

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 19TH APRIL
2004 IN THE PARISH ROOMS CHURCH STREET**

Thirty four parishioners were present including those shown in appendix 1.

Apologies were received from J.Lloyd, P Downing, Mrs C.Downing and Mrs A Harris.

Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting were accepted and signed as a true record of the proceedings.

Matters arising.

There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report

Various matters were referred to which will be dealt in more detail by later speakers.

The minutes of the Parish Council from 1894 to 1993 have been deposited with the archives at the Guildhall Bath.

Lt Cmdr Peter Downing has retired as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. His genuine interest and tireless effort towards the security of the village will be sorely missed.

The resurfacing programme for 2004 has yet to be finalised.

Bristol/Bath to South Study. The recommendations are that B&NES will progress a full appraisal of the A36/A46 link road: Park and Ride at Lambridge: congestion charges and improved public transport facilities.

Allocation of Housing. The Council will continue to emphasise that local families should be given priority when there are vacant properties in the village.

Tyndale. The Council views with some concern the suggestions about the future of Tyndale. The Council has emphasised that we must be informed immediately of any decisions or actions regarding Tyndale.

Footpaths at Warleigh. We have requested that action be taken to ensure that the upgrading of footpaths at Dry Arch do not extend to the paths in Warleigh. Residents should report any illegal use of the paths by motor vehicles.

Committee Reports.

Finance.

Councillor Mr Ginn presented the finance report. The precept is in two sections. First the standard cost of running the Parish. This has been increased by 5% to cover increased insurance cost. salaries, mowing etc. This is the first rise in three years. The second section covers those special projects that must be funded. Repairs and

improvements to the play area, replacement of the playing field gates, making safe a disused well in the playing field and improved communications within the village.

Planning.

Councillor Mrs Hooker gave a resume of the planning procedure showing where the Parish Council fitted into the process. She emphasised the various criteria that the Council applied.

The beauty and integrity of the village should be preserved

The Green belt is not compromised

Size and height are appropriate and do not intrude on the skyline.

Materials used are sympathetic and in keeping with the rest of the village.

Parking arrangements and access to roads are safe and acceptable.

The committee is looking forward to seeing the ideas that emerge from the Parish Plan.

The Committee will become the Planning and Environment Committee thereby having a wider role and is more proactive, not only in monitoring any breaches of the planning permission, but also studying relevant local plans and encouraging any projects that impinge upon the local environment.

Amenities.

Councillor Cherry reported on the playing field and its condition and use. On the Children's play area and the progress on the transfer of the Scout/Youth hut to the Avondale RFC. At this point a parishioner raise the point that the original licence stated that if the hut ceased to be use by the scouts/youth it should be removed and the land returned to its original conditional. Why was this not done?. It was stated that the hut was a sound asset to the village. Youth teams could and would use it. It would be inappropriate to demolish it, no matter what the original licence said, when it could make a useful contribution to the village.

A rent review for the playing field and the allotments has been carried out. New rents are:-

Avonvale RFC	£270.00
Bathford Cricket Club	£88.00
Bathford Ranger AFC	£88.00
Bear Flat Youth AFC	£45.00

Allotments

Single Plot	£11.00
Half Plot	£ 7.00

Concessions

Single Plot	£7.00
Half Plot	£5.00

Village Green

The proposal to put a footpath on the village green has been shelved for this financial year.

Highways

The report from the highways committee was given by Councillor Mrs Beazer who stated the latest position on the various projects. There then followed a lively discussion concerning the traffic calming measures in High Street, some parishioners stating that they were at the best non effective, at the worst dangerous. Consideration was given to the provision of yellow lines. It was thought that if they were provided some measures must be taken to police them.

Mr Harris gave the history of the A36/A46 link road proposals.

Sweeping Cleansing.

Mr Masdin stated that sweeping was difficult because of parked cars. It was felt that a campaign against litter should be instituted, with poster. It was stated that more dog waste bins are needed but although B&NES would provide the bins the Parish Council would have to pay for them to be emptied.

Footbridge

Mr Harris reported on the latest position with regard to the footbridge. The Compulsory Purchase Order was being progressed, but if there were to be an appeal it would take some time before the matter was resolved. In the meanwhile costs were escalating.

Bathford Consolidated Charities.

Rev T.Ling reported the financial position of the fund. A £100 donation had been made to Dorothy House.

St Swithins Church As a result of a "gift day" the roof was now secure. Lent lunches were being held in the British Legion. The church would be open to any comments or suggestions made by the villagers.

Parish Hall Committee

New Chairs at a cost of £30 each had been purchased. A revamp of the kitchen is planned. Some nineteen groups regularly use the Hall.

Thanks were given to the Parish Council for its support and to Ann Harworth for looking after the Hall and to Mrs Beazer for her work as secretary.

The Management Committee was voted back in en bloc.

Neighbourhood Watch.

The new co-ordinator, Peter Ardley, stated that he had inherited a sound structure from Peter Downing. There are 37 contacts covering 70% of the village. We now

have a new PC. Bathford is considered a low crime area. Such crimes as there are tend to be opportunist.

Neighbourhood Support Scheme (Bathford Link)

It is now some ten years since the scheme was started There are now thirty drivers. Details of numbers of trips to various destinations was given to the meeting. There is no need to ask for funds as donations are regularly received. Thanks to all who have helped during the year.

Bathford Educational Charity.

The charity was set up some five years ago to support building projects for the school. New classrooms have been built. Fund raising to finance new building projects is still being carried out.

The School has had a very successful inspection. It was classified as excellent for the thirteenth time.

Twinning

Report on twinning was given by Mrs Breeze. Annual Exchanges in both directions are now working. We are looking forward to signing the charter this year. Youth group exchanges with the schools are now in place. The Twinning Committees of Bathford and Batheaston are now working together and events are being organised to raise funds.

Parish Plan

Report was given by Councillor Mr Cherry. There is a steering committee of 15 parishioners. Application for a grant has been prepared. Expenditure up to £5000 has been approved. An Information team has been set up to gather information from the various activities in the Parish. Fund raising is continuing. Volunteers will be required to make a survey of the Parish.

There were no proposals for which written notices had been given.

Any Other Business

Some concern was expressed from the floor of the meeting about the inability to receive BBC Channel 5. It appears that the local transmitters will not transmit this service as it interferes with emergency channels.

Thanks were recorded to the Chairman, the Councillors and the Clerk.

The Meeting closed at 9.54 pm

Appendix 1.

Persons attending

Mrs S. Beazer Chair

Mr P.Ardley
Mr H.Baker
Mr H.Bebber
Mrs J.Bilton
Mrs M.Breeze
Mr D.Brown
Mrs W. Chambers
Mr S.Cherry
Mr A.Coffin
Mr A.Cox
Mr R.Durrant
Mr J.Fielden
Mr A.Ginn
Mr P.Harris
Mrs J.Hooker
Mr T.Johnson
Mr B.Leeming
Rev T.Ling
Mr B Marshall
Mr K.Masdin
Mr P.McCowan
Mr A.Parr
Mrs L Whitfield
Mr R. Wickham
Mr B.Wright
Mr M.Wright