

Batheaston Parish Council

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Village Centre Committee held
in The Rhymes Pavilion on Tuesday 17th May 2011 at 7-15 pm**

Present :- Cllrs V Pecchia(Chair), J Beresford-Smith, P Blanking, K Eardley, K Hawkins, D Robins V Trenchard
& M Townley (Clerk)

Apologies : Cllr D Lavington,

In attendance: G Riley

V-028 Minutes of Meeting held 19th April 2011

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

V-029 Matters Arising

(a) Nothing raised. All items covered in this Meeting's agenda

V-030 River Avon Bridge

- (a) Letters sent, as promised, to K Packer (VP) and to Cllr Gerrish (DL).
- (b) Some response from KP only. Repair of the existing river footpath – at some £100,000 – is now necessary and being progressed to comply with legal obligations.
- (c) Progress for the proposed Bridge is now the responsibility of the Transport Section under the direction of P Dawson. B&NES officers do not disagree the scheme is feasible and financially viable – active lobbying should be addressed to the B&NES Cabinet office to include the scheme in the new term budgets.
- (d) The West of England Partnership are quite optimistic of being successful in their bid for a Local Sustainable Transport Fund which will reflect a £5 million grant for B&NES causes; the Bridge crossing cost and link to the Bathampton canal towpath would be a desirable and cost effective way of achieving the Cycle-path objective from Bath Spa University to Batheaston, as stated in the bid document.
- (e) B&NES has been advised of this “Bid” scheme in (d)
- (f) Bathampton and Bathford PC should be appraised of the Bridge scheme and MT to ask these council for the opportunity for VP/JB-S to address and inform them of our intent at one of their meetings. **MT**

V-031 Pavement at Shops

- (a) All shops and Premises have been consulted of the replacement Gulley proposal, and no comments yet received. Closing date for comments is Monday 23rd May.
- (b) The B&NES Highways Design Team has also been advised of the proposal and comments awaited. If acceptable the HFL can proceed to further consultations/quotations etc.
- (c) K Packer was charged at the February Cluster Meeting with investigating this Safety problem. His progress will be pursued – with our proposals added. **MT**
- (d) Pushbikes being chained to shop railings are obstructing the pathways/access. Advice will be sought from PCSO Mike Symonds if prevention measures or legal sanctions can be applied. **MT**

V-032 Toilet Block

- (a) VP/KH/SF met with B&NES Property and Operational Services officers their consensus was that B&NES would have no difficulty of this area being re-developed.
- (b) This Committee recommends the principle and cost benefit of a single uni-sex Toilet should be addressed by the GPC/PEC. **MT**

V-033 Pedestrian-priority High Street

- (a) Further progress on this objective, is reliant on making successful representation at the LDF Place making stage this coming autumn and having this Parish Council objectives, in part or in whole, adopted and included in the future development plan.
- (b) The proposed Localism Bill, may give rise to further opportunities for local communities to adopt or promote their ideas especially site or area specific ones such as this. The objective is long term and will be kept under constant review.
- (c) All opportunities should be exploited, especially from relevant planning applications, to contribute toward achieving this objective
- (d) The Committee should go on to explore opportunities for improving convenience retail activity in the village by maybe attracting a national brand and at an appropriate time, evaluate the economic impact on existing businesses and services and if and what potential benefits might ensue.

V-034 Planning Policy

- (a) The B&NES Development Control Planners have agreed to a meeting, and Monday 20th June will be pursued. **VP/DR**
- (b) The Core Strategy has identified Batheaston as an R1 village, which in effect will act as a service provider to other nearby settlements and surrounding rural areas; our local knowledge and aspirations are an essential element of the Local Development Framework (LDF) planning process and we need to have an action programme in place so as to make meaningful contribution to the ‘Place Making’ stage of this process due to commence in the autumn of 2011. Such programme will be subject to forthcoming consultation with B&NES planning officers.

V-035 Any Other Business

- (a) VP will investigate requirements for any national convenience store site and catchment. **VP**

V-036 Press Release

Delayed until the first meeting of the new Council Term

V-037 Date of next Meeting :-

Tuesday 28th June 2011 at 7-15 pm in The Rhymes Pavilion

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