

Batheaston Parish Council

**Minutes of the Batheaston Annual Parish Meeting held in
St Johns Church Hall on Thursday 29 April 2004 at 7-30 pm**

Present :- Cllrs D Lavington (Chairman), A Creed, P Davis, S Fremantle, M Johns, D Jackson, L Kingsley,
D Robins, S Robson, R Bourdon, J Connor, C Routh & M Townley (Clerk)

Apologies : Cllrs, J Abbatt-Hallett, P Blanking, D Nokes, S Robson, M Veal

In attendance: 40 residents and Sgt Cannon, PC Parker, CSO Hollins, T Pike, K Scully and Team of 7 Youth Workers

All residents were warmly welcomed to this meeting and the short agenda was explained.
Before the proceedings commenced all Councillors identified themselves.

4-01 Minutes of Meeting held 18 April 2002

The Minutes had been issued in the July 2003 issue of Bulletin No 2 to all households.
The Meeting agreed that the Minutes were a true record.

4-02 Matters Arising from the above Minutes

None raised

4-03 Address by Sgt Cannon, PC Parker & CSO Hollins

(a) Sgt Geoff Cannon

Is the Team Leader for one of 3 Teams in the Bath Area and his "beat" includes Batheaston, Bathford, Foxhills, Bathwick, Twerton, Lower Weston, Snow Hill and Moorefield Park. There are 6/7 officers whose main role is to engage with the community, problem solve, tackle anti-social behaviour and liaise with other organisations.

Statistically there has been a drop of 9.5% in 'recorded crime' with 1000 less victims in the Bath area.

The Chief Constable is committed to Community Policing, and against anti-social behaviour.

(b) PC Roger Parker

Commenced activities in Batheaston on 14 January 2004 – with some 7 other villages in his "patch". He sees himself as the "local sheriff" and is concentrating his efforts with young people, approaching parents and providing a visible presence. He will not tolerate wanton destruction. There is a transient youth problem in this village and investigations continue.

He has been 7 years in the Force and works a 63 hour shift every 10 days. His Sergeant allows him much latitude and he believes he has now met some 50% of the residents present tonight. Batheaston is his particular 'favourite' and he wants to correct the impression that it has been "short-changed" of Police attention.

He is now trained in the laser 'speed gun' and is stopping many vehicles.

There is a public drink ban in force and the Police can confiscate any alcohol – which must be handed over.

The B&NES Parking Services and not the Police now handle the parking problems – because B&NES is now "decriminalised".

(c) CSO Dave Hollins (Community Safety Officer)

There should be 2 CSOs in this area but vacancy still to be filled – anticipated in September this year.

The CSOs are trained and controlled by the Police and maintain their standards.

His main area of activity is in Twerton concentrating on youth problems. The main aim is long-term solutions NOT just moving the problems along. Does crime prevention surveys, gives talks in various houses, and maintains a 'visible' presence.

Alcohol and cigarettes can be confiscated

All the Police presenters were thanked for their time and the Youth Club added their commendation.

4-04 Address by Tracey Pike and Youth Workers Team

(d) Tracey Pike

Leads the B&NES Youth Service and controls all Youth Workers in this area.

Since January this year there has been 2 Youth Workers operating in this Village twice a week. They are getting to know the young people who are wandering the streets, and trying to ascertain needs of the young. The surveys will last for approximately 2 years and funds are being provided by the Parish Council whose participation is appreciated and essential.

The Youth Workers are very proactive with the Police

(e) Presentation by Kate Scully of Democratic Action for B&NES Youth (DAFBY)

Ms Pikes Team made a slide show presentation of the DAFBY intentions.

The United Nations states that young people "have the right to be heard" and B&NES is committed to involving young people in being part of the decision-making processes. It is programmed to be in the car park soon.

A demonstration wagon tours various areas and young people are invited to attend. Invitations are by house-drops and contacts with local organisations.

The wagon shows how Young People can establish Teams/Action Groups. Training is provided so that they have skills, knowledge and understanding to take part in decision-making processes.

The intentions are: - to bring young people together for a stronger voice; Encourage young people to get involved in their communities; bring Councillors and young people together; bring service providers and young people together; record and celebrate young people's achievements; support the United Kingdom Youth Parliament.

In attendance were a number of Young People already involved in action groups and they answered many queries from residents.

All the Teams and Presenters were thanked for their time and willingness to participate tonight.

YOUTH CLUB MEMBERS SERVED REFRESHMENTS –.

4-05 Annual Report 2003-04

Had been presented to all households in early April.

It is intended that the Minutes of this Meeting will be included in the next Parish Council quarterly Bulletin.

Queries on any aspect were invited from residents:-

4-06 High Street Traffic Calmings.

(f) Now running 14 months late so the incompleteness is causing some difficulties.

(g) Speed Tables and Cushions were to have been installed by last April. Scheme revisions were presented to all High Street residents last year and an open exhibition now awaited. The revised scheme is to cost £35,000 and these monies were not available until this financial year

(h) Vehicles still approaching the roundabout at too high a speed. A speed table across the pedestrian lights was to have been completed in this April but installation delayed.

(i) Parking at the Antiques shop needs investigation and PC Parker promised his attention

4-07 Bannerdown Road

(j) Heavy Lorries traversing down and through the Village are coming from the Colerne stores – whose use was proposed as “long-term”. The Parish Council has contacted the Wiltshire County Council and South Gloucester Authority about misuse of the Stores and roadways leading to Colerne.

(k) Mini-roundabout at Barnfield Way. A system is to be provided by the developers of the Damson Orchard and their schemes are waiting design and approval.

4-08 Tollbridge Road Access

(l) There is excessive ‘wrong’ parking at this junction affecting sight-lines and safety

4-09 Rugby Training Grounds.

(m) The Application to install a Park & Ride at Lambridge and resite the Training Grounds to the Meadows has yet to be considered – not likely until July at the earliest. The Parish Council agrees to a Park & Ride to the East of Bath but deprecates the inadequate site at Lambridge, and opposes the use of the Meadows.

(n) A consultation Company has just recommended that a link road be established off the Meadows to ‘fly’ over the railway line to connect up to the A36. The study is considerably flawed and the Parish Council has opposed the findings.

Meanwhile the B&NES Highways Dept is to prepare a package of Road Improvements for Bath to be submitted for Government monies next July 2005 (- to include £40million for a link road!)

4-10 High Street Post Office

Mr & Mrs Simpson professed extreme dissatisfaction with the Parish Council for rejecting their application to change the existing Post Office into a private dwelling:

1. Their application 2nd March did not state what was to happen to the Post Office. B&NES rejected this application on 5th May as “contrary to Government Policy reducing retail outlets”
2. 7 weeks later 20th April an application to resite the Post Office franchise to the Fat Friar received.
3. 3 weeks after this last application the necessary “Listed Building” application hand delivered to B&NES but – at 19th May – yet to be issued to the Parish Council for consultation.

All residents were thanked for their attendance and interest and the Meeting closed at 9-45pm.