

SALTFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at Saltford Hall, Saltford
on Tuesday 1st July 2014 at 7.15pm

PRESENT:

Councillors - Duncan Hounsell (Chair), Reg Williams (Vice-Chair), Adrian Betts, Marie Carder, Harvey Haeberling, Rob King, Neil McKen, Kevin Reeves, Rob Taylor, Chris Warren and Jill Williams

Officer - Tricia Golinski

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 3 June 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for inability to attend this meeting were received.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Duncan Hounsell declared an interest in items 10 and 11 as he is an occasional member of the congregation of St Mary's.

4. PUBLIC TIME

There were 3 members of the public present.

Adam Stratton apologised for not having notified the Parish Council earlier about the closure of some previously permissive paths in Saltford. He explained that the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, which allowed public access to bridleways and footpaths, ended in October 2013, and the new Environmental Stewardship Scheme has no public access option. His business cannot allow free access to the land but he is open to the possibility of re-opening some paths for some financial contribution. The price of £1 per metre was suggested, and a clear legal agreement would be necessary.

Cynthia Wilson raised the following issues regarding St Mary's churchyard:

- A wild flower meadow is being established in the Lord of the Manor's grave, under the magnificent old oak tree which she hopes will not be cut down.
- Could a new watering can be provided in the churchyard?
- Who empties the compost bins?
- The graves have long grass growing out of them and one has a large blackberry growing through it.
- Could a plaque be put on the Lord of the Manor's grave indicating the

- footpath to the Lord of the Manor's fishponds?
- The church was locked last week, is it permanently locked?

The Chair replied that the maintenance contractors will be asked to treat the weeds and the blackberry on the graves, and they also empty the compost bins. The Clerk will respond fully to Cynthia.

Maurice Short advised the Council that 23 years ago he was on the first Salford Parish Council which took over the responsibility for the churchyard in perpetuity, under an agreement with Wansdyke Council. He is keen to see the Parish Council keep the churchyard in good condition, including the walls.

5. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair made the following announcements:

The survey of the churchyard walls carried out by Consulting Civil and Structural Engineers Mann-Williams stated that the condition of a section of the south boundary wall adjacent to the footpath "*means that persons using the footpath are potentially vulnerable as the path is tight to the south side of the wall. As a safety precaution, we (Mann-Williams) would advise consideration be given to temporarily diverting the public footpath through the churchyard until the work is implemented*". Public safety is paramount, of course. The Clerk arranged for that footpath to be closed off and warning notices posted. Our public liability insurance covers us collectively and individually but only if we act responsibly.

May I remind councillors that the Good Councillor's Guide makes clear that "the clerk is not just a secretary and is not at the beck and call of the chairman or other councillors; the clerk is answerable to the council as a whole."

Please can councillors and members of the public report any removal of graffiti that takes place following the Parish Council's notifications to the relevant property owners. The Parish Council may not be informed directly of action taken on these graffiti sites.

The quality of projection of the old digital projector made available to Salford Parish Council by the SCA is not good enough for our purposes. Consideration of a purchase of a new digital projector, which has been budgeted for, is likely to be on the September agenda. Other items held back for the September agenda include Action on River Litter and a report on the proposed Regeneration of Salford Sports Club.

I have attended the AGMs of the Salford Brass Mill Project and 1st Salford Scouts. Public thanks were given at both AGMs to the Parish Council for our past financial assistance awards to them.

I have had a brief informal meeting with Mr Adam Stratton of Manor Farm to talk about his visit to the Council this evening to speak in public time on the issue of permissive footpaths.

Mr Simon Thomas, B&NES Highways officer, has given me an update on plans to install a Toucan crossing on the dual carriageway near Newton St Loe. There is to be a consultation on the necessary Transport Regulation Orders in July/August. As the full Saltford Parish Council does not meet until September, this may need to be carried out among us by email. The installation would appear to have minimal effect on Saltford traffic flows.

An announcement on the future of Saltford Post Office is expected before the end of the Summer.

Saltford is in the Bristol Outer Zone in First Bus's new fare structure which starts on 6th July. Fares to and from Saltford are broadly related to distance travelled. For details see the booklet "Fairer Fares for All" produced by First Bus or visit www.fairerfaresforall.co.uk

All Parish Councillors are welcome to join Mr Andrew Holland, Neighbourhood Manager of Curo, on the Curo "walkabout" in Saltford at 2:30pm on the 16th July. Assemble at the Hinton Close/Iford Close Meeting Room.

Joyce Pickard, B&NES Officer, who has worked closely with this Council is retiring.

My thanks to the Saltford Environment Group and Ray and Penny Buchanan who organised the Open Garden event at Eastover Farm on 29th June.

I visited all Saltford artists participating in the Roundabout Art trail. My appreciation for local artists Linda O'Gorman, Yvonne Halton, Meg Halton, Colette Heliwell, Susanna Piggott, Charlotte Thompson, David Thornley, Beth Townley and all those in Avon Valley Artists who exhibited in Saltford over the weekend of June 28th and 29th.

6. PLANNING MATTERS

- a) **Minutes** - The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 17 June 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:

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

It was resolved that B&NES Council be advised that this Council **objects to** this application: the current signage already dominates the shopping area, we have concerns about the number and size of illuminated signs proposed (policy D.2 f), the lack of any time constraints, and the loss of the clock; and the proposals would be out of keeping with the area (policy D.4 a).

