Batheaston Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Batheaston Parish Council held at 7:15pm on Tuesday 18th April 2023, at the Rhymes Pavilion. Present: Councillors Hannah Squire (Chair of Council), Peter Bryant, Wesley Hallam, Peter Lewis, Catherine McCarthy, Sue Peachey and Kate Skelton.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1. **Public participation** regarding matters on the agenda.

1.1. A resident attended to ask questions about the Council's plans for the Rhymes Pavilion, see Item 6 below.

1.2. The resident also commented that the cleaning of pavements has been inadequate, and asked whether the Council was planning to invest more resource into this.

1.3. Cllr McCarthy undertook to look into the specific complaint.

Cllr McCarthy

2. **Council received** apologies for absence from Cllr Pavlou.

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 21st March 2023.

The chair brought the next item forward as this was of interest to the resident attending the meeting.

6. **Rhymes Pavilion**

6.1. **Council received** an update from the Clerk on discussions with other organisations regarding the future operation of the Rhymes Pavilion.

6.1.1. He commented that he has spoken to a representative of Batheaston Leisure Association, who is investigating whether they can play a role in operating and developing the Rhymes Pavilion. He has however heard nothing from them since the last meeting.

6.1.2. The resident commented that the Rhymes Pavilion has been open for many years and would be greatly missed if it were closed.

6.1.3. Cllr Squire reassured her that the intention was not to close it, without replacing it with something better and more up to date. Councillors were aware however that there is now a significant amount of work required to the building, and that is no longer attracts enough bookings to make it viable. The net cost to the community is about £7,000 per annum.

DRAFT UNAPPROVED

6.2. **Councillors approved** the Terms of Reference for a Working Group to take forward plans for the Rhymes Pavilion.

6.2.1. All members of the Council agreed to be members of the Working Group.

VILLAGE MATTERS

5. Playground Project

5.1. **Council received** a report from the Working Group regarding the progress on this project from Cllr Skelton.

5.1.1. The contract has been signed with Creative Play and detailed planning for the installation is underway.

5.1.2. The Clerk commented that the project is within budget, albeit with only a small contingency.

6. Rhymes Pavilion – Item taken earlier.

7. Establishment of a Charity

7.1. **Council approved** the Terms of Reference for a Working Group to seek to establish a Charity, to operate and enhance the recreational and leisure facilities of the Council.

7.1.1. Cllr Bryant will lead the group, with the assistance of the Clerk.

8. Highways

8.1. **Council received** a report from Cllr McCarthy.

8.1.1. She commented that she is progressing the matter of speeding traffic with BANES Highways.

8.1.2. The resurfacing work is underway along Northend, and she said that it is progressing well. Other Councillors however expressed concerns about the poor communication both before and during the works.

8.1.3. She and Cllr Lewis are progressing the safety concerns on School Lane, regarding traffic at drop-off and pick-up times.

8.1.4. It was noted that an initiative at Bathampton School had been successful in reducing the risk, and that it would be worth contacting the people involved in this scheme. There is also the ability to designate this a “school street”, which allows restrictions to be imposed on traffic at these times.

9. Riverside

9.1. **Council received** a verbal update from Cllr Lewis on the activities of the Riverside Working Group.

9.1.1. He commented that there had been a meeting of the Working Group on 22nd March.

DRAFT UNAPPROVED

10. Coronation Party

10.1. **Council received** an update from Cllr Squire and the Clerk regarding preparations for the party to be held on the afternoon of Sunday 7th May, at the Riverside.

10.1.1. Cllr Squire commented that a productive meeting of the informal organising group had met the previous week.

10.1.2. BANES have requested a significant amount of information to approve the Event, which the Clerk is working through.

FINANCE MATTERS

11. Finance Operations Matters

11.1. **Council approved** the transactions undertaken in March 2023

11.2. **Council received** a report from the Clerk on the provisional closing position for the end of the financial year, 2022-23.

11.2.1. He noted that the headline figure was close to break-even. However, noting that over £5,000 has been ear-marked for the Playground Project, the more realistic representation is of a depletion of the Council's reserves, which now cover only about 4 months of its basic operations. This is remedied by the increase in Precept.

STANDING ITEMS AND REPORTS

12. Planning Applications

12.1. **Council reviewed** the following planning application from Bath and North East Somerset Council and resolved not to oppose it.

12.1.1. Reference Number: 23/01169/VAR
Application Type: Application for Variation of Condition
Site Location: 12 High Bannerdown Batheaston BA1 7JY
Description of Proposal: Variation of condition 16 of application (Erection of a replacement dwelling with associated car-parking & storage for refuse, recycling and bicycles).

12.2. **Council noted** the following decisions on planning applications recently notified by Bath and North East Somerset Council:

12.2.1. Reference Number: 22/05110/FUL – PERMIT

12.2.2. Reference Number: 22/02931/FUL – WITHDRAWN

12.2.3. Reference Number: 23/00516/FUL – PERMIT

12.2.4. Reference Number: 23/00799/TCA – No Objection

12.2.5. Reference Number: 23/00467/FUL – PERMIT

12.2.6. To note that these decisions conform with the Parish Council's comments.

DRAFT UNAPPROVED

13. Clerk's Report

13.1. **To receive** a report from the Clerk, including these items:

13.1.1. The plans for the Annual Parish Council Meeting, on 16th May 2023 including the establishment of the new Council, following the recent election.

13.1.2. The proposals for the Annual Meeting of Electors on 23rd May 2023, including an offer to all parties, including Councillors, to make a small presentation. It was agreed these would be the Playground (Cllr Skelton) and the development of the Rhymes Pavilion (Cllr Squire).

13.1.3. The plans for the Annual Governance and Accountability Return.

13.1.4. He commented that is main concern is the amount of work that these – together with the preparations for the Coronation Party – entail.

14. Chairman's Report

14.1. Council received an oral report from the Chairman.

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm

Forthcoming Meetings:

Annual Parish Council Meeting, 16th May 2023
Annual Village Meeting, 23rd May 2023.

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:

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