

SALTFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at Saltford Hall, Saltford
on Tuesday 7th October 2014 at 7.15pm

PRESENT:

Councillors - Duncan Hounsell (Chair), Adrian Betts, Marie Carder, Harvey Haeberling, Rob King, Rob Taylor and Chris Warren

Officer - Tricia Golinski

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 2 September 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for inability to attend this meeting were received from Cllrs Neil McKen, Kevin Reeves, Jill Williams and Reg Williams.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Duncan Hounsell declared non-pecuniary interests in item 7. d) (member of 1st Saltford Scouts executive) and item 10 (member of Saltford Station campaign).

Cllr Adrian Betts declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7. d) (member of 1st Saltford Scouts executive).

Cllr Robert Taylor declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 10 (member of Saltford Station campaign and employed by First Great Western).

Cllr Chris Warren declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 10 (member of Saltford Station campaign).

4. PUBLIC TIME

There were 8 members of the public present.

Tarryn Carlsson spoke in support of the proposal in item 10 and of the re-opening of Saltford station, with a concern about any loss of residents' parking spaces.

Phil Harding of Saltford Environment Group spoke in support of the proposal in item 10 and noted that, contrary to Cllr Reg Williams' article in SCAN, the Saltford residents' consultation survey carried out by B&NES Council showed that less than 2% of the village population did not want a station at Saltford.

Phil Harding of Saltford Environment Group reported that Saltford Wombles group is up and running to deal with litter problems, and information about it is on Saltford Environment Group's website.

5. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair made the following announcements:

- 20 mph limits in residential roads in Saltford - Traffic Regulation Orders were advertised in May of this year. A formal decision by the B&NES Cabinet Member for Transport is expected in October. Subject to a positive decision, implementation would be expected to be later this year or early 2015.
- I acted as an independent "verifier" for Bristol Avon Sailing Club's entry for "Bart's Bash" on Sunday 21st September in aid of the Andrew (Bart) Simpson Foundation and its World Record Attempt.
- I attended the official opening of the new Saltford Rowing Centre on Saturday 27th September on behalf of Saltford Parish Council. It is worth noting that Bristol Empire Dragons and a local canoe club have relocated to the Saltford Rowing Centre.
- I visited Saltford School on Wednesday 24th September to view the arrangements for the free school lunches for KS1 children.
- I attended the meeting of ALCA at Saltford Hall on the 24th September in order to welcome the attendees.
- I attended the Harvest Festival family service on Sunday 5th October on behalf of Saltford Parish Council.
- The Post Office is conducting a consultation on proposed changes to the operation of Saltford Post Office. The deadline for responses is 14th October. Questionnaires are available in Saltford Post Office.
- The electrical work being carried out by B&NES Council at Saltford Brass Mill has been completed. However, B&NES has had to change some of the designed structural works to accommodate unforeseen problems on site and so the renovation project is now due to be completed by the end of October.
- Saltford Scouts is working with local artist Yvonne Halton to create a display of 17 ceramic poppies for the Saltford war memorial to commemorate the 17 individuals who lost their lives in WW1 named on the Saltford War Memorial.
- B&NES Council is expected to install a cycle stand at Saltford Hall soon.
- A "Saltford Wombles" ant-litter group has formed under the leadership of Julie Sampson and is part of the Saltford Environment Group.

The Chair took item 7 d) next.

6. PLANNING MATTERS

- a) **Minutes** - The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 16 September 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
- b) **New planning applications** – The Council considered the following planning applications in respect of which Bath & North East Somerset (B&NES) Council had invited comments:

14/02490/FUL - 36 Claverton Road West - Erection of single storey side extension with conservatory at the rear (Retrospective) - Mr Stuart Fowler
It was resolved that B&NES Council be advised that this Council **comments on** this application: No comment.

