Batheaston Parish Council – Council Meeting 16th May 2023
Clerk's Report

Summary

I have had a very busy month, with an unexpectedly high workload associated with the Coronation Party, as Bath and North East Somerset required a significant amount of information, from us, and from our contracted third parties. I was also poorly for a couple of days at the beginning of the month, which was very inconvenient! With the additional loss of time to two bank holidays, I am now very conscious that I need to focus on finance and audit matters, in preparation for the next meeting.

The Coronation Party

I was pleased that the party was a success; I am still receiving details of finances and will collate these for the next meeting of Council.

Notwithstanding the fact that the amount of documentation requested by BANES felt excessive, I am reassured that we now have the basis for future (and possibly bigger) events. The Events Team at BANES have been very helpful supportive and throughout. I asked when we should register our intention to hold a meeting at the same time of year in 2024: their advice was October.

The Annual Village Meeting

I am arranging this meeting on 23rd May and have speakers from a number of community groups confirmed. The newly-elected Parish Council chair will chair this meeting (if present).

I have pencilled in the following short presentations on behalf of the Parish Council:

- The upgrade of the Playground – Cllr Kate Skelton
- The plans for the Rhymes Pavilion - ?
- There might also be a brief advertisement (/ plea) for more Councillors?

Following discussion with some Councillors, I have advertised that the Council will provide refreshments, and so seek **your approval for funds of up to £100 for wine and other light refreshments.**

I have spent some time with the **two Architecture and Planning students** at the University of West of England who are undertaking projects regarding the Car Park Reconfiguration; the Rhymes Pavilion and the wider matters of linking green spaces through the centre of the village. I am expecting their report(s) in a few weeks' time.

Financial Matters

As part of a process of market testing existing recurrent services, I asked Bath and North East Somerset Play Management Officers to provide a quote to undertake quarterly playground inspections. Their quote compares favourably with the two existing providers, and the quality of their reports are of a similar standard. Having consulted with the Playground Working Group, I therefore seek **approval to commission them to undertake quarterly playground inspections.**

Earlier this month we received a Community Infrastructure Levy payment of 4,588 in respect of application 21/05561/FUL Victory Gardens, Bannerdown Drive. This is the first of three instalments, and I am told we expect the second payment, of the same amount, in about mid-March 2024. This represents an unexpected windfall of just over £9,000 in this financial year. Councillors are

encouraged to suggest how this money is allocated (for approval at subsequent meetings). I am told by the way that BANES do not forewarn Parish Councils of such receipts as there are often delays or exemptions.

Richard Maccabee, Parish Clerk
16th May 2023