

SALTFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at Saltford Hall, Saltford
on Tuesday 3rd July 2012 at 7.15pm

PRESENT:

Councillors - Duncan Hounsell (Chair), Kim Johnson (Vice-Chair), Mathew Blankley, Tina Curtis, Harvey Haeberling, Rob King, Neil McKen, Chris Warren, Jill Williams and Reg Williams

Officer - Tricia Golinski

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 12 June 2012 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 Cllr Kevin Reeves.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Tina Curtis declared an interest in items 7.3, 7.4 and 7.8.

Cllr Duncan Hounsell noted that a new standards regime is being brought in under the Localism Act and that this will be on the Parish Council agenda in September.

4. PUBLIC TIME

There were 3 members of the public present.

Lisa Motton spoke about her planning application 12/02241 28 Uplands Road.

Mr Brown of 1A Uplands Drive spoke objecting to planning application 12/02241 28 Uplands Road.

5. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair announced that he and three other members would be attending the official opening of Kingfisher Lodge care centre on 4 July.

6. PLANNING MATTERS

1. **Minutes** – The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 26 June 2012 were confirmed as a correct record.

2. New planning applications –

The Council considered the following planning applications in respect of which Bath & North East Somerset Council had invited comments:

12/02398/FUL - Closed Public Toilets Manor Road - Minor window and door replacement works associated with change of use from public WC building to office use (B1) - SKS Developments Ltd

It was **RESOLVED** that Bath & N E Somerset Council be advised this Council **supports** this application

12/02241/FUL - 28 Uplands Road - Erection of a replacement dwelling - Mrs Lisa Motton

It was **RESOLVED** that Bath & N E Somerset Council be advised this Council **comments on** this application: Contrary to D.4 a) - does not respond to local context in terms of appearance.

3. B&NES' Options for accommodation of Gypsy & Traveller sites within the

District – The Parish Council considered its response to B&NES' Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Site Allocations Development Plan Document.

Cllr Mathew Blankely proposed that the Parish Council ask for the consultation to be stopped because of various mistakes and flaws in the process (highlighted by examples in Stanton Wick and Whitchurch), and his concern at Salford residents' Council tax being used to continue to fund a flawed process. This proposal was not agreed.

The following response to B&NES' consultation was agreed:

Salford Parish Council understands the need to find suitable sites in B&NES. Legal sites make enforcement against illegal sites more likely to succeed in the courts. Salford Parish Council views the protection of the Green Belt as a priority and is concerned that the scoring matrix used by B&NES does not reflect the Government's *Planning Policy for Traveller Sites* issued in March 2012, which states:

Government's aims in respect of traveller sites are:

- *that plan-making and decision-taking should protect the Green Belt from inappropriate development;*
- *to enable provision of suitable accommodation from which travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure.*
- *Inappropriate development is harmful to the Green Belt and should not be approved, except in very special circumstances. Traveller sites (temporary or permanent) in the Green Belt are inappropriate development.*

Bath & North East Somerset Council has allocated the land adjacent to Ellsbridge House, in Keynsham, with a preferred site status despite being ranked 15th out of 23 in the matrix system. This site is very near to Salford and the nursery at the location may take Salford children. The site is inappropriate for the following reasons:

- The proposal was put forward as a 'preferred site' without due regard to the fact that the site would be adjacent to, and shares an access with, a nursery (Snapdragons) which is due to open in September 2012;
- The Preferred Sites Consultation document approved by Cabinet on 9 May 2012 (and the subject of current ongoing consultation) makes no mention of the fact that the site would be adjacent to and shares an access with a Nursery. Furthermore the plan included within the consultation document shows the adjacent property as being 'Ellsbridge House Management and Community Education Centre' when the Council, through various departments, is fully aware of the fact that the Ellsbridge House property is now a nursery. This fact was specifically raised at the Planning, Transport and Environment Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel on 15 May 2012 and prior to publication of the Preferred Sites Consultation document on 23 May 2012;
- The lack of suitable highway access to the site. Gypsies/Travellers on the proposed site would have to share access with the nursery or use a new access route, which would likely be created at the expense of a bus stop used by Wellsway School pupils who live in the village of Saltford. As there are no suitable locations for the bus stop to be relocated, it may have to be removed;
- The fact that the site is currently mature woodland and a designated breeding area for wild bats.
- The OFSTED requirements for site safety and the safeguarding of children at the nursery will be difficult or impossible to meet if the site is shared in the way proposed.

4. Decisions – The Clerk reported the following applications which had been REFUSED:

12/02075/LBA - Saltford Manor Queen Square - Internal and external alterations for the installation of a window to a kitchen - Prof & Mrs Richard Canter

12/01643/FUL - 7 Rodney Road - Erection of a single storey rear extension, re-formation of roof structure at increased pitch and formation of new room in roof and alterations to vehicle entrance to create 'in-out' driveway - Miss Roxanne Daniels

5. Possible Contraventions – There was no update from B&NES.

It was agreed to send B&NES a screen shot of the website promoting car sales at Avon Farm, following a recent verbal report from a member of the public that a driver had stopped and asked her for directions to the car sales business in Avon Lane.

