

# MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF CAMELEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30pm 8<sup>th</sup> JULY 2015 IN TEMPLE CLOUD VILLAGE HALL

[Templecloud.org.uk](http://Templecloud.org.uk)

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** There were four members of the public present. A resident asked whether the grass verge on A37 at its junction with Peterside could be cut at the same time as The Green. This was agreed. Another resident who was a member of Temple Cloud in Bloom, asked whether Ward Councillor Warren was able to allocate money for TCIB. The Chair suggested they contact him directly.

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Mr Hooper (Chair), Mr Cockerham, Mr Hemmings, Mr Hooper, Mrs Musins (Vice Chair), Mr Parfitt, Mr Sebright, Ms Swift and the Clerk, Mr Scutt.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** District Councillor Tim Warren

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were no declarations of interest.

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** were approved.

## **4. TO DISCUSS APPLICANTS FOR COUNCILLOR VACANCIES**

The meeting was told that there had been another applicant to become a Parish Councillor. The applicant, Mr Dylan Morris, a local resident, was known to those councillors present and after a discussion it was unanimously agreed to co-opt him and he was asked to join the meeting. He signed his acceptance of office and completed a register of interests.

## **5. UPDATE ON MATTERS ARISING**

**Clerk's IT requirements:** Cllr Hemmings told the meeting that he had sorted out the hardware required to set up a lap top and associated items. In order to proceed he would need to be able to pay up front. It was agreed that once he knew the exact amount which was c. £700, the Clerk was authorised to have a cheque for this amount signed. The Clerk was asked to check on whether the Council's current insurance covered these items since they would be used away from the Clerk's residence.

**Litter Bins:** The Clerk reported that he had not received a response on either the request for a bin at the playing field or Peterside. He would chase. It was agreed that should there be a problem with B&NES supplying a bin at the playing field, the PC would look at how much it would cost to install one.

**Training:** ALCA had informed the Clerk that they had closed down the training service for the Summer. It was therefore agreed that the Clerk would stay in contact with ALCA about booking a training session at the earliest possibility

**Roof of Changing Rooms:** The meeting was told that of the three quotes two were of a standard to be considered. These were from D R Purchase and from Avonfibreglass. It was agreed to put these in abeyance for the time being due to the possibility of finance becoming available. It was agreed to ask Cllr Parfitt to arrange for the area of most concern in the roof to be patched in order to give the Parish Council time to wait for the outcome of several issues which could determine how to proceed. A limit as to how much could be spent on this fix was agreed.

**Benches:** the Clerk told the meeting that the Parish Council had sufficient bench ends to install two benches – a single and a double. He confirmed that there was money for their installation and that the contractor had agreed to supply his labour free. The meeting discussed where best to site these benches. The discussion then extended to other benches in the village and the fact that some needed repair. Cllrs Musins and Swift agreed to survey the benches and compile report for the next meeting so that a plan of action could be agreed.

**Standing Orders:** It was agreed that a working party consisting of Cllrs Morris, Musins, Sebright and Swift would meet and go through the existing standing orders with a view to see if they were still fit for purpose. The working party would then report back to the full Parish Council.

**Coffee Morning:** Cllr Musins reminded the meeting that it had been agreed to hold a coffee morning so that residents could drop in to the village hall for a coffee to meet with Parish Councillors and discuss any matters of concern. It was agreed that Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September between 10 and 12.00 would be first choice with Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> as back up. The Clerk would check with the Village Hall committee.

**Temple Cloud in Bloom:** The TCIB group has put up posters advertising the route that the judges of Britain in Bloom would follow on July 22<sup>nd</sup> and asked if residents could help by ensuring that the area outside their house was tidy. Cllr Cockerham would ask the school to inform all parents of this as well.

## **7. VILLAGE HALL AND PLAYING FIELD**

Cllr Sebright told the meeting that he had been unable to look at some of the information on accounts due to access problems. The Clerk would go back to the Village Hall Committee and provide the info required for 2014 and 2015.

Cllr Hooper told the meeting that he had met with the Chair of the Village Hall and had been told that she would be calling an AGM in September. Cllr Hooper offered the services of the Parish Council to help in any way that it could. He asked Parish Councillors and residents at the meeting to circulate to their neighbours and friends news of the forthcoming AGM and to try and get as many along as possible. At the moment the village hall was being run by a very small band of residents who needed help. He saw the Hall as an asset to Village life and wants the village to get involved. The Clerk told the meeting that the Village Hall Committee hadn't proceeded with the internal doors because they were unsure who was going to pay for them. The Clerk told the meeting that these doors were part of the original refurbishment that included the false ceilings and had been delayed due to the problem of finding suitable doors. There was a sum of £1000 in the budget for 2015/2016 that includes a figure of £500 for the doors. It was agreed that the Clerk would inform the VHC to proceed and invoice the Parish Council. Cllr Morris offered to do the doors. He was reminded that he would need to seek permission from the Village Hall Committee which he agreed to do. Cllr Parfitt told the meeting that children were swinging on the new gates in the play area and one of the return springs was broken. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask the contractor to call Cllr Parfitt and meet him on site.

