

Batheaston Parish Council

**Minutes of a Meeting of Batheaston Parish Council held
at 7:15pm on Tuesday 15th November 2022, at the Rhymes Pavilion.**

**Present: Councillors Hannah Squire (Chair of Council),
Peter Bryant, Catherine McCarthy, Alexis Pavlou,
Sue Peachey and Kate Skelton.**

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1. **There was no public participation.**
2. **Council accepted** apologies for absence from Cllrs Wesley Hallam and Peter Lewis.
3. There were **no declarations of interest** from Councillors.
4. **Minutes of Previous Meetings**
 - 4.1. **Council approved** the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 18th October 2022.

VILLAGE MATTERS

5. Playground

- 5.1. **Council received** a verbal report from members of the Working Group, including:
 - 5.1.1. Cllrs Skelton and Pavlou summarised the results of a survey about the Playground of users and residents note.
 - 5.1.2. The overriding outcome is that the playground is well-used and highly valued by children of all ages and by parents.
- 5.2. **Council noted** the intention that the next phase of work focuses on the provision of play equipment for Under-5's.
- 5.3. The Clerk informed Councillors that he had made enquiries with Officers at Bath and North East Somerset Council regarding the ownership of the small tract of land that intrudes into the playground. They had indicated that it appears to belong to the Parish Council. He will proceed on this basis to remove the vegetation.

Clerk



5.4. **Council approved** further investigation by the Clerk of options for seeking grants via a Charity.

5.4.1. The Clerk informed Councillors that he had received a further email from Immi Corry outlining another possible role for the Batheaston Leisure Association as the custodian of Penny's Pantry. This may have some bearing on the options for playground funding.

Clerk

6. Car Park

6.1. **Council noted** that the 3-hour limit for parking will come into force as soon as the contractors are able to install the signs.

7. Christmas Events

7.1. Cllr McCarthy updated Council on the plans for a celebration centred around the switching on the Christmas lights which will take place at 6pm on Saturday 26th November.

7.1.1. She described the various items that she has in place for the event.

7.1.2. Councillors thanked Cllr McCarthy for organising this special event as she has many times before.

8. Highways

8.1. **Council received** an update on Highways from Cllr McCarthy.

8.1.1. She has secured agreement from Avon and Somerset Police for two stretches of road to be monitored for speeding. Both are on the High Street; one at the bottom of the Penthouse Steps, and another around the horse trough.

8.1.2. She suggested that it would not be wise to undertake the monitoring activity in winter and would therefore delay until early spring. This will allow her to get all of the necessary resources in place.

Cllr McCarthy

8.1.3. Councillors noted that the speed limit on a considerable number of stretches of road has been reduced to 20 mph in Bath.



8.2. **Council approved** up to £3,000 to renew or replace the Council's noticeboards in the Parish.

8.2.1. The Clerk commented that this is an upper estimate, and that he would hope to spend less.

8.2.2. It was noted that this is a high priority to improve publicity and communication in the community.

Clerk

GOVERNANCE MATTERS

9. Audit Action Plan

9.1. The Clerk apologised that he had been unable to present a report. He has however been making progress on some of the items and will report on these at the next meeting.

FINANCE MATTERS

10. Finance Update

10.1. The Clerk updated Council on progress on finances.

10.1.1. He circulated a draft report on the spend in the first half of the year (to end of September). This indicates that spend had been marginally higher – ca. £640 than income.

10.1.2. He undertook to provide a fuller report on spend against budget for Councillors in good time for the next Council meeting.

10.1.3. This will include the timetable for preparation of the budget and Precept for 2023/24.

Clerk

10.2. Approval of payments in October was deferred.

10.2.1. **Council approved** a sum of £100 to be allocated to Christmas bonuses for staff.

10.2.2. The Clerk will purchase £25 vouchers for each member of staff.

Clerk

10.3. **Council noted** the receipt of £154 for a CIL payment in respect of planning application 21/05496/FUL (274 High Street, Batheaston), and **Council approved** a proposal that this be allocated to the Playground Project Reserve Account.

10.3.1. The Clerk commented that he was seeking confirmation from Bath and North East Somerset Council that there are no constraints on how this funding can be allocated.



STANDING ITEMS AND REPORTS

11. Planning Applications

- 11.1. **Council noted** that there have been no planning applications in the Parish since the last meeting.
- 11.2. **Council noted** the following decision on a planning application had been notified by Bath and North East Somerset Council:
- 11.2.1. Application Number: 22/01677/FUL Decision: PERMIT
- 11.3. **Council noted** that this decision aligns with the recommendation of the Parish Council.
- 11.4. **Council considered** the Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan Consultation
- 11.4.1. Councillors noted the new designation, as a "National Landscape" rather than as an "Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty".
- 11.4.2. Councillors noted that it is lengthy document and asked the Clerk to seek guidance from those more closely involved before making any formal comment.
- Clerk**
- 11.5. **Councillors considered** the proposals for a new Lidl store on the Bath Rugby Training Ground on London Road, and to make any preliminary comments.
- 11.5.1. They noted that the notification received was at an early stage, and that there will be further opportunities for Council to submit formal comments.

12. Clerk's Report

- 12.1. **The Clerk updated Council on his activities since the last meeting.**
- 12.1.1. He commented that the next edition of the Batheaston Times is being produced.
- 12.1.1.1. There has been progress towards reducing the net cost, by finding sponsors, which should reduce the cost to well below £1,000.
- 12.1.1.2. Councillors welcomed the progress but noted that it had been their hope that the publication would become self-sustaining by this edition.
- 12.1.1.3. Councillors commented that it had been well-received by many residents. Others noted that more effort should be put into other means of communication, using online and social media, as well as noticeboards (as referenced above).



12.1.1.4. They asked the Clerk to include an item on the agenda for the next meeting, to address these matters.

Clerk

12.1.2. The Clerk asked Councillors if they would wish to organise a celebration for the Coronation of King Charles, over the weekend of 6th May 2023.

12.1.2.1. Councillors were keen to consider it, and Cllr Squire volunteered to lead the initial planning.

Cllr Squire

12.2. **Council approved** the proposed schedule for meetings in 2023.

12.3. The Clerk indicated that he had received a recommendation from Bath and North East Somerset Council that the Council should develop a Community Resilience Plan for the Parish.

12.4. The Clerk informed Councillors that he has taken on the role of Trustee and Treasurer of the Friends of St Saviour's Church Schools, where his daughter is a pupil in Year 1.

13. Chairman's Report

13.1. The Chairman thanked Councillors for their attendance and continued contribution to the community.

Meeting closed at 9:05pm

Forthcoming Meetings:

Council Meeting, 13th December 2022

Council meetings are open to the public, and members of the public are welcome to join and may speak by invitation

Signed by Cllr Hannah Squire, Chair of Council:

Date:



1.11.2023