- c) **Decisions** – The Clerk reported the following applications which had been PERMITTED with conditions by B&NES Council:

14/02911/REG03 - Saltford Primary School Claverton Road - Erection of a modular building to provide 2 classroom unit - Bath & NE Somerset Council

14/03616/FUL - Craigmor The Glen - Demolition and rebuilding of existing study together with two small single storey flat roof extensions either side towards the front of the building and extending the roof to the veranda - Mr Mark Rosser

The Clerk reported the following application which had been PARTLY PERMITTED with conditions and PARTLY REFUSED by B&NES Council:

14/02443/AR - Saltford Motor Services 491 Bath Road - Display of illuminated and non-illuminated external signage to replace the current signage - Saltford Motor Services Ltd

The Clerk reported the following application which had been WITHDRAWN:

14/01481/FUL - 6 Mill Cottages The Shallows - Erection of 1 two bed dwelling - Mr Peter Pearce

The Clerk reported the following APPEAL that has been made to the Planning Inspectorate against B&NES' decision to refuse advertisement consent:

Appeal 14/00075/ARRF Saltford News 504 Bath Road
Application 14/02015/AR Display of 1 non-illuminated advertisement on side elevation – Mr & Mrs P Patel

- d) **Planning items of urgent information** – No items were reported.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) **Monthly Financial Report** – The report was discussed and accepted by Members.
- b) **Schedule of Expenditure** – It was resolved that the expenditure for all items listed in the schedule for the month of October 2014 be authorised and the schedule

signed by the Chair.

- c) **Annual website hosting and support** – The Council authorised expenditure of £242 to Vision ICT for website hosting and support from November 2014 to October 2015 (budget heading Publicity).
- d) **Salford Scouts grant application** – The Council agreed to make a grant of £300 to Salford Scouts towards three Salford Scouts attending the World Scout Jamboree in Japan in Summer 2015 (budget heading Miscellaneous Grants, power for expenditure Local Government Act 1972 Section 137).

8. PREVIOUSLY PERMISSIVE PATHS

Cllr Duncan Hounsell reported that the previously permissive footpaths in Salford which had been closed at the end of 2013 following the withdrawal of subsidy for public access by DEFRA may re-open to the public in time. A public meeting on the issue was hosted by Salford Parish Council at Salford Golf Club in August. Cllr Duncan Hounsell reported on the outline of a possible agreement between a local organisation, a local business and the farmer that would allow all the previously permissive paths to re-open to walkers and riders in due course. There was a desire from all parties to secure the re-opening of the paths but this was now subject to a legal agreement being possible and agreed.

9. METRO WEST UPDATE

Cllr Duncan Hounsell gave the following update.

The West of England Partnership (WEP) comprises the four local authorities – Bristol, South Glos., North Somerset, and B&NES. They work collaboratively on strategic transport matters through the Joint Transport Executive Committee and the Joint Transport Board. The MetroWest rail project was initiated in early 2011 with a vision of half-hourly train services across the Bristol-Bath sub-region, the re-opening of the Portishead line with stations at Portishead and Pill, and a new stations package which included Salford Station and Ashton Gate. The strategic aims were to provide an enhanced alternative transport option to car travel and to stimulate economic growth. Metro West phase 1 (the re-opening of the Portishead line and the introduction of half-hourly services) is estimated to cost £58 million and MetroWest phase 2 (opening of a Henbury passenger line, increased services at Yate and Weston Milton, and additional stations at Ashley Down and possibly Horfield) is estimated to cost £43 million. This is being funded by £81 million from devolved transport funding, £5 million from the Local Councils for early development costs. The shortfall is expected to come from Strategic Economic Development Funds and early drawdown of the next tranche of devolved transport funding. It should be noted that there is a 30% contingency built into cost estimates and also cautious conservative estimates for passenger revenue projections which form part of the business case. Benefit-Cost ratios are high and robust, based mainly on the expected passenger traffic rather than more nebulous environmental considerations. MetroWest Phase1 is expected to be implemented in 2019. All developments on the railway have to go through an 8-stage structured process with Network Rail called the GRIP (governance for railway investment projects) process. The Local Transport Board has endorsed the outline business case for MetroWest Phase1 which is required for Grip Stage 3 at its meeting on 12th September 2014.

