

Wellow Parish Council

BATHAVON SOUTH, BATH & NORTH-EAST SOMERSET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

held at 8.00 pm on Wednesday 7 April 2015 in Wellow Village Hall

*Actions – marked **A** at right– are on the Clerk and on any Councillor whose initials also appear*

Present: Councillors H. Andrews, L. Bailey, S. Betts, D. Clarkson, P. Doman, J. Karthaus, H. Prentice (Chair), T. Wheeler

In attendance: District Councillor N. Butters, R. Campbell (Clerk), eight members of the public

15.42 **Apologies** Cllr P. Caudle (away)

15.43 **Declarations** None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION The Chair suspended the Parish Council (PC) meeting and opened participation to the public. Comments included the following, noted in *italic*. They do not form part of the minutes.

- *Alex Martin raised four matters, firstly Speedwatch: launched some time ago, he was unsure of its current status. Secondly, noting that the item was on the agenda, he said there should be the customary litter picking day before the grass grew Thirdly, as Chair of the Friends of St Julian, he referred to the PC's request to B & NES to designate the churchyard as an open Green Space, which would provide planning protection under the National Planning Policy Framework. The Church was founded in the 1370s by Thomas Hungerford. Against the background of an ageing and dwindling congregation, the Friends association had been formed to bring the church to a state in which it would last for the next 600 years and also to make it the venue of choice in the locality. They were considering adding facilities, possibly outside the current building footprint. Proceeding with the Green space designation would increase the likelihood of nothing being allowed and so would jeopardise the church's future. He asked the PC to reconsider its application. Finally, he referred to the poor condition of the Wellow-Peasedown road, which had been top-dressed only. Some areas had since been marked for remedial work. He had spoken to Cllr Butters, who had received an oblique reply to his questions at B & NES. However, following a recent site meeting with Cllr Butters, he believed the latter had now received good news.*
- *Cllr Butters said that he had spoken to Andrew Higginson, Senior Engineer (Maintenance Schemes). The whole road, not only the marked areas, would be patched and surface-dressed in an £87.5K scheme, with a likely timescale of patching within three months and surfacing within another three.*

The PC's response to Alex Martin's Speedwatch question is minuted at 15.49(ii)

The PC's response to Mr Martin's Green Spaces request is minuted at 15.48(ii)

- *Stewart Cole said he had done 25 years' service as Street Sweeper and*

intended to carry on (applause).

He had received a complaint from a neighbour about dog fouling in the road.

He said the notice board in Wellow Square was coming off the wall.

The Clerk to liaise with Richard Holland about its repair.

Mr Cole said there was a loose kerbstone outside 'Windy Ridge': to be reported to B & NES

The Chair thanked the speakers and reconvened the PC meeting

15.44 **Minutes**

The minutes of the PC meeting of 3 March 2015 were agreed to be a true record. They were signed by the Chair.

15.45 **Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reminded everyone in the hall of the closing date (9 April, 4pm) for nominations for the Parish Council. Nomination papers were available in the hall.

15.46 **Village Hall**

(i) Communication between Parish Councillors and the Village Hall Committee and its members

Cllr Andrews said she had been disturbed by the nature of some recent emails and gave details of the offending chain. Lyn Doman, Secretary of the Village Hall Committee had complained about replies from Cllrs Prentice and Clarkson to an email she had sent as Secretary of the Committee, reporting the Charity Commission's interpretation of the Village Hall Trust Deed in relation to Sports Development. The Committee stated that the Charity Commission's view meant that there was no need for a sought-for amendment to the minutes of the Village Hall Special General Meeting (SGM). Cllr Clarkson had copied her reply on to Richard Holland, which Mrs. Doman had taken to mean that it had been destined for the Parish Post. Mrs. Doman also complained that the email had been treated as coming from her personally, not from the VHC Secretary, and to the tone of the responding emails.

Cllr Clarkson said it had not been her intention to suggest publication: collective email addresses could be confusing. She had immediately apologized to Mrs. Doman. From the floor Mr. Holland said he had not taken the email to be for publication.

