

Batheaston Parish Council

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Village Centre Committee held
in The Rhymes Pavilion on Tuesday 15th March 2011 at 7-15 pm**

Present :- Cllrs V Pecchia(Chair), J Beresford-Smith, P Blanking, K Eardley, K Hawkins, D Lavington, V Trenchard
Apologies : Cllr D Robins,
In attendance: Cllr S Fremantle (scribe)

V-009 Minutes of Meeting held 21st February 2011 Election of Scribe

Proposed K Hawkins } RESOLVED - That the Minutes be formally approved as presented.
Seconded V Trenchard } (Unanimously)

V-010 Matters Arising

- (a) Cllr Gerrish advised by his K Packer that a metal Footbridge will cost £1 million, and a wooden unit will cost more in maintenance. These assertions challenged by VP (memo attached). To followed up with Cllr Gerrish. **DL**
- (b) B&NES has admitted to the Ramblers Assn. that the river footpath is B&NES responsibility.
- (c) A meeting is to be arranged, as soon as possible, with B&NES Property Services (via M Grainger) to address terms for using the public car park land. **VP/KH/DR**
(Legally B&NES would have to realise best-existing-use value for land, but take account of community benefit).
- (d) In time, the views and involvement of neighbouring Parishes would be sought.

V-011 Village Centre Review

- (a) The Committee considered a 'Village Centre' should be a destination point easily accessible to all residents of the village offering a diversity of services and amenities, promoting social interaction in a safe and attractive environment.
- (b) Members unanimously agreed the BVP vision, on page 24 and the supporting commentary, which identified the Garden High Street as fulfilling this purpose, met these criteria, and is to be actively promoted.

V-012 Objectives

- (a) The Committee recognised the value of existing facilities in the 'Garden High Street Centre'. Members saw the task of the Committee to maintain and build on existing facilities in a way which maximised community welfare and services to residents of Batheaston, neighbouring villages and surrounding rural areas.
- (b) In the interest of diversity and variety the economic well being of the Centre should be safeguarded by maintaining and improving its trading position through actively attracting new uses and promoting synergy between existing and new facilities. Among other proposals this might in due course include:
More retail facilities, such as a 'Tesco Express';
A coffee shop and meeting place;
Development of recreation facilities utilising the river frontage and B&NES land;
Redevelopment of the public toilet car park area;
Bringing private land into beneficial use;
A Farmers' Market.

V-013 Priority Programme

- (a) In the short term, the Committee agreed to concentrate its efforts on:-
1. a footbridge across the Avon to provide a safer cycle route to Bath, to give access to the South side of the Avon for Batheaston residents and to be the starting point of developing recreational facilities using the Avon;
 2. providing a pavement alongside the Village Centre shops which could readily be used by and disabled walkers, mothers with prams, etc;
 3. Providing a pedestrian-priority High Street from the junction with Northend to Fiveways, including the approaches to the current Fiveways roundabout. The intention would be not to stop all traffic but to slow down and discourage through traffic which had no business in Batheaston;
 4. Developing a practicable scheme for the toilet block site to maximise its community social, commercial, and aesthetic value and attractiveness to residents of Batheaston and neighbouring villages.
- (b) An early public meeting should be held to engage residents' support for the Committee's work

V-014 Any Other Business

- (a) Nothing raised

V-015 Press Release

VP to draft a press statement covering the formation of the VCC, its Terms of Reference and its Objectives and collaborate with MT on its release. **VP/MT**

V-016 Date of next Meeting :-

Tuesday 19th April 2011 at 7-15 pm in The Rhymes Pavilion

Chairman.....Date.....