Batheaston Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Batheaston  Parish Council held in
The Rhymes Pavilion on Tuesday 30th September 2014 at 7-15 pm

Present: Cllrs V Pecchia, (Chair), J Beresford-Smith, P Blanking, L Brass, M Corbett, P Burcombe, V Drew, K Eardley, S Fremantle, K Hawkins, G Riley, V Trenchard, M Tabb & M Townley (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllrs S Cast, P Fear, J Heffer, M Johns, D Robins,

Attending: A Moment of Silence held to register the Parish Council’s regrets at the passing of ex-Councillor David Lavington (20 year’s Parish Councillor Service – 12 as Chairman), and offer condolences to the Family.

David stewardship included the introduction of 20mph speed limits, issue of the Vision Plan, Twinning with Oudon and he was the lead “champion” against a Park & Ride on the Meadows.

(Advised - 1st October - that his service is to be held in St Johns Church, Batheaston, on Friday 10th October at 10.30am)

C-859 Standing Orders (SO)

As the Proper Officer the Clerk revoked SO 1.10 as an Act dated 6th August that now permits the “Photographing, recording, broadcasting and transmitting of any Meetings proceedings.”

The Clerk also reiterated the SO that does not permit open discussion from visitors once the Meeting is formally opened by the Chairman. Which is why all Council and Committee Meetings begin with a “Public Participation” – so that visitors might discuss concerns.

C-860 Presentation by Nigel Whitehead

Mr Whitehead head is a planning consultant leading a team of professionals including Architects, Highway engineers and Arboroculturalist preparing an alternative Village Hall scheme for the BCH group. He has held 2 x exhibitions showing a slightly smaller Hall - with parking on the field - on the same site. Some 200 responses received, around 50% in favour of the new unit. Consultations have been held with B&NES Arboroculturalist, the Diocese, a Traffic survey completed and pre-application meetings has been held with B&NES Planning officers to ensure compliance with planning legislation.

A Planning application will be issued IF the judicial review finds against the B&NES Planners.

Many queries raised: Packer = why pursue another scheme? - approved Hall had no parking; Hagen = BNVH scheme passed twice - no comment; Stuart = Concerns about access down School Lane for emergency vehicles - hope the parking inside the wall will overcome; James = Why remove the parking bays? - hope to utilise inside the wall instead; Holloway = Demanded an apology for not notifying of the parking survey – Apology offered but notification is not usual; Pitman = Is it normal for a rival scheme to be proposed against an approved plan – happens many times; Vere = The BCH website shows traffic only during school drop-off times. Most events are after school-hours – again a normal routine; Vere = The BNVH is NOT a “theatre” and never had problems with parking – accept all points; Hidalgo = Has contact been made with all the Groups using the existing Hall? – not yet. Mr Whitehead was thanked for his attendance and all visitors invited to stay for the rest of the Meeting.

C-861 Public Participation

Ms. Emma Adams wished to present a petition in favour of the BNVH scheme – with 330 signatures – and asked that each Councillor present give their opinion on the “approved” Hall so that this information could be passed to the Bath Chronicle on Wednesday. The Clerk did not receive notice of this petition – although accepted that it might have been sent. The Chairman could not accept that the Councillors must make such a declaration at this time.

C-862 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Burcombe is BNVH trust member and chairs the Youth Club. Cllr Eardley is a member of the Youth Club committee.

C-863 Motions – Cllr Drew

(a) Village Hall Referendum VD proposed that the BPC conducts a Referendum about the Village Hall. After discussion Cllr Drew withdrew the Motion until after the results of the judicial review are known.

(b) Petitions Debate. VD proposed that the BPC conducts a debate on any issues petitioned by 10% of parishioners. After much discussion it was agreed that this proposal deserves consideration and in principle accepted that provision should be contained in standing orders.

Proposed V Drew Resolved: 8 x For 2 x Against That the GPC considers the principle that any group may “trigger” a debate and to prepare an appropriate SO including the provision for setting up meeting to hold such a debate.

C-864 Minutes of Meeting held 5th June 2014

Proposed K Hawkins Resolved: (Unanimously) That the Minutes be formally approved as presented subject to the amended date of next meeting to read 30th September.

C-865 Matters Arising from the above Minutes

(a) Nothing raised

C-866 Receipt of Standing Committee Reports

(a) General Purposes (S Fremantle)

i Standing Orders are under revision and a sub-group will formed to complete the analysis.

ii The purchase of a wall-mounted urn for the Pavilion will be considered at the next GPC Meeting.

(b) Highways, Footpaths & Lighting (J Heffer)
The residents are ably pursuing the over-high speed table at the garage in the High Street.

B&NES confirmed today that the Pavement Refurbishment should commence Jan/Feb 2015.

This Meeting reaffirmed the promise from B&NES that “there will be consultation” before works commence.

Gate at the top of Solsbury Lane is chained? To be checked.

Luminescent discs to be installed on the new Bridge. Numbers required to be confirmed.

Planning & Environment (L Brass)

Nothing to report. It is noted that the Planning Officers have agreed with all PEC recommendations this calendar year.

Neighbourhood Plan (V Pecchia)

“Think Tank” results advised to all Councillors, the 200 responses seem to be all on the same themes.

Presentation of Unaudited Accounts

(a) August 2014 All figures versus budget. The unaudited figures, verified by Cllr Heffer, indicate:

Income = (£532) Savings Year-to-Date = £1168
Expenditure = £3219 Reductions Year-to-Date = £15468

(b) Special Payment Recommendations

Annual Insurance £1980
Proposed K Hawkins ) RESOLVED – The Accounts, and Special Payment, are approved as presented.
Seconded S Fremantle ) (Unanimously)

Chairman’s Report

(a) B&NES is holding a Transport Meeting on “Getting around Bath” on 9th October. Attendee requested. ALL

(b) A recent meeting with the Highways Agency revealed that the A350 is not “A strategic route” and so it would not attract priority funding for improvement. The HA officer Mr S. Walsh advised that for the A350 to become an alternative North South route to the A46/A36 it would have to be designated a strategic route but this would likely take 20 years+ to achieve.

This Meeting agreed that the next Bulletin will be a Christmas issue – to be distributed W/c 8th December. Therefore articles invited to the Clerk by 1st November to permit collating, checking, printing and distribution preparation. Please email all contributions – no matter the format.

Chairman…………………………………………..Date………………………..

Date of next Meeting: -

Tuesday 28th October 2014 at 7.15pm in The Rhymes Pavilion (to be confirmed)