

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CAMELEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30pm 9th JANUARY 2013 IN TEMPLE CLOUD VILLAGE HALL

Templecloud.org.uk

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

There were four members of the public present several of whom complimented the Parish Council on the Christmas tree. It was reported that a drain on A37 at its junction with Peterside was blocked with leaves. Another problem was the increase in traffic entering the village from the south that tried to turn right into Eastcourt Road despite the No Right Turn sign. The question of pedestrian controlled lights at The Green was mentioned again. The public were told that this issue had been raised with B&NES and it would be a good idea for residents to ask B&NES about such a crossing independently of the Parish Council. A replacement tree had been planted by B&NES in the same plot of land in Paulmont Rise as previously but this time in the middle of the plot. The ladies who had planted the bulbs on the Green reported that the brambles were in need of cutting back. Residents living in Ham Close have reported that the hedge between the bungalows and the playing field needs cutting back.

The business meeting opened at 7.45 pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs Ms Atkinson (Chair), Mr Gough, Mr Hooper (Vice Chair), Mrs Harvey, Mr Hemmings, Mr Hutchinson, Ward Councillor Mr Warren and the Clerk, Mr Scutt.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Cllrs Mr Dando, Mrs Gray, Mrs Parfitt and Mr Welsford

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

There were none.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: were approved and signed.

4. UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING MATTERS

The Clerk reported that he had approached B&NES about the possibility of a light controlled pedestrian crossing at The Green. He was told there was no budget however the request would be noted.

The Police had been asked to monitor illegal parking on Cameley Road at its junction with A37 outside the Doctors surgery and to do what they could to educate those motorists who flouted the Keep Clear area.

The Village Operative started work on 9th January after a three month convalescence.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

The Parish Council had received an offer of land for allotments from the owner of the scrapyards in Eastcourt Road. It was agreed that Cllr Atkinson would meet with the owner to inspect the site and report back.

6. VILLAGE HALL/PLAYING FIELD

There was nothing to report on the Village Hall. In terms of the Hedge between the playing field and Ham Close, the Clerk told the meeting that whilst the Parish Council was responsible for the other three sides of the field this particular hedge was the responsibility of B&NES. He would approach B&NES on behalf of the residents.

7. FINANCE:

It was proposed and agreed to pay the following:-

A)	Payments	£	Vat
(1)	Clerks wages Dec	269.54	
(2)	HMRC Tax o/n/d	226.00	
(3)	Garage rent Jan	33.36	6.67
(4)	Christmas Tree Lights	53.16	10.63

B) Payments received

(1)	Parish Sweeper Jan	286.44
-----	--------------------	--------

8. HIGHWAYS AND ROADSWEeping

In terms of the danger of traffic turning right into Eastcourt Road, the Clerk was asked to pass this matter to Stefan Chiffers in Highways.

It was reported that a bush next to the Bus Stop opposite the Chinese takeaway had encroached onto the pavement to such an extent that it was forcing pedestrians close to the kerb. It was also reported that a resident had hurt herself on the bush. Since Highways had not cut the offending bush as requested the Clerk would ask the Village Operative to do so as a matter of urgency.

The meeting was told of traffic problems in Meadway when parents drop off and pick up children. Parents will insist on parking on the road often without any consideration to other users and on at least one occasion blocking the road completely. The obvious solution is to park in the Village Hall car park to allow easier access through Meadway. Photographs were taken of the vehicle causing the problem and the matter has been referred to the Police.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

The erection of two detached dwellings at Mountain Ash Cameley Road and the erection of a single storey extension at no.2 Cambrook House were both permitted by B&NES planning department.

10. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Parish Council at its December meeting had discussed the situation with the suspension of B&NES Core strategy and the fact that from April 2013 with no strategy in place the National Planning Policy Framework will apply to planning applications in Bath and North East Somerset. This seems to effectively mean a default of “yes” to sustainable development applications. It was felt that the provision of a Neighbourhood Plan might enable Cameley Parish Council to specify what type of development but would not allow the Council to resist development. In order to help with their deliberations Mr Chris Head from the West of England Rural Network had been invited to brief the Parish Council on the situation which he did on 8th January. There were six Councillors, the Ward Councillor, the Clerk and two members of the public present. The full briefing has been placed on the Parish Website so that anyone with an interest in the subject can access all the facts.

In brief it would appear that a Neighbourhood Plan might not be that easy to produce given the timescale (c.18 months) and that it must be compliant with the agreed Core Strategy for B&NES and the NPPF. This in effect means that if the agreed Core Strategy has a provision for x number of new houses in Cameley Parish then the Neighbourhood Plan must also have that number or more. Each Neighbourhood Plan will be independently examined (as the strategy is) and the final hurdle for any plan would be a referendum in the Parish where 51% of those who vote must do so in favour of the plan. Effectively without an agreed Core Strategy there can be no Neighbourhood Plan.

Mr Head went on to suggest that there was a middle way called the “Placemaking Plan” which whilst it would not have the legal status of a Neighbourhood Plan it could be easier and quicker to produce. Once in place it would have to be taken into consideration by the planning authorities when considering any planning application. However like the Neighbourhood Plan it could not be used to stop development – it could however be used to influence the type and location of development in the Parish.

One important factor to consider is that Bristol is the commercial centre identified in the Core Strategy and will generate the most growth which will in turn increase traffic on its feeder roads such as the A37. It was agreed to approach other Parish Councils adjoining the A37 corridor that might be similarly affected to see if they would be interested in discussing a joint plan of any type, as any local plan is expected to consider adjoining areas.

11. INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Parish Councillors reported that the Christmas Tree had prompted good responses from local residents. The meeting gave a unanimous vote of thanks to Nancy and John Hampson at the Court House for providing the necessary electricity supply for the lights.

The meeting was told that B&NES had delivered the bench ends for the three “memorial benches” one of which would be sited on the Green, probably in early Spring.

The meeting was told that Cllr Atkinson had attended a meeting to discuss the development of the Trident Glass factory site. The meeting included representatives from the Parishes of Cameley, Clutton and High Littleton with Hallatrow, respective ward councillors and members of B&NES highways and planning departments. The main conclusion was that whilst the sites have long standing planning permissions for a limited number of uses it is difficult to ascertain what constitutes a change of use. This is mainly because there have been so many changes of use over the years that it is impossible to determine the starting point. Planning agreed that they would look carefully at each area and where they can, they will take enforcement action where there has been a breach of planning regulations. However the meeting was extremely useful in that planning and highways have a greater understanding of the problems with the site and its situation at the boundary of three different parishes. More consultation with all three was promised.

12. NEXT MEETING will be on Wednesday 13th February 2013 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm