

CLAVERTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8th MARCH 2011 AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Present:

Councillors: David Batho (Chairman), Richard Wright, Anna Beria, Rodger Sykes, Clive Abbott, Chris Jump
Also present: Members of the public

In the absence of the Clerk, it was agreed that Cllr. Batho would record the minutes of the meeting.

Open Forum

No matters were raised.

Apologies for Absence - Mark Mackintosh, Andrea Griffiths (Clerk)

Declarations of Member Interests

There were no declarations made.

69/11. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 11th January 2011

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

70/11. Correspondence - as per the attached list.

Cllr. Batho circulated a B&NES "Community Resilience Manual". Cllr. Jump suggested that existing Claverton emergency contacts and provisions should be reviewed.

Actions

AJG/DB

71/11. Financial Officers Report

It was agreed to raise a cheque for £205.48, in payment for Andrea's salary for November/December 2010.

AJG

The bank reconciliation to the end of February 2011, which was circulated by Andrea prior to the meeting, was noted.

72/11. B&NES Draft Core Strategy

All approved the PC representations on the draft Core Strategy, including the joint Claverton & Bathampton PCs representation on the Kennet & Avon Canal (also supported by the VPA).

B&NES anticipate that a report on consultation responses (1500 received) will be published by end March, the draft Core Strategy will be submitted for Public Examination before May and adopted by late 2011.

73/11. Bath University Residents Forum

Cllr. Jump attended the 8th February Forum and asked about the University Masterplan, projected student numbers and University representation on the B&NES Draft Core Strategy. The University agreed to consult with resident groups on any future changes to the Masterplan.

Cllr. Jump requested that the University remain committed to putting notices on their staff and student websites about speeding traffic on Claverton Hill and reported the PC' intention to support the proposed Traffic Regulation Order for Claverton Down Road and our ongoing campaign to secure a speed limit on the A36.

The next Forum is on 7th June.

74/11. ALCA & Parishes Liaison Meetings

Cllr. Batho attended the 26th January **ALCA** meeting and reported -

ALCA newsletters have been stopped and will be replaced by more use of the association website and emails to Parish Clerks. In the revised management structure - Peter Duppa-Miller (Combe Hay PC) will be the new advisor. The ALCA office relocated to Blagdon on 1st March and the association assistant secretary position has been removed.

The Parish Councils of Combe Hay, Newton St Loe and Englishcombe have applied to have their areas included in the Cotswolds AONB.

Concerns were expressed about the draft Core Strategy policy regarding protection of the City of Bath WHS landscape setting.

Cllr. Batho attended the 16th February **Parishes Liaison** meeting and reported -

The B&NES 'Highways Winter Maintenance Review' identified salt bins and the salting network as the key concerns. B&NES is planning to implement a bagged salt service during the summer months and also offering to source spreading equipment for Parish Councils. Cllr. Batho circulated a 'Winter Weather' leaflet, which has been produced by B&NES to give guidance on self-help and snow clearance, and recommended that copies be made available at the Annual Parish Meeting. All agreed.

DB

B&NES outlined the objectives and scope of work of the Bath Transport Commission and stated that Terms of Reference would be published shortly.

The Parish Charter, which sets out the working relations between B&NES and Parish Councils in its area, will go out for consultation shortly, with an expectation of adoption at the June Parishes Liaison meeting

The Localism Bill is currently being read by the House of Commons. Clarity is needed on words such as - community, neighbourhood (parish?), council and local. An update will be provided at the June Parishes Liaison meeting. Cllr. Batho circulated '*A plain English guide to the Localism Bill*' to P Cllrs prior to the PC meeting.

75/11. Sustainable Communities Act

Cllr. Abbott outlined the intent and scope of the Sustainable Communities Act and suggested that, among local councils, the new powers will be used by the larger ones, e.g. Keysham or Midsomer Norton, although there could be scope for use by the Valley Parishes Alliance.

76/11. Planning Committee Report

Cllr Abbott advised that there was nothing to report.

77/11. Transport Committee Report

Speeding Traffic on Claverton Hill - Cllr. Mackintosh has contacted the University of Bath to ensure that their websites post reminders to students and staff, at the start of each new semester, about the dangers of speeding on Claverton Hill (also refer item 73/11). Cllr. Batho reported positive feedback from University cyclists who use the hill.

Winter Contingency Plans - Cllr. Wright reported that the Police will not permit the PC to keep and deploy "Road Closed" signs on Claverton Hill. A letter will be written to B&NES in which the case will be made for including the hill on the salting network and an expression of interest will be made about receiving bagged salt and purchasing spreading equipment to help clear the village road, lanes and paths (also refer item 74/11).

MM/RW

Claverton Down Road Traffic Regulation Order - Cllr. Mackintosh sent B&NES a representation supporting the proposed order.

A36 Speed Limit - Cllr. Batho made a presentation at the 4th March West of England Joint Transport Executive Committee (JTEC) meeting in Bristol, at which the Highways Agency were present. All JTEC member councils (B&NES, North Somerset, Bristol and North Somerset) gave their support to our campaign and the Chairman (B&NES Cllr. Charles Gerrish) insisted that the Highways Agency respond formally to the JTEC regarding the questions and issues raised in Cllr. Batho's statement.