Cllr Karthausser referred to the need for Parish Councillors, in internal communications, to be able to say what they think and feel about a matter. Such an exchange had followed from the VHC's announcement. What had then ensued made no sense.

Cllr Prentice said there was a perception that he had made a personal attack. He apologized if people had taken it that way; it had not been his intention.

Cllr Doman said there had been bullying at the SGM; the SGM had been unnecessary.

Cllr Prentice repeated that it was not a personal matter. He wished to get one point clear. The initial email, sent to Rob Greig, who had proposed a motion at the SGM, was about minutes. Cllr Prentice had previously asked for the minutes to be corrected. Cllr Betts, Village Hall Committee Chair, had said no. The minutes should reflect what had happened at the meeting, but did not do so. The issue remained.

Cllr Betts said she would supply a full account of the SGM to Cllr Prentice. She

would also supply a copy of the correspondence between the VHC and the Charity Commission, though she queried why it was needed.

(ii) Elections on 7 May

B & NES had moved the Polling Station to the Village Hall. Cllr Betts said the PC should consider running a bus from Manor Close to the Village Hall.

Cllr Prentice suggested this should be demand led.

15.47 **New Sports Facilities**

Update

Chris Wordsworth of the Parish Council Sports Project Management Group said that a month previously the project was just starting. Now the main phase of landscaping had been completed and grass seed was already sprouting. The tennis courts were moving on apace. Mud fears had not been realised. The ground had proved rockier than anticipated at the deeper end. In some ways this had been an advantage, as the material could be used for the base of the tennis courts. There was no cost effect. The kerbs and retaining wall for the courts were complete and lighting columns had gone in that day. Mr Wordsworth then outlined the schedule of works to come.

Cllr Betts queried the disappearance of the plastic barriers in front of the Village Hall. Mr. Wordsworth said he would look into this, though it was no longer a safety issue. He asked Cllr Betts to provide a list of any other things which needed to be done.

It was noted that Bristol Water's charges would now be £700 for a separate connection, as the Village Hall Committee had not felt able to agree to it being taken off theirs, for reasons they had explained.

The Chair congratulated Mr Wordsworth on the project, which he described as stunningly successful.

15.48 **Planning**

(i) Applications

Councillors considered the following application:

15/00541/FUL The Water Mill, Mill Hill, Wellow, Bath BA2 8QJ

Proposal: Erection of single storey extension after demolition of existing rear wall.

Cllr Clarkson read from the report she had prepared and which had been distributed to councillors. The proposed extension was by 1.5 metres, with natural rubble stone and cedar cladding. The building was not listed.

RESOLVED (proposed Cllr Clarkson, 2nd Cllr Bailey, unanimous) to support the application.

(ii) Green Spaces

Cllr Clarkson said she had double-checked the list of sites with fellow councillors before working on the PC's submission for consideration by B & NES as Green Spaces, but had had no feedback. She had not been involved in discussion about future development at the back of St Julian's Church. She had checked with Julie O'Rourke at B & NES about withdrawing a site. Owners would be consulted in June. Alex Martin had made a case for leaving open the development options at the back of the church and the site could be withdrawn. Cllr Prentice said the next stage was to consult. To be a May agenda item.

(iii) 1-7 High Street, Wellow

Cllr Clarkson said that many people seemed disgruntled by the rebuilt wall, which they considered had encroached on the highway. Cllr Caudle had visited the site

with the Enforcement Officer who, armed with maps, had concluded it did not encroach. On completion, the earth and tarmac at the end would be removed and access closed off.

Cllr Karthausser had parked next to the wall and said it was the same as before.

(iv) Update

15/00543/FUL Gooseberry Cottage Baggridge Hill Wellow Bath BA2 8QN Proposal: Erection of two storey rear extension. Decision by B & NES: permit

15.49 **Highways and Rights of Way**

(i) Clean-up day Cllr Wheeler said there should be a rubbish-clearing day on the outskirts of Wellow as usual at this time of year. He suggested including Baggridge and the Long Barrow. Cllr Prentice thought that the area covered would depend on the number of volunteers.

