Batheaston Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Batheaston Parish Council held at 7:15pm on Tuesday 10th October 2023 at the Rhymes Pavilion. Present: Councillors Hannah Squire (Chair of Council), Peter Bryant, Peter Lewis, Catherine McCarthy, Alexis Pavlou, Sue Peachey, and Kate Skelton.

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PROCEDURAL MATTERS

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

   1.1. A member of the public, to make comments about 14.1.1, Application Number: 23/00429/FUL, at Charmydown Barn, Charmydown Lane, Swainswick.

   1.1.1. She explained that the application has been re-opened, and in spite of assurances to do so, there has been no consultation with local residents, and the breaches have not been rectified.

   1.2. **The Chair brought forward this item: To review** the following planning applications from Bath and North East Somerset Council:

   14.1.1 Application Number: 23/00429/FUL
   Site Location: Charmydown Barn Charmydown Lane Swainswick
   Description of Proposal: Internal and external alterations and subterranean extension to existing barn complex in connection with the already approved conversion to a residential dwellinghouse. To also include reprofiling of east field, hard and soft landscaping, installation of drainage and effluent pipes, and creation of pond with decks.

   Councillors noted that the Council had objected previously at its meeting of 21st February 2023.

   1.2.1. **Council resolved to oppose** this application based on the continued breaches and the overwhelming objections from the community.

2. **Council accepted apologies** from Cllrs Butt and Gray.

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 12th September 2023.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

5. **Playground Working Group**

   5.1. Cllr Skelton reported that she is planning to hold a meeting of the Working Group next month.

   5.1.1. She informed Council that she had agreed with the Clerk that recycling bins should not be purchased, as he has heard from multiple sources

that these are not used consistently: the recycled waste is often contaminated. A single waste bin will be purchased.

Clerk

6. Christmas Lights

6.1. **Council approved** expenditure of up to £400 for the Christmas Lights this year.

6.2. **Council approved** funding of up to £100 for a party to celebrate the turning on of the pavement lights on Saturday 2nd December.

6.3. **Council approved** up to £100 to purchase 5 new sets of battery-operated Christmas lights plus batteries.

Cllr McCarthy / Clerk

7. Highways

7.1. Cllr McCarthy introduced this item, referring to a set of changes, to add or extend double yellow lines, which she felt had not been adequately consulted.

7.1.1. Council noted the recently approved Traffic Regulation Orders for the addition of Double Yellow Lines within Batheaston, and

7.1.2. **Council deferred** the resolution to inform residents as widely as possible when consultations on the proposals are notified by B&NES to allow for confirmation of the process of consultation that B&NES undertake.

7.2. **Council noted** that the streetlight at High Bannerdown was reinstated on Thursday 21st September.

8. Rhymes Pavilion Working Group

8.1. Councillors reported the intention to hold a meeting with 8th November widespread public consultation on the future of the Rhymes Pavilion and the wider recreation facilities.

8.2. **Council received** a summary of the survey undertaken by the Building Specialist in September. They commented that it set out in some detail the shortcomings of the building, and the significant range of works that are needed to bring it up to a good standard.

8.2.1. They will provide an introductory document so that it can be shared on the Council's website.

8.2.2. In the meantime, they asked the Clerk to commission the electrical work needed.

Clerk

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9. Establishing a Charity

9.1. Cllr Bryant reported that she is still awaiting advice from the solicitor on the consultation, progress in establishing the charity. If no report is received, then we should proceed.

GOVERNANCE MATTERS

10. D-Day Party

10.1. **Council deferred** approval of a Terms of Reference for a Working Group to organise a party to celebrate D-Day in June 2024.

10.1.1. There was some discussion regarding the date; and the choice between the Saturday and Sunday. One concern is the desire to close the High Street for the Party, and the possibility that this may not be permitted. The Clerk undertook to contact the relevant team in B&NES for their advice.

Clerk

11. Council nominated Councillor Lewis to be put forward to be a trustee of Grow Batheaston.

12. Council noted that Cllr Skelton has volunteered to serve on the Bath and North East Somerset Council Standards Board, which oversees matters relating to Councillor and Council Officer conduct.

Cllr Warren, Bath and North East Somerset Councillor for Bathavon North, joined the meeting at this point.

FINANCE MATTERS

13. Finance Operations Matters

13.1. **Council noted** the conclusion of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), and to receive an action plan from the Clerk collating all of the recommendations from both the Internal and External Auditors.

13.2. **Council approved** the transactions undertaken in July to September 2023.

13.3. **Council approved** a report of finances for the first half of the year.

13.3.1. **Council resolved** that the Clerk review savings account available to the Parish Council, and that he will proceed to deposit up to £50,000 in the most favourable account.

Clerk

DRAFT UNAPPROVED

13.3.2. **Council noted** the proposed timetable for setting the budget for 2024/25.

13.3.2.1. Councillors requested that the Clerk bring forward a Terms of Reference for a Finance Cttee to the next meeting.

Clerk

13.3.3. **Council resolved** to assign the Community Infrastructure Levy funds for 21/05561/FUL Victory Gardens, Bannerdown Drive to the General Reserve.

STANDING ITEMS AND REPORTS

14. Planning Applications

Noting that 14.1.1 ref Application Number: 23/00429/FUL was taken earlier in the meeting

14.1. **Council reviewed** the following planning applications from Bath and North East Somerset Council, and resolved not to oppose them:

14.1.2. Reference Number: 23/03462/FUL

14.1.3. Reference Number: 23/03514/FUL

14.1.4. Reference Number: 23/03515/LBA

14.1.5. Reference Number: 23/03281/FUL

14.1.6. Reference Number: 23/03654/FUL

14.2. **Council noted** the following planning applications have been notified by Bath and North East Somerset Council since the last meeting:

14.2.1. Application Number: 23/02126/LBA Decision: CONSENT

14.2.2. Application Number: 23/02125/FUL Decision: PERMIT

14.2.3. Application Number: 23/03148/TCA Decision: No Objection

14.3. **Council noted** that these decisions accord with the Council's response, which was in all cases not to oppose the application.

14.4. **Council noted** that the Planning Inspectorate have dismissed an appeal against the refusal of Bath and North East Somerset Council to grant permission for the application 22/03918/FUL, relating to 276 High Street, Batheaston, BA1 7RA. (The Parish Council had not opposed this application.)

14.5. **Council noted** that Bath and North East Somerset Council have issued the formal order naming the new development at Victory Gardens as Victory Close.

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15. Clerk's Report

15.1. **Council received** a report from the Clerk, including the following items.

15.1.1. **Council noted** the results of a review of options for the Council's insurance, resulting in a reduction of approximately £500 or more on the annual cost.

16. Chair's Report

16.1. **Council received** an oral report from the Chairman.

16.1.1. Cllr Lewis commented that the Water Testing has finished officially (30th September), but with the support of SAS and members of the group, will continue. Wessex Water will start their own testing.

16.1.2. Cllr Lewis also reported that the children at the Primary School have completed their pictures and other artworks about Batheaston, which it is hoped will form the basis of a new logo.

16.2. Cllr Sarah Warren reported that B&NES hope to make the Bathavon Forum more inclusive and two-way in its style. She also mentioned the new e-bikes and e-scooters available to hire around the city and in the centre of Batheaston.

Meeting closed 8:52pm

Forthcoming Meetings:

Council Meeting, 14th November 2023.

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

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