

BAYFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

Confidential

LOCATION
Bayford Village Hall

DATE
25th March 2019

PURPOSE OF MEETING
Parish Assembly

PRESENT

Michael Wainwright (Chairman), Alan Fitzjohn, Bob Orme, Jane Honeyman, George Rowley, Maggie Broomer (clerk), and 10 members of the public.

CIRCULATION

Above listed + Linda Haysey and Ken Crofton

ITEM	MINUTE	ACTION
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1.0 Apologies

1.1 D.Sitwell, C. Taylor, J. Mentern

2.0 Introduction by the Chairman

2.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3.0 Chairman's Report for the Year

3.1

We have, of course, throughout this year taken care of the routine tasks such as cutting the grass, reporting pot holes, paying invoices, responding to parishioner's enquiries and commenting on planning applications. Of particular note were The Stables and the Telecoms mast on the Recreation Ground.

Ponds.

At the start of this year and during last year, the pond at Willow Corner was transformed making the centre of the village much more attractive.

During this year, the School's ponds have been similarly transformed. This was an even bigger task as they had been neglected for a long time. I am sure the whole village and the School are grateful to Bob, George and Alan and everyone who turned out to carry out this hard work.

At the end of this year it is our intention to complete the work on the other pond.

Traffic Calming.

We have been successful in obtaining funding from Hertfordshire Road Safety Partnership for an assessment of our roads and their usage. We are grateful to Jane for attending the meeting at County Hall and filling in the forms, and to Cllr Ken Crofton for guidance. (see details below). The granting of this funding is a direct result of the work already carried out; the SSID, the DriveSafe scheme and the village signs.

Village Clean-up

This annual event was as successful as ever, attracting volunteers of all ages. The weather was also kind. As usual a large heap of rubbish was collected. There were numerous complementary comments on a web site called Nextdoor.co.uk.

Gravel Pits

The discussions have moved to the issues of permanent closure of the sites, particularly Bunkers, and of restoration. These discussions are ongoing, are somewhat delicate and the comments from the meeting last Thursday 21st March at County Hall indicate they are likely to take years. A number of legal and technical experts are likely to be involved. On the plus side activity appears to have ceased at Bunkers. We would like to thank George and Annie Willoughby Richards for the work they have put in this year.

Finally, I would like to thank all members of this Council, for making this an extremely successful year. We also need to thank Maggie, our Clerk for the many hours she (and David) have put in preparing agendas writing up the minutes and preparing the audit. Thanks also to David Sitwell for acting as our internal auditor. We are also grateful to Cllr Linda Haysey and Cllr Ken Crofton for their help and advice. Finally we should thank all the parishioners who have turned out to help with these projects.

Appendix. Traffic calming.

The last year hasn't allowed for further DriveSafe speed monitoring (using the portable smiley face detector unit), due to other commitments by the volunteers, but the presence of our permanent SSID (Speed Sensory Indicator Device), has hopefully made some positive impact along Ashdene Road, as cars enter into the village from White Stubbs Lane direction.

Instead, initiatives have been taken to look at the bigger picture of speeding and inconsiderate driving on the roads of Bayford and not just within the 30 mph zones. Through DriveSafe, we were invited to attend a workshop day in October, to understand more about applying to The Police and Crime Commissioners Road Safety Fund , to bid for funding for a Feasibility Study to be undertaken of our roads and their usage.

We have recently heard our application was successful and will be progressed to the next stage. It has been agreed that funding will be allocated for a feasibility study which will be commissioned by the Hertfordshire Road Safety Partnership on behalf of Bayford Parish Council, who will contract independent consultants (AECOM) to undertake this survey

The study will look at the issues raised in our bid (for example - increased traffic: large vehicles using our roads; inconsiderate driving; increased incidence of accidents and speeding and then based on evidence gathered, make recommendations of how to make a change.

ITEM	MINUTE	ACTION
4.0	Clerk's Notices	
4.1	Risk Assessment and Asset Register - for 2018/19 had been presented to all councillors. The playground equipment has now been removed. Both these documents were agreed by all to be accurate and up to date. David Sitwell has agreed to be our internal auditor again. As before no new checks were required as his business status remains unchanged from the previous financial year.	Noted
4.2	Grass Cutting - John O'Connor had submitted his contract for April 2019 – March 2020. The price remains the same as last year at £1677.00 + vat. It was agreed to sign up for another year.	Noted/MB
4.3	Bayford School Pond – a letter of thanks has been received from Jonathan Preston Head at Bayford School. It was also requested that when the ponds are opened up to the school next year a lifebelt is in situ.	Noted
4.4	Woodland Trust – are supplying trees and bushes on request to schools and communities. The school felt it would be a good idea in the village to have trees planted for each person's name that is on the war memorial. It was suggested a corner of the extended churchyard. It will not be known for awhile if the school has been successful in its application. The trees will be sent out in November.	Noted
4.5	Mini Police Program - Year 5 at the school is currently doing a 6 week program with the local police force/PCSOs on drive safety. This was felt a good idea after our Drive Safety campaign and the feasibility study soon to take place. JH to try and liaise with the school.	Noted/JH
4.6	The rose triangle was badly damaged recently by a reversing lorry. Unfortunately there was no name on the lorry to report it. Les Swain to repair the damage.	Noted
4.7	Parish Council elections – due in May with all councillors and any new nominations having to submit their forms to EHDC by the 3 rd April 2019.	Noted
4.8	Church Cottages footpath – is causing concern to several residents as being too narrow, uneven ground in places needing more bark and barbed wire on one side of the path. MW pointed out that permissive footpaths do not come under the same restrictions as public footpaths. MW to speak to Neville Hudson.	MW
4.9	Trees – a recent letter received from the BHIB councils insurance company alerting all councils to their responsibility to ensure that trees within the parish boundaries are kept maintained and not neglected.	Noted
5.0	The playground needs to be clear of all the equipment by the 31 st March.	AF
5.1	There is a pile of pond waste waiting to be collected at Willow Corner.	AF
5.2	MB looked into the cost of a dog poo bin from EHDC at the cricket ground. It would cost £500 to buy with a further £80-100 to install and then a collection charge. It was felt by EHDC that it would not be used enough to warrant the cost. Instead they have put up several notices warning of a fine if caught not clearing up after ones dog.	Noted
6.0	Any Other Business	
6.1	Terry Hayne complimented all those involved with the school pond clearance and the look of Willow Corner pond.	Noted
6.2	Jackie Fulcher commented on the number of mobile home movements recently at The Stables and asked whether the police should be involved at	Noted

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	these times as it completely blocks the junction of Bayford Lane /B158.	
6.3	Jason Rubin on behalf of the villagers thanked MW for his role as Chairman.	Noted
6.4	Maureen Whyman asked when the potholes / sunken drains in Bayford Lane are going to be repaired they have been reported awhile ago. MW to look into this.	MW
6.5	David Court asked if there was any more news on the proposed bypass for Hertford. It was stated that it is probably a long way off any decision for now but BPC will monitor the situation.	Noted
6.6	Maureen asked if there was an update on the Baker Arms being made a Community Asset – no further news.	Noted
6.7	Jason has checked the defib – all ok.	Noted

Date and Time of Next Meeting

13th May 2019 – Annual Meeting

8th July 2019 – BPC Mtg

2nd September 2019 – BPC Mtg

25th November 2019 – BPC Mtg

All meetings in the village hall and start at 8.15pm

There being no further official business the meeting ended at 9.10pm

Signed.....

Date.....