

## BAYFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Dr M Wainright, 1b Broad Green Wood, Bayford

### Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March Parish Assembly 2006.

Present: Cllr M. Wainright  
Cllr J Fulcher  
Cllr R Callaby  
Cllr A Fizjohn  
Cllr G Rowley  
Mrs H Golding (Clerk)

Guests: Paul Weston  
Neil Major Community Police Officers

Apologies: Linda Haysey

#### **Playground**

Work has continued through the year on cutting back the trees and making the park area a little lighter. Plans to re-site the playground have been shelved due to finding an adequate alternative site and cost.

#### **Grass Verge/Pond**

Peter Musk has been busy tidying various trees and growth along the verges this year and will be pollarding the trees by the pond and removing those that have collapsed. This part of the work was delayed due to some of his equipment being stolen from his yard.

The contractors employed by the local council despite it being the Parish Council's responsibility cut the grass area around the pond last week. The Parish Council is currently in correspondence with them.

#### **Rose Triangle**

Having had a couple of years of being left in the wilderness a group of volunteers from Broad Green Wood spent a Friday and Saturday digging it over making it look nice. Unfortunately that same weekend a car cut across one of the corners and flattened it again.

#### **Village Sign**

Thanks to Mr Brocklehurst , Neville Hudson, Rodney Callaby and Alan Fitzjohn for their efforts in making the Village sign happen and which has now been erected behind the rose triangle. Although some thought it a little tall, the base of bricks still need to be put down and it was generally considered the right height to stop children from swinging on it.

### **Bus Shelter/Parish Board**

The shelter was badly damaged by vandals pulling the lining and removing tiles on the roof. This has been repaired and the inside lined with wood. The broken glass of the notice board was also replaced.

### **Nine Acre Field**

Continues to be a saga it is still for sale approx £150,000 local people were hoping to purchase it but the price is prohibitive.

### **Gravel**

The Inspector ruled SQ have no grounds to extend the time limits etc for gravel extraction at this stage. However that does not mean that at the next review in a few years it will not be raised again. The main concerns for the Parish Council now is the grading of waste to be deposited which is currently Grade A inert, but this does not stop them from applying for change of use to include household waste etc.

### **Bayfordbury**

Since St Joseph's on the Park pulled out of the purchase for Bayfordbury House it has now been sold to convert into apartments.

### **Village VAT**

The Council have finally concluded another arrangement for reimbursement of VAT from Customs & Excise. John Trendler's arrangement and documents could not be found by C&E.

### **Guest Speakers**

The guest speakers were representatives of the Hertfordshire Constabulary.

Paul Weston, Police Community Support Officer who covers the area of Bayford and beyond gave us an overview of the patch he covers and that of his colleague Neil Major approx 87<sup>2</sup> miles each. To date the crime figures for the area are down 25% with just 6 crimes being reported since January. There are now 150 Community Support Officers in Herts.

They are pushing for neighbourhood watch schemes and the main contact to help set one up is Gill Dockley.

A meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> April is being held by the Locality Policing Board for people in the area to have a say of what they feel needs addressing.

There is also a scheme open to the elderly and single parents etc for a crime prevention officer to survey properties and where improvements could be made funding could be made available depending on the individual's circumstances.

Burglary & Theft - The most common crime at this time of year is Shed break-ins due to people purchasing new equipment for their gardens for the coming summer months. Paul advised everyone to make sure the sheds have adequate locks etc and keep a look out for people behaving suspiciously.

A New control room at Welwyn has now been opened and Paul would be happy to organise a trip for anyone who would be interested to see how it operates.

A number of residents contributed to the discussion on problems in the village. The main concerns were

Bayford Station – lighting, surveillance cameras, and parking.

The Parish Council have in the past asked Rail Track to do something about CCTV etc but unfortunately this fell on deaf ears. Paul mentioned a temporary camera is available and normally rotates every 2-3 weeks must be authorised by the Chief Inspector. It may help as a deterrent for vandalism etc and may help the fight to get something more permanent depending on the evidence gathered. It was mentioned that parking on the road instead of the car park continues to be a problem, Paul is already in discussions with Mr Whittaker with regards to the blocking of his right of way and has given him letters to put on the offending vehicles windscreens.

Speeding along Ashdene Road

Speeding is becoming more prevalent and vehicles quite often misjudge the bend ploughing through the rose triangle. Many traffic-calming measures were mentioned but the general consensus was that it was important not to lose the rural feel of the village that speed humps etc could contribute to. Paul will look into the use of hand held cameras for a short period, the feeling between all that 6-9am and 5-8pm being the most troublesome times of the day.

Unwanted visitors at the Flats

Recently youngsters have been roaming the hallways to the flats and in some instances the evidence of someone sleeping there. Paul will organise a survey to be done and liase with Riverside Housing.

George Rowley took the opportunity to advertise the St Georges Day Litter Picking Event, more people the better to cover the areas from B158, Bayford Station and White Stubbs Lane.

Michael Wainright thanked those present for attending and the councillors and clerk for their work through the year.

On behalf of the villagers, David and Susan Latham expressed their thanks to Michael and the Councillors for all their work throughout the year.