

Batheaston Parish Council

Minutes of the Batheaston Annual Parish Meeting held at The Rhymes Pavilion on Thursday 6 April 2000 at 7-30 pm

Present:- Cllrs D Jackson (Chairman), J Abbott-Hallett, S Beesley, P Blanking, P Davis, S Fremantle, M Johns, M Hunt, D Lavington, P Mimmack, W Wright.
Residents: Mrs Burcombe, Mrs Bowden, Mrs Davis, Mrs Jackson, Mrs Hack, Mrs Ennis, Mrs Reid, A Reid, P Bowden, R Mimmack, RT Russell, M Ashman, R Holder, G Ticehurst + 2 Others.
Speakers: M Baugh, PC S Speakman.

0-1 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Miles, Cox, Creed, N Fixsen, D Robins & M Veal.

0-2 Minutes of the Meeting held 22 April 1999

Proposed A Reid } RESOLVED - that the Minutes be formally accepted as presented.
Seconded M Hunt }

0-3 Matters Arising

- (a) Youth Council. Very little support and the B&NES officers have left before completing their Survey. Deferred at this time.
- (b) Millenium Summer Fair. Optimistically stated to "be progressing" but there has been no leadership. The PC would be happy to support
- (c) FINA site. Sold for a proposed Used Car outlet. Agent visited early April and Planning Application progressing.
- (d) Village Hall. The PCC are pursuing with appraisal visits to neighbouring Halls. Contact made with the diocese and purchase of the 'leased' land looking promising. Full lottery grants are anticipated. Letters being sent to "user" organisations for 4 May meeting. There is a SWAN advisory service for Halls.
- (e) Rollerblade Project. Chairman spoke at the recent hearing but proposal 'rejected'. The BLA will discuss on 27 April.
- (f) A commemorative plaque now mounted to honour Ken Rhymes and his 2 brothers.

Chairman's Report for 1999 - 2000

Parish Council

This month is the end of the first year of this new Council. As there were only 11 nominations for the elections last May 4 Councillors were co-opted and a later resignation required a further co-option of Steve Beesley.

Many thanks to all Councillors, and the Committee Chairmen, for all work undertaken for the Parish.

One of our 4 Handymen - Les Rawlings - retired last year and replaced by Colin Spicer. Our Handymen only work part-time but do a very useful and efficient job for the Village.

Thanks also to the Warden - Les Fenton - who is our jack-of-all-trades.

Finally the Chair and all councillors thank the Clerk for very efficient control and highest work output.

The Chair has found this year to be enjoyable with excellent support throughout.

Projects

The performance by B&NES has continued at a dismal level and surely must improve e.g.....

- 1 20mph Limits. Funds made available last year but still not agreed.
- 2 School Footpath. Started 2 years ago at around £10,000 and ultimately cancelled this year as impractical and costing £30,000.
- 3 Rollerblade Project. Submitted 10 months ago before rejection.
- 4 Road Improvements. Each Parish Council asked to submit "only" 3 items for improvement this year. The total for all Parishes was over 100 items and B&NES *might* achieve 11 only. It is hoped that additional Government monies will improve this output.
- 5 B'ton Gardens. Gardening role adopted from B&NES 14 months ago and standards are improving.
- 6 River Footpath. Experiencing great difficulty in obtaining quotes for a Survey. Waiting the B&NES architect. The Environment Agency representative is to visit on Tuesday 18 April.
- 7 Footpaths. Upkeep of the Paths (at £25 per Km) was to have started this year but delayed by B&NES for 'legal' reasons.
- 8 Village Green. A scheme prepared to add wall, a seat and new footpath but too costly. Rethink to be progressed.
- 9 Local Organisations. Donations made to the Youth Club, BLA, Scouts, Toddlers Group, Thursday Club and CAB. Monies may be available this year to Organisations who submit requests.

Communications

- 10 Noticeboards. 2 new boards ordered and waiting delivery and erection
- 11 Meeting. A 'communications' meeting is planned for this Autumn and a sub-committee is progressing.
- 12 Parish Diary. Started on a bi-monthly basis. Will continue and investigate a wider 'distribution' if desired. The P.O. might be able to keep a "Diary" for recording future events to avoid "date clashes".
- 13 The Herald. Disappointed that only 2 copies issued in the past 12 months. This paper is greatly appreciated by the Community.
- 14 Liaison Meetings. Held 4 times a year with B&NES officers and officials. Latterly much better and messages from the PCs are 'getting through'. Bath also seems to be waking up to the benefits of being "Parished".

Planning

- 15 Wheatley Homes. Wish to convert their factory building into 4 3-bedroom homes and construct 3 new homes on the site. The PC has suggested that the 3 new homes might be made into affordable homes.
- 16 Phone Mast. A new Application proposes a 12/14 metre high mast at 180 London Road West. This PC is strongly opposed.
- 17 Lambridge Park & Ride. B&NES are still pursuing with further Consultants studies. The outcome affects the Rugby Club's application to move onto the Bathampton Meadows.
- 18 Land off Bannerdown Drive. Two applications processed but both rejected.