At the meeting, an offer was made by a representative of the Avon Ramblers Association to arrange a walk through the Claverton area to publicise our campaign - Cllr Jump to make initial enquires.

CJ

The PC will continue to liaise with the JTEC and Peter Dawson (B&NES Group Manager Planning Policy & Transport).

DB

A36

Cllr. Wright reported that the trees and overgrowth in the northern lay-by have been cut back and cleared by the Highways Agency, B&NES are emptying the two new rubbish bins on a regular basis and the blue van has been moved.

The Highways Agency completed road maintenance and white line renewal in the Bathampton and Claverton area and is conducting a survey of the subsidence near Watership Farm.

Ferry Lane - Cllr. Batho sent a letter to Robert Fear, expressing the PC's appreciation for the excellent repair to the section of boundary wall on the north side of the lane.

Cllr. Wright confirmed that, following his request, B&NES will clear and renew the yellow lines along the lane.

Cllr. Batho replied to two enquires from Bathford PC about the planned car park at the bottom of Ferry Lane. John Webb (Kennet & Avon Canal Trust) informed him that it would be smaller than originally planned. Cllr. Batho requested the Trust to carefully design the entrance to the car park, taking account of vehicle movements in front of Rose Cottage.

Natural England Permissive Open Access Land near Pumping Station - Cllr. Mackintosh is getting quotes for producing the new sign for the entrance gate to the Open Access Land. Funding contributions will be requested from Bathford PC and Natural England, who will also be asked about the lectern they proposed near the entrance stile.

MM

B&NES Air Quality Action Plan - still not published.

Parish Cluster Meeting - Cllrs. Batho and Wright attended the 23rd February meeting (Chaired by Cllr. Charles Gerrish). In response to written questions put by the PC, B&NES stated that they:-

(1) ...are about to make an announcement about the possible removal of Cleveland Bridge from the primary route network, thereby opening the door to an HGV ban on the bridge, and have already discussed the plan with Wiltshire Council. Comment - the proposed scheme would reduce significantly the number of HGVs passing through Claverton.

(2) ...will provide the PC with a copy of the Cotswolds AONB Highways Guidelines - the document which sets out the plan of management and maintenance of highways in the AONB.

(3) ...have no current plans to investigate an A36/A46 link road and that, as set out in the West of England Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP3), it is only a long term 'aspiration' post 2026. Comment - a number of Parishes have expressed deep concern about the inclusion of an A36/A46 link road in the Core Strategy and JLTP, given the extreme conflict with other policies in both documents.

Cllr. Wright commented on the PC's intention to request that Claverton Hill be included in the B&NES salting network and expressed interest in the proposed salt bagging and spreading equipment schemes (also refer items 74/11 & 77/11).

West of England JLTP3 (2011 - 2026) - the plan has been approved by all four member councils and will be published by end March.

78/11. Valley Parishes Alliance

Transport - the Leader of B&NES Council (Francine Haerberling) has promised the VPA membership of the Bath Transport Commission - a formal invitation is still awaited.

Kennet & Avon Canal - Cllr. Batho attended the 28th January & 25th February MSSG meetings. The remit and composition of four groups which will review mooring zones between Bath and Devizes has been agreed. Cllr. Batho is a member of the group which will review the Widcombe to Dundas section of the canal.

DB

A VPA representative attended an informal BW meeting about the new Kennet & Avon pilot Local Waterway Partnership Board. The VPA subsequently submitted an application to join the Board but failed to gain a place.

79/11. Parish Council Website

Cllr. Beria presented an extended mock-up of how the website would look, having circulated handouts and quotes (£350 - £450) from Melina Traub before the meeting. A first quote from Geoff Edwards (Westwood) had been obtained by Cllr. Batho and circulated last year. The PC unanimously endorsed the draft website design. In view of the progress made and the relatively low level of expenditure, completion of the project was delegated to the Working Group.

AB

80/11. Annual Parish Meeting

Cllr. Batho reported that articles about the APM had been put in the February and March village newsletters and a reminder would be put in the April edition. Notices about the guest speaker have also been posted on the PC and St Mary's notice boards. The PCC will put articles in the Claverton and Bathampton news sheets. Cllr. Batho presented a draft flyer which will be circulated to the PC for further comment.

DB

The PC agreed to make a payment of £100 to Rob Davis to cover his travel expenses and time spent preparing and presenting his talk.

81/11. Parish Council Elections

Cllr. Batho circulated copies of the election timetable and all approved his proposal for a letter to be sent by Andrea, to everyone on the Claverton Parish Electoral Register, to tell them about the timetable and provide advice on how to become a Parish Councillor. Cllr. Batho to circulate the draft letter for further comment and approval. Election posters to be placed on the PC notice board.

DB/AJG

82/11. Exchange of Information

Cllr. Sykes reported that B&NES are proposing to make a bid for funding which the government is providing to improve broadband in rural communities which are poorly served, e.g. Claverton. Cllr. Sykes to contact B&NES (Development & Major Projects) to express interest and enquire how the PC can get involved.

RS

The meeting closed at 9.55pm

Date of next Valley Parishes Meeting: Monday 14th March 2011.

Date of Annual Parish Meeting: Thursday 7th April 2011

Date of next Council meeting: Tuesday 10th May 2011 (AGM)

Future Council meetings: Tuesday 12th July 2011.

Signed.....
Chairman, Claverton Parish Council

Date.....