

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - MONDAY, 19 APRIL 2010
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Shirley Beazer

Bathford Primary School: On a positive note, we welcome the build of the School Hall and with it at last the realisation of gymnastic, dramatic and culinary delights to its deserving pupils. Teaching Staff and School Governors must also be congratulated on the continued high level of performance.

Our appreciation (which I am sure includes that of the Primary School) goes to Ward Councillor Gabriel Batt in his recent successful application for a grant of £4,000.00 from B&NES for community projects (subsequently deposited in the School Bank Account) towards the replacement of the *school fence*.

Lower Garages at Mountain Wood: Our proposal for this site to be used as affordable housing was rejected by Somer Housing. Some of the original garages were retained and the remainder of the area allocated as hard standing.

The Bathford Bulletin: Continues to expand under the diligence and guidance of its voluntary editors and helpers and has become a familiar, informative and appreciative part of our parish.

Bathford Consolidated Charities: Has now been dissolved and all funds of £3,999.00 passed to the Dorothy House Hospice at the end of the year. An organisation who we are assured will continue to be of benefit to many people and their families.

The Precept for 2010/2011 is set at £18,324.00 – a reduction of approximately 7 per cent on last year. Detailed information will of course be contained in the Finance & Admin Overview. As always, we have striven for budgetary constraint on all issues.

Liaison and Cluster Meetings continue to provide an essential platform for advance information and the opportunity to at least question (if not always attain) outstanding action from B&NES.

BEFA (Bathford Enterprise For All): Although disappointingly unsuccessful in the “Volunteer Team of the Year” – we are proud to support the Chairman of B&NES’ request that Bathford Community Shop be nominated for the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service. The shop continues to provide a vital asset to the community – and the Committee and its many volunteers deserve our whole hearted appreciation and gratitude.

Mobile Library: A proposal to discontinue the Mobile Library Service to Bathford was met with genuine concern by us all, and relief at the subsequent confirmation that this option had been withdrawn pending consultation with parish councils and other organisations. We look forward to the comments of June Brassington later on this subject.

Our *Beat Manager (P.C. Nick Sheppard)* - now a reassuring and familiar presence in the parish - will also present his report later.

Portals: We recently enjoyed an informative (and for some of us sentimental) but totally absorbing tour of Portals. A major contributory factor in the final provision of Philip’s Footbridge was entirely due to their generous donation of land.

Volunteers: Our gratitude should, and must be, recorded to the enormous commitment of every voluntary organisation in the Parish – including Bathford Link, the Bathford Bulletin, the Village Shop, Parish Hall, the Rugby Club with its sports facilities, Twinning Organisation, Flower Show, Bathford Society, St Swithun’s Church and the entertainment provided by Bathford Players – and to those who contribute so much to all aspects of village life “behind the scenes”.

By their example, with respect for its traditions and towards each other, let us ensure the Parish of Bathford remains a caring and progressive community.

And in conclusion:

To my fellow Councillors:

Total commitment, diplomacy, endless patience and above all “to keep your head while all around are losing theirs”. Just some of the qualities essential for the roller-coaster experience of a Parish Councillor and which you have undoubtedly shown. The past year once again has sorely tested you with all of these.

For this and for your continued support you have my sincere gratitude and I look forward with confidence to the challenges of the future.

And to Ruth : Quite simply –utterly remarkable. Respected and admired by us all Ruth for your unflinching efficiency and co-operation. We thank you.