

CLAVERTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12TH JULY 2011 AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Present:

Councillors: David Batho (Chairman), Rodger Sykes, Mark Mackintosh, Chris Jensen, Clive Abbott
Clerk: Andrea Griffiths
Also present: Members of the public

25/11. Open Forum - None

26/11. Apologies for Absence - Richard Wright, Anna Beria

27/11. Declarations of Member Interests - None

28/11. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and Ordinary Meeting on 10th May 2011

The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising from the minutes:

Clive Abbott queried the PC's financial reserves, and was informed that there are funds allocated to part-funding of a possible A36 speed limit scheme and other items which could have future cost implications (as discussed at January 2011 PC meeting). It was agreed that AJG would look at the restricted funds and projections against budget for the next meeting and would circulate this beforehand.

Actions

AJG

29/11. Co-option of New Councillor

All agreed to the co-option of Clive Abbott to the Parish Council and welcomed him back. His Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed, witnessed by AJG.

30/11. Correspondence – noted as per the attached list.

31/11. Financial Officers Report

The following statutory cheque was signed on 17th June:

100081 – HMRC	£100.00
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The following cheques were signed:

100082 – A Griffiths - salary	£269.38
100083 – A Griffiths - expenses	£20.52
100084 – HMRC - Paye	£3.20
100085 – D Batho – expenses	£38.80
100086 – ALCA – Cllr packs	£7.59

Receipts:	£0.00
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Cllr Batho and AJG outlined the latest information on the potential alterations to the audit system (DCLG Consultation - 'The Future of Public Audit'), whereby the local authority may either conduct the external audit or allocate an external organisation.

32/11. B&NES Core Strategy

Cllr Batho reported that the draft Core Strategy had been presented to the inspector who had responded with some fundamental concerns. In order to give time to fully consider the issues raised, B&NES has recommended that the public examination be rescheduled from September to December.

33/11. Parishes Liaison Meeting 15th June update

Cllr Batho reported that the Parish Charter has been delayed awaiting effects of the Localism Bill; an update was given on Parishes On-line; the current situation with the Bath Transportation Package was mentioned; data on A and B Roads Speed limits were provided; the Small Grants Scheme, where parishes can apply for assistance for community projects was outlined. It was agreed that Cllr Abbott would look into the grants scheme and any potential there may be for the community.

CA

34/11. University of Bath Residents Forum 7th June update

Cllr Mackintosh reported that there was a lot of discussion on planning issues including recent permission for a temporary wind turbine which is part of a research project being run by the engineering department. This will be located by the running track and may be visible from the Bath Skyline Walk and be in place for two years.

The University continue to offer their support for reducing traffic/speeds on Claverton Hill. The next meeting is 6th September.

MM

35/11. Planning Committee Report

Relaxation of Planning Regulations (commercial to residential). Cllr Abbott reported that, under recommendations in a DCLG consultation, buildings with various commercial designations could be converted to residential use without planning permission. It was noted that the VPA were submitting concerns on this, and it was agreed that Cllr Batho would request that attention be drawn to concerns on change of use of farm buildings in the green belt.

DB

Localism Seminar 21st July – it was noted that the VPA will be sending a representation to this meeting.

Next meeting

36/11. Transport Committee Report

Convex Safety Mirror (north end of village) – Cllr Sykes reported that this had been stolen and has now been replaced (following discussions with John Lippiatt) by a new mirror. All agreed that Cllr Sykes should be reimbursed for this expenditure.

Next meeting

Village/Claverton Hill – Winter contingency plans – Cllr Mackintosh to draft letter to Kelvin Packer (B&NES Service Manager for Highways & Parking) – carried forward.

MM

A36 Speed Limit – Cllr. Batho met Peter Dawson (B&NES Group Manager Planning Policy & Transport) and Stefan Chiffers (Traffic & Safety Team) to discuss the scope and cost of a stand-alone speed limit scheme. Cllrs Batho and Wright had two subsequent site meetings with Stefan Chiffers.

Cllrs Batho and Wright met Jacob Rees-Mogg MP on 25th June and Cllr Batho met Roger Symonds (B&NES Cabinet Member for Transport) on 12th July - briefing notes circulated to Cllrs. Jacob Rees-Mogg has agreed to intervene with the DfT Minister for Transport and Roger Symonds is convinced of the urgent need for the speed limit scheme (50 mph signage plus two VAS signs) and supports our request that B&NES offer to design and implement the scheme and part-fund it, together with the PC (refer Highways Act 1980 S274 & 274A).