Vandalism & Security

- 19 Batheaston Gardens. Suffers during the evening and keys of the Toilet block are to be forwarded so that our gardener can control and reduce damages.
- 20 Neighbourhood Watches. Three new units established in the past year but more enthusiasts required to cover more of the Village - especially the centre sections.

Village Design Statement

- 21 The Village Appraisal in 1997 recorded a strong vote in maintaining and enhancing the character of the Village. A 'Design Statement' would so establish guidelines so that inappropriate homes are not constructed. An investigation in how to involve the entire Community - as for the Appraisal - is being pursued.

Objectives

- 22 The next PC meeting is the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, which will consider Aims and Objectives. Need input from residents before 11 May 2000. For example :-
- 20mph in Elmhurst
 - Reworking of the River footpath
 - How to improve communications with residents.
 - What progress desired on the Village Hall.
 - What road improvements required of B&NES.
 - School Safety. More walking or 'pedestrian buses' ?

0-5 Queries from the Floor

- A The lack of attendance by any of our District Councillors was deplored.
- B The chaos on London Road into Bath has little improved in the past 16 years but B&NES has managed (mis-managed) some classic delays recently.
- C This meeting should record a strong protest to B&NES on its lack of progress and acknowledged inefficiencies. There is no confidence in their recent "Plans" and fail to exhibit any 'management' skills.
- Proposed R Holder } AGREED unanimously - to record this Village's dissatisfaction with B&NES Management. The recent
Seconded A Reid } 'Performance Plan' has little mention of PCs.

0-6 Accounts 1999 - 2000

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	Balance	COMMENTS
INCOME				
Precept	36000	36000		
Other	9250	9050	-£ 200	Due to lowered Bank Interest Rates (-£360)
Totals Income	45250	45050		
EXPENSES				
WAGES	19570	19530	-£ 40	
ADMINISTRATION	4820	3280	- £1540	'Elections' saving of £1200
HIGHWAYS	19590	4000	-£ 15590	No need to replace 1 Street Light. River Path at £2000, 20mph at £8500, School Safety Measure at £4000 deferred
PLANNING	8550	800	- £7750	£6000 for Riverside Purchase not required. £1870 for Churchyard Improvements deferred.
SECTION 137	3100	1460	- £1640	Low appeals from "Local Organisations" for Support.
RECREATION	4500	1400	- £3100	BLA Project at £3000 waiting approval.
PROJECTS	5250	4950	- £300	
Totals Expenses	65380	36000	- £29380	

0-7 20 mph Limits - Speakers Mike Baugh (B&NES Road Safety Officer) and PC Steve Speakman.

B&NES have produced a Local Transport Plan and this PC has commented and added our "own" Transport Plan. Based on the Village Appraisal the PC is progressing to change all roads to 20mph speed limits with a programme of (a) Coalpit Road and the Estate (b) Northend, (c) The High Street and (d) Bannerdown Road. Recognising that there may not be money available from B&NES the necessary funds have been Precepted and built into forward forecasts. B&NES will provide the necessary technical expertise, costings etc. The first phase of this reduction in limits is the Elmhurst Estate and, in partnership with the B&NES engineers, a second draft of drawings has been produced and copies issued to all present. It shows three sites of physical "calming" where the Road is narrowed to allow only one vehicle's passage and includes a central 'speed table' which requires cars to travel - slowly - over the table but will permit Emergency vehicles access either side of the table. These drawings have to be "formally" approved by the Emergency Authorities, the Police and the Bus companies. When approved the drawings will be issued to all Estate and Coalpit Road residents and an Exhibition will be arranged in The Rhymes Pavilion.

After a refreshment break there were many queries and discussion with the Speakers concerning both the concept of reducing limits and future plans.

The Government has empowered the local Authority to introduce new limits and Mike Baugh will urge the formal approvals of the first phase scheme. The Police emphasised that reductions cannot rely on Police intervention and that there must be some physical measures introduced so the limits are "self-sustaining". The Estate has so many parked vehicles that a simple realigning of Parking alternatively across the roads should be sufficient and Mike Baugh will seek advice and include on the drawings.

MB will also investigate the possibility of Grants to assist the funding. There is a possibility that the Somer Trust might assist with this "improvement" to the Estate.

The Speakers and all participating residents were warmly thanked for their contributions.

0-8 Any Other Business

- Dog Fouling. If a time for recurring offences can be established please inform the Dog Warden (Denis Oakman 396633) who can patrol at the right time and area.
- Gardens Vandalism. The Police suggest that the presence of 2/3 adults in the same area as the youngsters will deter wrongful actions and suggests patrols by concerned residents would assist.
- Safe Routes to School need parents and the School commitments.

The Meeting closed at 9-45pm