

BATHFORD PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
20th January 2025 – 7.00pm
Bathford Church School Hall
Minutes

Present

Councillor Sue Barclay
Councillor Hugh Baker
Councillor Anna Budd
Councillor John Budd
Councillor Wendy Chambers
Councillor Hillary Carr (Chair)
Councillor Clare Malone
Councillor Andrew Sangster

Clerk: Jon Cooper

1. Public Five Minutes

- 1.1. A resident attended requesting support for setting up a 'Share and Repair' event in Bathford. Similar events are held locally on a monthly basis, to repair household goods and avoid them going to landfill, Initially, a meeting would be held locally to gauge the interest of this in Bathford. The Repair Shop requested financial assistance for the initial meetings with venue hire, PAT tester and consumables.
- 1.2. Another resident raised the issue of BANES installing a bus gate, stopping traffic access to Camden Crescent. He reported that it would lead to a 20% increase in traffic on London Road which he thought would impact local communities including Bathford. A petition would be shared, which Councillors could sign on a personal basis, if they wished.
- 1.3. Stantonbury Building Developments reported that they had an interest in building 'affordable homes' on the field alongside Mountain Wood. Exact numbers and types would be dependent on local need gathered via a survey. Planning Cttee to meet with them at a future date to obtain more information.

2. Apologies

- 2.1. Councillor Ritchard Hood
- 2.2. Councillor John Lloyd
- 2.3. Councillor Steve Wyatt
- 2.4. **RESOLVED:** Allowing Cllr John Lloyd to be excluded from the 6th month disqualification rule, for a period of 12 months was proposed and seconded. The Council unanimously agreed to accept this proposal.

3. Ward Councillor Updates

- 3.1. No Ward Councillors attended. They often struggle to make Monday meetings; it was therefore agreed that the February meeting would be held on a day the Ward Councillors are able to attend.

4. Declarations of interests in any item on the agenda

- 4.1. None

5. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting (18th November 2024)

- 5.1. **RESOLVED:** Acceptance of the minutes from the last meeting was proposed and seconded. The Council unanimously agreed to accept the minutes.

6. Committee Reports

Committee Reports were discussed; relevant documents referenced below which will be available online or, on request, from the Parish Office. Further discussions and any resolutions are shown below:

6.1. Amenities Committee

6.1.1. Further quotes were being sought for the grass cutting contract, this would need to be resolved by the next Parish Council meeting ready for the contract to commence in March.

6.2. Communications Committee

6.2.1. It was agreed not to change to a '.gov.uk' web/ email address at the current time and monitor should it become mandatory.

6.2.2. Further volunteers had been added to Bulletin team.

6.3. Finance and Administration Committee

6.3.1. Proposed budget had been circulated, some plans for the following year had been taken from the reserves to reduce the Precept required. There was an increase of £2k in the precept from last year, most of which is accounted for by increased grass cutting costs.

6.3.2. **RESOLVED:** To raise a Precept of £38,841 for the financial year 2025/26 was proposed and seconded. The Council unanimously agreed to accept the Precept.

6.3.3. **RESOLVED:** To pay for two hours of hall hire for the initial 'Share and Repair' meeting was proposed and seconded. The Council unanimously agreed to grant this.

6.4. Highways Committee

6.4.1. BANES held online meetings to discuss the spate of accidents on the A363 with a view to improving road safety by reducing the speed limits. However, they will not adopt the unmade road to Warleigh Lodge Farm.

6.4.2. Bathford is hoping to be added to the BANES rural initiative to reduce speed limits to 20 mph in rural areas.

6.4.3. Installing 'Stop' as opposed to 'Give Way' at the Crown junction was suggested.

6.4.4. The large motor home next to the Crown has now been moved, it is still planned that waiting limits should be installed by BANES on the parking spaces around the pub. Possibly increased to 8 hours, from the originally planned 4, to allow pub staff to park.

6.4.5. No support had been provided for a Flood Prevention Plan, as no residencies in Bathford are flooded. Cllr Carr to review Chew Magna Flood Plan which had been recommended.

6.5. Planning and Environment Committee

6.5.1. Cllr Andrew Sangster is liaising with BANES in relation to the Local Plan and will report when more information is known.

6.6. Staffing Committee

6.6.1. Cllr Steve Wyatt to be asked for an update on the Clerk's job description amendments.

6.6.2. National Insurance would have to be paid on the Clerk's salary from April.

7. Items for The Bathford Bulletin

7.1. Precept

7.2. Community Vision survey

7.3. First Bus Meeting

8. Items for the next meeting

8.1. APM Planning

8.2. Bathford Fete

8.3. Share and Repair

9. Payments for Approval

9.1. **RESOLVED:** Having been proposed and seconded, The Council resolved to make the following payments shown below: -

Description	Amount Due	Ref
Current Account		
Village Club - Office rent	£185.00	Standing Order
J Cooper - Clerk's Salary	£654.00	Standing Order
BT	£40.74	Direct Debit
Corsham Print - Bulletin	£544.00	Jan25-01
Corsham Print - Inserts	£70.00	Jan25-02
H Carr Expenses - Adobe, mileage, soil	£77.26	Jan25-03
<i>Autospeedwatch Licenses (paid prior to meeting)</i>	£429.60	Jan25-05
Total	£2,000.60	
Wynne Willson		
Total	£0.00	
Allotment		
J Slee - Allotment Expenses (fence wire, grass seed, nails)	£38.47	Jan25-04
Total	£38.47	
Grand Total	£2,039.07	

The meeting closed at 8.29pm

Date of next meeting – tbc – week commencing 17th February 2025

Name..... Date.....

Chairman:

2024/25