6. Planning items of urgent information – Cllr Neil McKen reported that overnight parking was increasing again in The Shallows car park, and a proposal to ask B&NES for a 'No overnight stays' sign will be on the next Parish Council agenda.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. **Monthly Financial Report** – the report was discussed and accepted by Members.
2. **Schedule of Expenditure** – It was **RESOLVED** that the expenditure for all items listed in the schedule for the months of July and August 2012 be authorised and the schedule signed by the Chair.
3. **Parish Council notice boards (a)** – It was agreed not to replace the two Parish Council notice boards near the Post Office, and to move the hinges on the smaller one from the top to the side to make it easier to open.
4. **Parish Council notice boards (b)** – It was agreed to add new strips to the backing panels with the new website address at a cost of £30 for both (budget heading Publicity).
5. **Saltford Fairtrade grant application** – A grant of £200 was approved to Saltford Environment Group to fund the setting up of Saltford Fairtrade Group (budget heading Miscellaneous Grants).
6. **Churchyard wheelie bin** – Expenditure of up to £50 was approved for a second wheelie bin for the churchyard to facilitate the removal of waste (budget heading Maintenance).
7. **Parish Council Chairman's Chain of Office** – Expenditure of £25 to Duncan Hounsell was approved for additional bar and engraving for the Parish Council Chain of Office (budget heading Publicity).
8. **Pop-up banner** – The purchase of a pop-up banner for use at meetings was not agreed.
9. **Portable modular display kit** – The purchase of a portable modular display kit as itemised in the Community Engagement Group's plan was not agreed.

8. STAFFING COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Council received the minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting on 28 May 2012.

9. HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

The Council considered the adoption of the Health and Safety Policy proposed by the Staffing Committee. Cllrs Kim Johnson and Duncan Hounsell explained the reasons for proposing that the Council adopts a Health and Safety Policy: to be a good employer and a responsible Council. Cllr Reg Williams expressed concern about the policy leading to possible future exploitation. It was agreed that the Staffing Committee would re-consider in the light of members' comments and come back to the Council with a further proposal.

10. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

Cllr Duncan Hounsell reported the following from the **PACT** meeting on 26 June:

- 35 recorded crimes in Saltford between 22 February and 25 June
- 20% cuts in policing budget over 4 years but no reduction in front line policing
- PACT priorities are: time-settings at A4 pedestrian crossings; speeding at locations in Saltford; drug dealing; proposed meeting about deliveries and parking at shop parade.

Cllr Duncan Hounsell reported that there were three presentations at the **Chew Valley Partnership** meeting on 27 June:

- Community Organisers (Regenerate)
- Planning policy: Core Strategy update and Neighbourhood Planning (B&NES)
- The Localism Act (Community Rights to Buy, Challenge, Build) (B&NES)

Cllr Duncan Hounsell reported that the **Parishes Liaison** meeting on 20 June included the following agenda items:

- The new standards regime
- B&NES' new website going live at the end of July
- B&NES' Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People Site Allocations
- Fracking (hydraulic fracturing)

Cllr Duncan Hounsell reported the following responses to the Parish Council's questions given at the **Parish Cluster** meeting on 28 June:

1. It is not possible to put in additional car parking spaces in front of 507 Bath Road to replace the existing double yellow lines, as it would cause problems in vehicles passing and require a change to the existing Traffic Regulation Order.
2. The 2 hour parking restriction at Saltford Shop Parade has been highlighted as an area of concern to all staff on the Parking Services Enforcement team.
3. The progress on the prioritisation of items listed in the B&NES Task register is dependent on future capital funding, and funding priorities are reviewed each year. It is always useful to provide fresh evidence such as accident figures, or school travel plan.

Cllr Kim Johnson reported that there had been two accidents on the Bath Road last week, and it was agreed to ask PC Sam Kayser if the Parish Council can be informed about accidents in Saltford.

Cllr Kim Johnson reported that Keynsham Town Council had asked for a written proposal concerning the recommendation of Keynsham Young People's Liaison Group for young people in Saltford.

11. SALT FORD STATION CAMPAIGN

Cllr Duncan Hounsell reported that the desk-based study undertaken by Halcrow for B&NES modelled outcomes for a new station. It produced figures of 400 entrances/exits daily at a re-opened Saltford station and net new revenue for the

railway of up to £250,000 per year. An indicative cost has been given of £5.5m for a new station.

The petition of over 2000 Saltford residents calling for the re-opening of Saltford Station was presented to B&NES Cabinet at its June meeting. B&NES Cabinet agreed to commit £100,000 to take the project through the first phases of development and gave assurances that car-parking issues will be addressed.