- c) **Decisions** – The Clerk reported the following applications which had been

PERMITTED with conditions by B&NES Council:

14/01590/FUL - 24 Boyd Road - Erection of single storey rear extension - Mr & Mrs Smee

13/01558/FUL - 3 Chestnut Walk - Erection of two storey side extension and single storey rear extension, conservatory, 2 dormers to rear and insertion of velux window in the loft to side elevation following demolition of existing garage (Revised proposal)(Retrospective) - Joanne Hunt

14/02061/FUL - 552 Bath Road - Erection of single storey extension, rebuilding of existing dormer with new roof and new pitched roof to bay windows - Mr M Webber

The Clerk reported the following appeal which had been DISMISSED by the Planning Inspectorate:

4 Uplands Road – Appeal against the refusal to grant planning permission for two new dwellings under application 13/02006/FUL – Duncan Phillips

- d) **Planning contraventions policy and practice** – The review of current practice in relation to planning contraventions was deferred until the next meeting.
- e) **B&NES Housing Development Boundary Review** – The Council agreed the following response to B&NES' invitation to become involved in the review of the Housing Development Boundaries: Saltford Parish Council does not wish to have an active part in this process but to continue to be consulted in accordance with the B&NES adopted Neighbourhood Planning Protocol (My Neighbourhood), as it affects Saltford. The reason for this is that in the Planning Inspector's recommendations to B&NES Council to make the draft Core Strategy 'sound', he states (paragraph 110):
'For villages such as Saltford, further development is permitted within the village, but the policy does not provide any support for expansion of the village into the Green Belt or for the Green Belt to be changed around such settlements'.
- f) **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 months of July and August 2014 be authorised and the schedule signed by the Chair.

8. PERMISSIVE PATHS

The Council agreed to host and facilitate an open public meeting in August to discuss possible ways forward for the previously permissive paths, and to advertise this in SCAN.

9. FOOTPATH MAP SALES

The Council agreed to defer the review of the sales of footpath maps until after the public meeting about the previously permissive paths.

10. CHURCHYARD WALL SURVEY

The Chair advised members that maintenance of St Mary's churchyard was transferred to the Parish Council on 27 September 1991, and that according to a legal note issued by the National Association of Local Councils, maintenance of a closed churchyard includes keeping the walls and trees in good order.

The Council agreed to seek quotations for the work identified in the survey as a priority, and for all the work identified in the survey. The quotations should give separate costs for each piece of work identified. It was also agreed to install more substantial barriers to prevent access to the footpath where the wall is unsafe.

The Council agreed to send a copy of the report by Mann Williams to St Mary's Parochial Church Council, and to ask the Parochial Church Council to consider any action it can take to preserve the walls.

The Council agreed to contact the owner of the Leylandii trees bordering the churchyard to request that the trees are removed, and to advise the owner of the private drive at the rear of the church of the unsafe section of wall bordering this drive.

11. TREE WORK AT ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD

The Council considered the quotations received for tree work at St Mary's Churchyard, advised by the consultant Alan Engley in his arboricultural tree safety report March 2014. It was agreed to shortlist two of the contractors to undertake all the tree work and to request references from them. The final decision is to be made subject to satisfactory references at an Extraordinary meeting of the Council on 15 July.

12. VILLAGE WALK RISK ASSESSMENT

The Council approved the risk assessment for the Village Walk to be held on 13 August 2014 with the following addition:

Dogs to be on leads and to be the responsibility of dog owners.

13. SALTFORD WORLD WAR 1 CENTENARY COMMEMORATION

The Council agreed the details of the planned civic ceremony at 11am on Sunday 3rd August 2014 in the Memorial Garden. The ceremony will be advertised in SCAN and B&NES Ward Councillors will be invited.

14. FURTHER VOLUNTEERS FOR DEFIBRILLATOR CHECKS

No further members volunteered to take part in the rota of fortnightly checks of the defibrillator.

15. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Duncan Hounsell reported that he had attended the Parishes Liaison meeting on 18 June 2014, and that on 24 July 2014 there will be the last meeting of the Chew Valley Area Partnership and the inaugural meeting of both the Keynsham Area Forum and the Chew Valley Area Forum.

Cllr Jill Williams reported that the first meeting to discuss Saltford Festival 2015 is on 2 July, and the dates of the festival will be 13 to 21 June 2015.

16. ROLE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL IN RELATION TO CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS

The Council discussed its relationship with other organisations in the village. It was confirmed that the Parish Council has a representative at meetings of the following organisations: Saltford Community Association, Saltford Environment Group, River Avon Users Consultative Committee, Keynsham Young People’s Liaison Group, and various B&NES forums. In addition there are other opportunities for good relationships with local organisations, such as the annual Parish Meeting.

17. PUBLICITY

The Council agreed items to include in the Parish Council’s page of SCAN and ideas for the next Parish Council e-newsletter.

18. ITEMS OF URGENT INFORMATION

Cllr Duncan Hounsell reported, as per the Council’s Standing Order number 1.z, that he had written a letter to *The Week In* and other local press about the facilities at Saltford Sports Club.

Cllr Rob King reported that Stratton Road, Norman Road and Brockley road are to be re-surfaced, and the grass mesh at the end of Stratton Road is to be replaced with tarmac.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Next Council meeting: Extraordinary meeting 15 July 2014 at 7.15 pm, next ordinary meeting 2 September 2014

Next Planning Committee meeting: 15 July 2014 at 7.30 pm

Chairman.....

Date confirmed and signed.....