## **8. HIGHWAYS, FOOTPATHS AND ROADSWEEEPING**

Cllr Sebright told the meeting that he had looked at the Village Orderlies job description and felt that it was now not fit for purpose. A brief discussion took place on his initial draft and Cllr Sebright agreed to make some changes and would then circulate a final draft for the next monthly meeting.

Cllr Musins asked that because the amount of pavement to be swept had increased since the initial agency sweeping agreement was signed with B&NES, had payments

commensurate with this increase been paid? Since the answer was negative, the Clerk was asked to approach B&NES about this.

There had been reports of speeding on Temple Inn Lane during the school runs in the morning and afternoon. Cllr Cockerham agreed to ask the local beat bobby if his team could provide a uniformed presence at these times before the school broke up for the holidays.

**9. FINANCE:** It was proposed and agreed to pay the following:-

| <b>A) Payments</b>        | <b>£</b> | <b>Vat</b> |
|---------------------------|----------|------------|
| (1) Clerks wages          | 303.83   |            |
| (2) Sweeper wages         | 428.49   |            |
| (3) Garage rent           | 37.97    | 7.59       |
| (4) Bookeeper RTI         | 30.00    | 6.00       |
| (5) Temple Cloud in Bloom | 153.66   |            |
| (6) Gift for headmaster   | 52.50    |            |

**B) Payments received**

|                    |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| (1) Parish Sweeper | 303.97 |
|--------------------|--------|

**10. TO HEAR A REPORT ON THE PUBLIC INQUIRY OVER THE PLANNING APPEAL FOR 70 DWELLINGS ON LAND OFF TEMPLE INN LANE**

The following is the statement from Cameley Parish Council that was read to the Inquiry-

*The 4th Edition of The Good Councillor Guide states that the role of any council is to represent the interests of the whole community. It also states that in regard to planning, councillors need to take note of "material considerations". After due consideration, the Parish Council has voted overwhelmingly on more than one occasion to reject the application being discussed at this hearing. Our reasons are listed below:*

- 1. **Development Plan;** the number of proposed dwellings within this application far exceeds the number that the village needs to consider. Any planning application of this size proposed anywhere else within Temple Cloud would also be rejected by the Parish Council as it will increase the village by 14%. This increase is unsustainable. The BANES Core Strategy which has been inspected and verified by National Government, has suggested that 50 houses over 15 years to a village with RA1 status is reasonable. In the best interests of Temple Cloud this should mean small developments over this time period and not a large increase all in one go and in one place!*
- 2. **Planning history;** whilst this particular field has never been considered for development before, an adjacent field has been previously rejected by BANES predecessor, Wansdyke Council, due to major concerns of safety relating to the road structure. BANES council has demonstrated a 5 year building plan without the need for this development, and this was highlighted to BANES Councillors by the then Planning Officer, Daniel Stone when the field was discussed, so why reverse their decision? A recent appeal for an application in Paulton was dismissed by Planning Inspector Geoffrey Hill, who stated "granting permission at appeal for the proposed development would*

*unacceptably prejudice the implementation of BANES Core Strategy". He also concluded "there is more than enough land available for housing over the coming 5 years". Another Planning Inspector, Jessica Graham has also recently upheld the view of nearby Mendip District Council in rejecting plans to build 93 homes in Chilcompton. This is a village 5 miles from Temple Cloud with substantially more facilities. Her reason was that there was also a 5 year building plan in place. This legal challenge is no different and therefore permission to build on this field should not be approved.*

3. **Accessibility;** *There are no cycle tracks and no direct public transport to the major city of Bath. There is no public footpath to local community services from the proposed site. Residents will use their own transport for the vast majority of their journeys resulting in an unacceptable increase in the use of vehicles.*
4. **Traffic;** *the Parish Council Plan documents that the vast majority of households within the village have at least 1 car per household; over 50% of households have 2 cars and 15% of households have 3 or more cars; there is no reason to believe that any further housing development will be any different. This will result in a substantial increase in traffic using a demonstrably dangerous road system. There have been consistent reports presented in relation to this application that demonstrate how the hazardous road system cannot physically be altered to reduce risk. HGV vehicles regularly use the A37/Temple Inn Lane junction, blocking views for pedestrians and vehicles. With no ring road around the village and no plans for one, the recent closure of Hart's Lane in Hallatrow means that HGV's have no alternative and use the A37/Temple Inn lane junction. With the development of housing in towns and villages further south this has and will continue to increase the amount of traffic using the A37 through Temple Cloud as this is the main commuter route into Bristol. This has not been taken into account in any traffic surveys by the applicant. This road junction is at "breaking point"; locals fear any further increase in traffic will result in a "life changing" or "fatal" accident. These fears are reinforced by the Avon and Somerset Police report.*
5. **Roads and Parking;** *All roads surrounding the field are single carriageway with restricted vision. This severely hampers the progress of any large vehicle which results in them regularly mounting pavements and using the wrong side of the road to manoeuvre. This increases risk to all road users. In fact a recent road traffic collision adjacent to A37/Temple Inn Lane demonstrated how the traffic can be severely affected.*
6. **Views of the Community;** *agents acting on behalf of the applicant did attend 1 Parish Council meeting and organised a 2 hour "open house" session where initial plans were shown to the residents of Temple Cloud. The vast majority of views collected at the "open house" meeting were in opposition to the development. No other interaction by the applicant or his agents with the community or Parish Council has occurred. Over 500 objections (including*