A letter from B&NES to the PC, confirming the above, is awaited. Cllr Batho to write to Jacob Rees-Mogg, including a copy of this letter, and to investigate the potential of the Sustainable Communities Act.

DB

Cllr Batho to write to Roger Symonds to comment on an alarming near miss at the A36 northern junction (reported by Rosemary Wells).

DB

A36 - Highways Agency Road Maintenance – Cllr. Wright has been advised that the replacement of the rumble strips and filling of the pot holes will be undertaken in the next three months.

Ferry Lane – Parking tickets continue to be applied to illegally parked vehicles (advice note in July village newsletter).

Bath Transportation Package – The removal of the Bathampton Meadows P&R from the recommended content of the 'best & final' funding bid to the DfT is to be debated at the B&NES Cabinet and Full Council Meetings on 13th & 14th July respectively.

Transport Reports (AQ Action Plan, JLTP3 freight, AONB Highways Guidelines) – It was agreed that Cllr Mackintosh would look through the documents and report anything of relevance at the next meeting.

Parish Cluster Meeting 20th July – Keith Rossiter (Bathampton Parish Council) is attending and will report back to Cllr Batho.

PACT Meetings – Cllr Batho reported that the Police are considering changing the format of the PACT meetings to become more localised, i.e. a joint meeting with Claverton and Bathampton. It was felt that this was a good idea and that the Transport Committee should pursue it (contact PCSOs - Mike Symonds, Greg Doyle).

MM

DB

RS/RW/MM

37/11. Valley Parishes Alliance

Transport – It was noted that the second meeting of the Bath Transport Commission was cancelled. There is to be a meeting of the VPA A36 Transport Sub-Committee on Thursday 14th July – Cllr Batho to attend.

DB

Kennet & Avon Canal:

Defra Consultation – Cllr. Batho and Keith Rossiter submitted the response at the end of June. They also met Mark Minkley (B&NES Environment Team Leader) - a copy of the VPA representation was provided.

Green Infrastructure Strategy – Cllr Batho reported on a meeting with B&NES Consultant (Mace Ltd) to discuss VPA input to B&NES's Green Infrastructure Strategy. A questionnaire on 'The River Corridor' (completed by Cllr Batho & Keith Rossiter) was circulated.

MSSG Meetings – Cllr. Batho reported that the last meeting was cancelled.

Bath WHS Management Plan (2010-2016) – Cllr Batho advised Malcolm McDowall (Corston PC Chair and new ALCA representative on the WHS Steering Group) of B&NES's commitment to include a new map (showing Green Belt and AONB) in the final plan. Tony Crouch has confirmed this commitment with Malcolm.

Website – The VPA have agreed the mock-up and the Strategies and Policies documents as prepared by Cllr Batho and a letter has been sent out to three companies (incl Melina Traub) for quotes to produce the site.

38/11. Broadband Service

Cllr. Sykes reported that B&NES are lagging Wiltshire and other neighbouring counties in developing a broadband strategy. Cllr. Sykes to discuss further with Helen Moore (B&NES Development & Regeneration) and write to the CEO of BT to see what plans they have for low residential rural areas – carried forward.

RS

It was reported that the pumping station causes intermittent interference with the broadband service on Ferry Lane. Cllr Sykes to continue dialogue with British Waterways electrical engineer and BT to resolve the issue.

RS

39/11. Parish Council website

Good progress is being made with the site. It was agreed to not have a photo gallery section at this time. All Cllrs and the Clerk to supply photo to Cllr Beria if they have not already done so.

ALL

Cllr Batho to work on the Governance & Procedures and Area Maps pages, AJG and Cllr Batho to work on FOI Act and Finance Administration pages. It was noted that Cllrs Batho and Beria and AJG would be responsible for uploading documents (minutes, reports, representations etc) and keeping the site up to date.

AB/DB/AJG

40/11. Exchange of Information

It was noted that the funeral of John Doran takes place on 14th July at the crematorium.

It was noted that Cllr Beria would be attending the NHS B&NES AGM on 21st July.

AB

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

Date of next Council meeting: Tuesday 13th September 2011

Future Council meetings: Tuesday 8th November.

Signed.....
Chairman, Claverton Parish Council

Date.....