A re-opening of Saltford Station is part of the bigger picture of establishing the Greater Bristol Metro. The West of England Partnership (WEP) has included Saltford in phase 2 (2019 to 2023) of the Metro project. A bid by WEP for £100 million has gone to the Department of Transport to back the Metro. B&NES and WEP have been discussing the Metro project with Train Operating Companies.

The possibility of the Parish Council holding a public meeting about the re-opening of Saltford Station was discussed.

12. SURE START CENTRE, KEYNSHAM

Cllr Duncan Hounsell and Cllr Jill Williams were given a tour of the Keynsham Children's (SureStart) Centre in June. This Centre covers the community of Saltford as well as Keynsham, is supported by B&NES and the local NHS, and offers a range of flexible services related to the health and well-being of families with children under 11 years. Transport to the Centre from Saltford for individual families can be provided in particular cases. In addition to the groups and activities held at the Centre, there are outreach family support workers who can visit parents in their own homes. The Centre Services Manager discussed ideas about how the Centre can become even more aware of local needs in Saltford, and mentioned the work of the Wansdyke Play Association which covers children aged 5-13.

13. EXPANDING NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH IN SALTORD

Cllr Duncan Hounsell reported that a meeting on expanding Neighbourhood Watch in Saltford was held at Saltford Hall on 19th June. PC Sam Kayser and PCSO Sarah Hewlett attended the meeting, and also present were co-ordinators of some of the existing NW schemes. The meeting thanked the NW co-ordinators present, outlined the benefits of being in a NW scheme (helping to reduce crime and the fear of crime, lowering insurance rates, and meeting neighbours), and considered how best to expand NW in Saltford. Two members of the public came forward to launch NW schemes where they lived – one in the central section of Montague Road and one on the Bath Rd near the Shallows. It was agreed that NW should be promoted at village events and that the Parish Council could host an annual meeting of NW co-ordinators, invited by the local Police, to enable effective communication. PC Sam Kayser explained that local re-organisation of the Police services might produce temporary problems with communicating crime information to NW co-ordinators.

14. SALTORD BUSINESS COMMUNITY NETWORK

Cllr Duncan Hounsell reported that a lunchtime meeting of the Saltford Business Network was held at the Golf Club on Wed 13th June. Two local businessmen agreed to join a steering group for the Business Network – David Hewett of ITeam

Solutions and Rik Taylor of Space-Engineering. Other members of the steering group are Cllrs Kevin Reeves, Tina Curtis and Duncan Hounsell, and Christine Hounsell. The first meeting of the steering group is at 8.00am on Tuesday 10th July at Saltford Hall. B&NES has made a contribution of £300 to the Parish Council to fund the set-up costs of the Business Network.

15. CIVIC SERVICES

Cllr Duncan Hounsell proposed that the Parish Council hold no further Civic Services in the current 4-year term of the Council, and this was agreed.

16. FRED BLAMPIED'S MBE

The Council agreed to send a letter of congratulation to Mr Fred Blampied MBE, resident of Saltford, on his award for services to inland waterways.

17. B&NES' SURVEY OF TRAFFIC SIGNAL RE-TIMINGS

The Council considered B&NES' survey of re-timed traffic signals at the pedestrian crossings at the Bath Road/Beech Road/Manor Road junction. Cllr Reg Williams reported that the samples B&NES took were not representative enough: they only took one sample in each direction with the old and new signal timings to measure the effect on journey times and queue lengths. Cllr Reg Williams proposed that the Parish Council send B&NES the results of his own samples of journey times and offer to measure journey times for them if they change the signal timings back to the old timings again. This proposal was agreed. Cllr Kim Johnson noted that the time taken to cross the A4 is a significant concern and inconvenience for the residents of Saltford.

18. UPLANDS ROAD/A4 JUNCTION

The Council considered the dangers of exiting Uplands Road at this junction and agreed to ask B&NES for double yellow lines be installed in Uplands Road near this junction on the west side only.

19. VILLAGE WALK

The Council discussed arrangements for the annual village walk to be held on Wednesday 25 July 2012 at 7.00pm from The Shallows car park.

20. EMERGENCY COVER FOR CLERK

The Council agreed that Mr Peter Duppa-Miller would act as emergency cover for the Clerk in the event of unexpected absence or absence at certain critical times, and would be engaged as a contractor, accepting liability for his own tax and NI payments, in accordance with Inland Revenue requirements.

21. PUBLICITY

The Council discussed items to include in the Parish Council's page of SCAN and the next Parish Council e-newsletter.

22. ITEMS OF URGENT INFORMATION

There were none.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Next Council meeting: 4 September 2012

Next Planning Committee meeting: 17 July 2012

Chairman.....

Date confirmed and signed.....