The re-opening of Salford Station can be in Phase 1 (reference: MetroWest “Investing in our rail network” – June 2014) but it is subject to its own business case and securing its own funding. Salford Station has to go through its own separate 8-stage GRIP process. Salford Station is now about stage 2. The business case for Salford Station is dependent on the MetroWest project as a whole. Network Rail is providing “passive provision” for a Station on the former site and has confirmed that timetabling is “not an insurmountable obstacle” to an additional Salford Station and that timetabling issues can be addressed in the development work. First Great Western is aware of the plans for a Station at Salford and a development manager is visiting the site shortly. B&NES Council Cabinet is receiving a Higher Level Output Assessment (HLOA) commissioned from consultants CM2Hill on the possible re-opening of Salford Station at its November meeting.

New services (trains) require subsidy in the first three years of operation. The local authorities in the WEP are expected to subsidise the new MetroWest services. Failing to build a station at Salford would mean that Salford’s Council tax payers will be contributing to the subsidy for services calling at other stations in the area with no direct benefit for themselves.

10. SALT FORD RAILWAY STATION

The Council considered the following points which were made by B&NES’ Group Manager Transport and Planning Policy:

Note for Salford Parish Council meeting 7/10/14

Conclusions of the Report: CH2MHill have completed their report and suggest that:

1. The former station site is probably in the optimum location within the context of the current Core Strategy, having significant advantages over others to the west e.g. at Chelwood Road. Alternative sites would have the advantage of better access arrangements and parking. These might need to be revisited in the light of any review of Core Strategy.
2. While modelling for the timetable for Metro West project has confirmed that the new station can be fitted into the service pattern there are a number of risks:
 - a. The new Station may need an additional unit of rolling stock which would add significant costs to the revenue support needed.
 - b. Network Rail will need to be confident that the new station does not increase the risk of any delays accrued spreading to the wider MetroWest route.
3. Patronage is estimated to be some 200,000 users/annum (i.e. about 370 persons per day) assuming there were 2 trains an hour.
4. This patronage could provide £770,000 in new fares to the Train Operating Company but would still require revenue support.
5. The station would require a 200 space car park including a new car park near to the station.
6. Parking fees would provide a significant revenue stream which would support the running of the station and any subsidies required for the services stopping there.
7. On-street parking control would be needed to reduce pressure in adjoining streets.
8. The station would cost between £4 - £6m to build (excluding land acquisition, TOC compensation and traffic management). Currently there is

no budget to cover this expenditure. It should be noted that in some scenarios high cost lead to a low BCR which may be a risk to the business case.

9. The access to the station from the A4 will require improvement which might be controversial locally. Cost of this unknown at the moment and will depend on which option is taken forward.

The Council agreed to the following proposal from Cllr Duncan Hounsell:

Following the results of the informal public consultation exercise launched at the public exhibition held in Saltford in February 2014 regarding the possible reopening of Saltford Railway Station, Saltford Parish Council asks B&NES Council Cabinet to consider the Higher Level Output Assessment (HLOA) report and to take the project to GRIP (Governance in Railway Projects) stage 3 of Network Rail's GRIP process for railway development.

A recorded vote was requested and members voted as follows on this proposal:

Cllr Duncan Hounsell – Yes
Cllr Adrian Betts – Yes
Cllr Marie Carder – Yes
Cllr Harvey Haeberling – Abstain
Cllr Rob King – Yes
Cllr Rob Taylor – Yes
Cllr Chris Warren - Yes

The Council agreed that the result of this motion could be relayed to the local press and any person or organisation that was relevant.

11. REMEMBRANCE DAY ARRANGEMENTS

The Council authorised expenditure of £20 on a wreath for the Remembrance Day service to be held on Sunday 9 November (budget heading S137).