*both adjacent Parish Councils) versus only 4 views in favour of this application have been registered with BANES. Residents of Temple Cloud have also attended Parish Council meetings to express their objections and concerns about this application. Not one member of the public has indicated to the Parish Council that they are in favour. This clearly demonstrates the overwhelming opposition to the application.*

*All Parish Councillors are residents within Temple Cloud and use the road junction in question on a daily basis. As a Parish Council our role is to ensure that parishioner's views are represented and that any changes benefit the village and surrounding area. We are well informed in respect of community views and therefore best placed to comment on the impact that any development on Temple Inn Lane will have on all residents. The Parish Council's opinion is that this particular application not only is strongly opposed by villagers but also offers no benefit to Temple Cloud. BANES council has demonstrated that it can fulfil the 5 year housing plan without this development; therefore we would strongly urge the Planning Inspector to uphold the decision of BANES council and reject this application.*

Thanks were given to all Councillors and residents from Cameley who attended the inquiry which lasted the best part of four days. The B&NES website suggests that a decision will be reached by 25<sup>th</sup> August.

A further discussion followed about concerns that Councillors who attended had about how B&NES handled the Inquiry. It was agreed that Cllr Musins would draft a letter to B&NES expressing this Parish Councils concerns.

Since the appellant's team had used the lack of incidence of accidents at the junction of Temple Inn lane with the A37 as an argument, it was agreed that this Parish Council should log any incidents but how such information could be gleaned will need some discussion.

## **11. TO HEAR A REPORT OF CONNECTING COMMUNITIES**

Cllr Hooper reported that Norton Radstock College was no longer independent and was now part of Bath College operating as a satellite with a reduced range of courses. This will impact on those attending since rationalisation will mean more students having to travel to the Bath campus.

Cllr Hooper then went on to discuss briefly Neighbourhood Plans to which he admitted an ambivalence – do we or don't we being the question that needs answering. He agreed to circulate a previous report from a Neighbourhood Plan Workshop that he had attended and suggested that Parish Councillors do some research on line so that this can be discussed at the September meeting.

## **12. COMMUNITY PAY BACK**

The Parish Council among others have been approached by a the Community Payback team offering a team of up to 8 supervised offenders to carry out various chores such as decorating (inside and out), ground works, litter picking and leaf clearing or anything that is labour intensive. They provide the manpower and the Parish Council supply any materials required such as paint, brushes etc. and welfare arrangements (tea / coffee etc). There is a small 'contribution' charge per visit which

is invoiced quarterly. The issue was discussed at length and Cllr Musin offered to call the supervisor to ascertain more information.

## **17. INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

The meeting was told that Council Leader, Tim Warren was introducing select committees to enable specific areas to be discussed and proposals tabled before going before the full committee. Some of the areas are efficiency, transport, Chew and Somer Valley, investing in young people, investment in schools among them.

Cllr Hooper had attended a meeting in Chew Magna and he had circulated the following report to Councillors as follows:-

Truespeed took over Wansdyke Telecom in April with the intention of providing residential and business superfast broadband to North East Somerset. To do this they have formed a partnership with Hibernia who are currently installing 77 kilometres of ducting between Chippenham and Bream. Truespeed will then have access via secondary ducting. The intention is to install fibre optic cable connections to households. However, they will not be using BT Exchanges, instead they intend spurring off for the Hibernia ducts and carry signal to homes/business premises. Some will be underground, but the aim is to utilise the pylon network of Western Power Distribution. There were other alternatives: BT (Infinity) Microwave, Satellite, 4G but none would be able to match the speed of Truespeed which would offer up and download speeds of 100Mb/s as a minimum. They would install to homes for £100 connection charge (one off), but the Government will give a grant of £3000 for each connection and this is why the cost will be so low. However, the down sides also became apparent during questions. There will be no domain provided as in truespeed.co.uk so subscribers will need to retain/utilise other providers. And the costs and benefits are potentially also restricting, especially for residential users. The monthly charge will be £47.50, this will include a phone line, 100Mb/s download and upload, support from 08.00 - 18.00. There is no provision or plan to include mobile or TV services in the package. More information is available on their website truespeed.com

Cllr Swift asked if the Clerk could circulate information about the new pension regulations and how it impacts on this Parish Councils and its employees. Then this could be discussed at the September meeting.

**18. NEXT MONTHLY MEETING** will be on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September however the Parish Council will meet at some date in August (yet to be arranged) to look at various items such as procedures and policies (complaints, filming of meetings and the press) standing orders and an internal audit committee that would be responsible for risk assessment, insurance needs, health and safety issues, and the assets register

The meeting closed at 9.45