Agreed to hold a clean-up session on 17 May, meeting at 2pm in Wellow Square. The Clerk to source bags and litter-pickers.

(ii) Speedwatch Cllr Clarkson said the co-ordinator had 'gone on strike' for want of help, but had subsequently received some. She (Cllr Clarkson) and Cllr Betts had asked for other monitoring sites to be agreed. This has to be done by the police. There was a need to advertise for more trainees.

Cllr Betts said Speedwatch had been done too many times. There was a need to take a step forward and prevent speeding traffic.

Cllr Clarkson said a decision whether to carry on with Speedwatch should be made. To be a May agenda item.

Cllr Prentice said Speedwatch should continue in the meantime

Updates

- Parking notices: the Clerk had supplied some to Cllr Prentice and would deliver 10 to each house in Wellow Square, with an explanatory note.
- Wellow Ford: Cllr Karthausser said the new measuring sticks were good; bollards had been replaced on the south side. Cllr Doman will ask the Environment Agency if they will repair the collapsed cage of stones designed to protect the parapet.
- Car park: Richard Holland had had the 'usual response' from Council Connect about filling the potholes. District Cllr Butters was asked if he could help.
- Potholes at Norton Lane and Baggridge Hill: the Clerk to ask via Council Connect for these to be filled
- 'Virtual pavement' opposite The Parlour Shop: the Clerk to ask for the white line to be repainted

15.50 **Risk assessment**

The Clerk was thanked for producing a revised risk assessment schedule. This would be passed to the new Council.

15.51 **Finance**

(i) Financial statement Councillors noted the financial statement to date. Accounts for 2014/15 would be produced for the May meeting.

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(ii) Financial regulations New financial regulations, drafted by the Finance Group and based on the national model, had been sent to councillors at the time of the March meeting. Paragraph 6.3 had been adopted then.

RESOLVED (proposed Cllr Prentice, 2nd Cllr Karthausser, unanimous) that the

regulations be adopted in their entirety.

(iii) Audit An internal auditor was still urgently sought. Mike Clarkson will ask his contact and, failing that, Cllr Andrews hers.

(iv) Internet banking Nothing to report

(v) Grant Councillors discussed the benefit to the community of giving financial support to a forthcoming exhibition at Radstock museum featuring Wellow and whether the benefit was proportional to the sum proposed.

RESOLVED (Proposed Cllr Clarkson, 2nd Cllr Karthausser) to grant up to £250 to the project.

(vii) Payments

RESOLVED (proposed Cllr Prentice, 2nd Cllr Andrews, unanimous) to pay the following:

Fosse Contracts Ltd: Work on tennis court construction as interim valuation No 1, less 3% retention – £63,728.40 including VAT (when grant monies received).

Geoff White: allowance for computer depreciation – £180.00

Stewart Cole: Street Sweeper's wages March 2015 – £209.28

Clerk's salary March 2015 – £246.40

Noted that as authorised by minute 14.123 the following had been paid:

Greensward Sports Consultancy Ltd (less 5% retention) – £23,684.84 including VAT.

Cllr Betts noted that with Cllr Caudle away, there were only the currently necessary three signatories. No other agreed councillor had managed to have the necessary forms processed.

15.52 **Standing Orders** To be a May agenda item

15.53 **Reports**

Cllr Wheeler said B & NES had not put up flooding signs at Wellow Ford after recent heavy rain. Could it not be done locally?

Cllr Doman said a certificate was needed to put signs on the highway.

Cllr Prentice opposed individuals being put in the position of having to put up signs

Cllr Karthausser said the measuring sticks show the position clearly but depend on the driver's experience.

15.54 **Meetings**

Tuesday 12 May (second Tuesday of the month).

7.30pm: Annual Parish Meeting; the meeting for all parishioners

8.00pm approximately: Annual Parish Council Meeting (new Council; election of Chair), followed by the normal May Parish Council Meeting.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.50pm