

Notes issued to all Councillors and the Meeting stressed:-

1. HGV Traffic on Bannerdown Road – B&NES confirmed a weight limit bye-law can be imposed which would prevent its use by HGV. This will be pursued with B&NES highway Dpt. And B&NES were urged to make this known to their counter part in Wiltshire impressing this would be pursued if Wiltshire failed to address the issues arising.

This proposal will be investigated;

2. The speed table by the Car Sales outlet can be removed and replaced with speed cushions. VP is to liaise with Highways to ensure the cushion design and their location are effectively executed to reduce speed and maintain safety.

(c) Liaison Meeting 23 February.

Notes issued to all Councillors, and the “official” minutes omit a significant item on Development Management issues. It was agreed VP write to all Parish/Town Councils to seek their support to promote a change of attitude and culture of this aspect of B&NES planning.

VP

(d) Energy-Savings Group

A bid for a Grant has been successful and meetings are being held in Batheaston and Bathford to explain.

A Team is available for the Annual Meeting, provided the date changes to Tuesday 24th April. The Team to be invited to speak at the Annual Meeting.

VP

A suitable Hall to be booked.

MT

C-577 Village Centre Committee Report – K Hawkins.

(a) Pavement at Shops

The Cluster Meeting in February revealed that monies had been “forgotten” in the B&NES budget.

VP addressed this issue again with B&NES and reissued design proposals. He has been advised an engineering Team will be investigating both the pavement and the Fiveways junction. Cabinet members have indicated funding for such initiative could be available possibly through the “Bath Public Realm” programme which requires expenditure in the rural areas equivalent to any expenditures in Bath.

Legal advice has been sought and a County Court injunction is likely to succeed.

(b) Jubilee Events

A Provisional programme has now been prepared and should be finalised at meeting set for 29th March. Bathford will prepare coordinate sales and distribution.

A “flavour” of the programme will be prepared for inclusion in the Annual Report Bulletin.

VP

B&NES has offered to grant a licence for use of the Car Park/Gardens – and a closure of the High Street this will involve the cancellation of the some bus services on the day.

Insurance requirements advice of Parish sponsored events was issued at this meeting further clarification should be sought in relation to the specific programme being proposed by the Coordination team. B&NES has offered assistance in preparing any required Risk Assessments.

P B/J B-S/VP

Councillors were urged to offer assistance in preparation/running of the many events.

ALL

Suitable memorials – at the two gateways – is being investigated.

A separate Bank Account is being pursued with Barclays and all signatories will need to attend the Bank with identification etc. when the papers are received – The treasurer L Brass and MT will pursue finalising set up asap and have account opened and ready to complement fund raising programme.

LB/MT

C-578 Planning & Environment committee Report – D Robins

(a) PEC Recommendations

No meetings now for 2 months as there have been no Applications to consider.

This Council had supported an Application and the officer decided against the Application. An appeal has been lodged and the BPC is not allowed any further correspondence with the Inspector.

The next PEC meeting to consider whether to be more verbose when making a favourable comment.

(b) Colerne Storage

Still no responses from Wilts council about any re-routing of HGVs off Bannerdown Road. (This road is now closed for re-surfacing and somehow the HGV traffic is "finding" alternative routes.)

The emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy ignores any effect on its boundaries, or possible traffic into neighbouring Bath etc.

C-579 Highways Committee Report – V Pecchia

(a) After almost a year still no Chairman and the "health/status" of this Committee must be reviewed in the Council's new term.

(b) The Bulletin will be utilised to complete a survey on the Council's proposed "switching-off" of BPC Lights.

(c) B&NES to be asked to advise data from the CCTV Unit concerning the horse rider using the river footpath BA 2/5. This request should identify the efficacy of the Unit. **MT**

C-580 General Purposes Committee Report – S Fremantle

(a) Standing Orders

The recently approved changes to adopt NALC recommendations have now been amended to include sections from the existing SOs. Only the financial Section is to be completed, and the Code-of-Conduct section cannot be reviewed until the effects of the localism Act are declared.

(b) Sports Field

Drainage works commenced 12th March, completion before end of March. Reseeding follows and – if the weather is favourable – play might commence in the Autumn.

The fencing renewal almost completed but without the additional gate – requested to suit possible use of the Pavilion as a Polling Station. A written "Regrets at this unilateral decision" in progress. **VP**

(c) Accounts

The Gardening Agency payments to the BPC have been erratic and some £1300 is owed.

All proof of Invoices, and bank statements proving receipts, forwarded for B&NES investigation.

Income for the end of the year indicates Income at some £410 better than Budget and Expenditure at (£27200) less than Budget.

The GPC did not recommend any special Payments but payments to the Youth Club – for the 3rd opening – should be resumed.

(d) Bulletin No 29 – Annual Report

Most contributions now available, running late as usual. Some photos/diagrams desirable.

Target date is Monday 26th March to printers for distribution by the usual team starting week commencing Monday 2nd April.

C-581 Meetings Timetable – May 2012 to May 2013

(a) Provisional timetable issued to all councillors.

Will be finalised when all "new" Chairmen are appointed after the Parish Council's AGM on 22nd May 2012.

C-582 Report from all councillors – representations and issues.

(a) The national press is reporting that solar panels on a low level roof are not acceptable.

(b) The P&R Permission for the Meadows has not been revoked, but the B&NES consultant's report for flood compensation proposes to "dig out" that site. Much furore at the Inspectors Inquiry on the Core Strategy.

(c) The government's Planning policy paper (52 pages) due soon.

(d) The Penthouse Steps railing has broken - again.

(e) There has been a 'paucity' of information from the VPA.

Due to meet next week and any minutes will be circulated to all Councillors.

C-583 BLA Report

(a) A full report from the BLA chairman just received and issued at this meeting.

There are several requests for financial support and these items to be considered by the GPC.

C-584 Clerks Report

(a) Nothing to add.

C-585 Press Release

Nothing at this time

C-586 Date of next Meeting: -

Annual Village Meeting Tuesday 24th April 2012 at 7-30 pm in RC Church Hall
Annual Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 22nd May 2012 at 7.15 pm in The Rhymes Pavilion

Chairman.....Date.....