12. LITTER BINS

The Council agreed to make a request to B&NES Council for additional litter bins in the following locations in the south of Saltford:

- The top of Grange Road
- The bottom of Longwood Lane
- Manor Road entrance to playing fields (in addition to the one already there)

13. ACTION ON RIVER LITTER

The Clerk reported the following progress on the actions agreed at the last meeting to help reduce and remove the litter in the river and in the riverbanks at Saltford:

- *Ask B&NES Council to lead and co-ordinate action in this regard, and inform B&NES Council of the presence of embedded plastic, and copy in B&NES Avon River Regeneration Trust and Saltford's B&NES ward councillors on any correspondence with B&NES Council on these matters.*

B&NES Council has replied that enquiries concerning items in the river would need to be put to the Environment Agency itself. B&NES has logged the issue of litter on the river banks to their cleansing team to see if they can assist.

- *Write to all 'riparian' owners of both riverbanks at Saltford explaining the issues and reminding them of their responsibilities to clear litter as set out in the Environment Agency publication Living on the Edge, and inform Kelston Parish Meeting of this action. Also to write to all boat owners on the river in Saltford.*

The Clerk will write to riparian owners, after doing Land Registry searches to establish ownership, over the next 6 months. It is not possible to write to boat owners without contact details.

- *Write to Wessex Water expressing concern at the reported evidence of baby wipes and sanitary products in the river at Saltford.*

Wessex Water has replied as follows:

Thank you for your email of 23 September. I am sorry sewerage debris was found in the River Avon at Easter 2014.

In the last 15 years we have carried out extensive improvements to the foul sewerage systems in Bath to reduce the frequency of spills from our storm overflows and also improve the screening facilities to reduce the amount of sewage debris entering the river.

All the storm overflows along the River Avon are consented by the Environment Agency and operate within the agreed conditions.

No pollution incidents have been recorded in the Saltford area since August 2013; the incident was caused by a blockage in the foul sewer system and resulted in the discharge of screened effluent into the River Avon.

Last winter was one of the wettest on record, with high river levels and increased pressure on the sewerage system, resulting in screened discharges into the river via the consented overflows.

I hope this information is helpful.

- *Raise these matters at the next meeting of the River Avon Users Consultative Committee (RAUCC).*

One of the Council's RAUCC representatives will raise this at a RAUCC meeting.

14. ANNUAL REVIEW OF RISK REGISTER

The Council reviewed its Risk Register, and agreed to accept it as it is.

15. ANNUAL REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The Council reviewed its Financial Regulations, and agreed to accept them as they are.

16. STANDING ORDERS

The Council agreed to delete section 1.z of its Standing Orders.

17. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Duncan Hounsell attended the ALCA meeting on 24 September to welcome the

group to Saltford.

Cllr Chris Warren reported that Saltford Wombles gave a presentation at the recent Saltford Environment Group AGM.

18. STAFFING COMMITTEE

The Council received the minutes of the meeting of the Staffing Committee held on 8 September 2014. Cllr Duncan Hounsell noted that the Clerk would be asked to undertake the necessary training to allow the Council to make use of the “General Power of Competence” (Localism Act 2011) should the Council decide to adopt the Power at any time in the future.

19. ITEMS OF URGENT INFORMATION

Cllr Duncan Hounsell reported that a meeting is to be held on 8 October with B&NES Parks Manager in Saltford Memorial Garden to discuss the state of the garden, B&NES’ maintenance regime, and the possibility of the Parish Council sharing costs of improving the garden.

Cllr Chris Warren reported that he had received a letter from Sheila Hall about the Memorial Garden, to which the Clerk will reply.

Cllr Duncan Hounsell reported that discussions had been held with Saltford Hall about the possibility of using a mobile TV monitor to facilitate displaying the agenda and other documents at future Council meetings, and Cllr Chris Warren offered to help investigate the options.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Next Council meeting: 4 November 2014

Next Planning Committee meeting: 21 October 2014

Chairman.....

Date confirmed and signed.....