

Batheaston Parish Council Meeting, 6th October 2020 – Clerk's Report

I have had an exceptionally busy few weeks, reflecting in part the very welcome increase in activity of the Council. It is heartening – and on a personal note, very appreciated – to see a number of Councillors taking on initiatives and assisting in addressing the many gaps that we have. The Audit Action Plan (covered elsewhere in the meeting), outlines some of these, but there are many more – principally about providing services to our residents – that not covered by the Audit process.

Formal Complaint

We have received a complaint from a resident relating to the Council's failure to implement parking controls for the Riverside Car Park. I will bring the complaint and a summary of Council decisions to the November Council meeting for your consideration and response.

Council Facilities

Rhymes Pavilion

The Rhymes Pavilion is coming back into usage. Most notable is "Penny's Pantry" which takes place every Wednesday. This is being organized by Ms. Immi Cory on behalf of Mercy in Action. **Council is asked to note** that we are not levying a charge for this community initiative. We have received enquiries from others to re-start regular sessions.

Playground

Cllr Lea has initiated work on this, supported by Cllrs May and Squire, and me. He is seeking to address the immediate problems and develop longer-term plans, involving and consulting with residents as much as possible.

Developments

Communications and Engagement. Cllr May is leading on this, and with Cllrs Lea and Squire, and me, developing a plan for approval at the November Council meeting, which will provide for a substantial improvement in the quality of our communications with residents, hopefully reaching the great majority of residents. Among other things, this will include the plans to launch the new website and the BREDAC email list.

Streetlights. I understand that Volker Highways have provided the basis of the contract to the Clerk at South Stoke who is leading the informal consortium of Parish Councils. I hope to be able to progress this with the Finance Committee soon, so that we have in place maintenance soon.

Penthouse Steps. I have been liaising with representatives of Grow Batheaston (along with a number of Councillors) to put in place an agreement to support their development of this small garden space.

Systems Developments

Website; documentation: As part of the website development mentioned above, Andrew Jeffryes and I have conducted an exercise to locate and organise meeting and other formal documents, which we are obliged to make available going back to at least 2015. I will be conducting a review of policies that we have, and that need (re-)approval, for presentation to Council at the earliest opportunity.

Council Email Accounts: I am now at the point where I can begin to provide you with a formal Microsoft email address, and access to the shared drive. I will be sending out a request for information in the next few days.

Business System (Finance, Facilities and Asset): I am afraid I have made no progress on this but intend to in the next month.

We are heavily indebted to Andrew Jeffryes for the work he has put into all of the above developments.

Richard Maccabee, Clerk to Batheaston Parish Council