

Batheaston Parish Council
Minutes of a Meeting of Batheaston Parish Council
held at 7:15pm on Tuesday 12th March 2024 at the Rhymes Pavilion.
Present: Councillors Hannah Squire (Chair of Council),
Evie Gray, Peter Lewis, Catherine McCarthy, Alexis Pavlou,
Sue Peachey, and Kate Skelton.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

- 1. Council accepted apologies** for absence from Cllrs Bryant and Butt.
2. There were **no declarations of interest** from Councillors.
- 3. Public participation regarding matters on the agenda.**
 - 3.1.1. Cllr Sarah Warren, B&NES Councillor for the Ward containing Batheaston, attended and gave a brief update regarding the Local Plan Options Consultation.
 - 3.1.2. She said that the consultation is now open and will close on 8th April.
 - 3.1.3. It addresses the requirement placed upon B&NES to provide space for 14,500 new houses across the authority over the next 20 years.
 - 3.1.4. B&NES Officers have identified Batheaston as having the third most sustainable transport links of the villages in the authority, and have therefore assigned the standard quota of 5% increase in homes, which is to build approximately 63 new houses.
 - 3.1.5. Councillors asked whether this included social housing and whether any loss of green belt is contemplated. Cllr Warren undertook to answer these questions.
 - 3.1.6. Councillors will consider whether to hold an extraordinary meeting to give an opportunity for the Parish Council, with the participation of interested residents, to respond formally to the consultation.

All Councillors

- 3.2. Residents attended regarding Item 14.1.3, Elmhurst Growing Spaces**
 - 3.2.1. They expressed their support for the proposed option that the Parish Council should investigate further options.
 - 3.2.2. The Chair brought the item forward.
- 14.1.3. To receive a draft report on the Elmhurst Growing Spaces**
 - 14.1.3.1 The Clerk summarised the paper. He noted that this seemed to him to be a valuable asset to the village, which had been assigned for residents' use soon after the First World War.

14.1.3.2 He noted that the land is owned by B&NES, who have made clear that they cannot take on the management of the space but are reportedly able to commit to maintain tree safety and the boundary to the space.

14.1.3.3 The Clerk commented that other organisations that might take it on had been consulted but had not felt able to do so.

14.1.3.4 He commented that the option to play a role “do something, maybe” – while perhaps slightly informally expressed – indicated that there is a lot of work to be done to determine how the Parish Council might play the necessary role, which is set out in the six given action points.

14.1.3.5 Councillors strongly supported the desire to support the management of the space, and asked that the Clerk take forward the recommendations of his paper, and report back to Council with firm actions.

Clerk

3.3. Residents attended regarding Item 11.1 Grant to Batheaston Youth Club.

3.3.1. They expressed their support for the motion, and their commitment to develop the service for the benefit of the young people of the village.

3.3.2. The Chair brought the item forward.

11.1 Grant to Batheaston Youth Club

11.1.1 Cllr Skelton presented the report of a meeting held with Youth Club trustees and staff and volunteers, which she said was based on a productive meeting with Youth Club trustees and other representatives.

11.1.2 She commented that the meeting had reached a consensus that a grant of £6,000 – half that previously requested – would be adequate for the Youth Club. Her recommendation however was that an additional £1,000 be granted to fund improvements in publicity and marketing – to attract more children and more volunteers.

11.1.3 **Council approved** the award of the grant of £7,000 to the Youth Club

Clerk

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

4.1. Council approved the minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 13th February 2024.

5. Council noted progress on actions from previous meetings.

5.1. The Clerk commented that it is a long list, and that he is making slow progress to reduce it.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

6. Highways, Transport and Planning Working Group

6.1. **Council considered** the replacement of the streetlight on Fosse Lane at a cost of approx. £1,800 (the light is situated about 30m up Fosse Lane, at the entrance to the lane to garages)

6.1.1. **Council deferred** the decision pending consultation with the local residents.

6.1.2. Cllrs McCarthy and Squire undertook to carry out the consultation.

Cllr Squire / McCarthy

6.2. **Council approved** the purchase of four “no parking” signs to be deployed outside the school at busy times, at a cost of up to £850.

Clerk

7. Riverside

7.1. **Council approved** retrospectively the annual pruning of bushes and the lime walk, and clearance of persistent weeds in the Secret Garden at a cost of up to £1,000.

Clerk

7.2. **Council approved** up to £500 the repair of the roof of the Public Conveniences and remedy the damp in the store room.

Clerk / Cllr McCarthy

7.3. Cllr Lewis reported that the deep clean of the toilet has been commissioned and will take place in 2 days. He and the Clerk will monitor whether this makes a lasting improvement.

8. Working Group to Establish a Charity to Develop Sports and Recreation Facilities

8.1. The Clerk explained that the process of registering the new Charity required that a bank account be set up for it, to do which, there was a need to demonstrate that adequate funds are available to it.

8.2. **Council approved** the establishment of a reserve account for the Batheaston Sports Foundation, with an initial allocation of £5,000 from general reserves, to meet the requirements of the Charity Commission for registration.

Clerk

9. Summer Party

9.1. Cllr Squire reported that the original date of June 8th was not attracting as much interest and offers of support as had been hoped, and it was clear that it would be better held nearer the end of the school term.

9.2. Council approved the change of date to 14th July 2024.

9.2.1. The Clerk will proceed to seek approval from B&NES for the Road Closure and for the Event Licence

Clerk

10. Rhymes Pavilion Working Group

10.1. Council received an update on progress, including the proposed survey of residents' views.

10.1.1. The survey has been completed. Cllr Lewis will ensure that it is hosted on the Parish Council's service.

Cllr Lewis

11. Grant to Batheaston Youth Club – taken earlier.

STANDING ITEMS AND REPORTS

12. Finance Operations

12.1. **Council noted** the transactions undertaken in January and February 2024 (for subsequent approval at Finance Committee).

12.2. **Council noted** a short report on the financial position setting out the predicted position at the end of the financial year.

13. Planning Applications

13.1. Cllr Squire that this item was inadvertently retained on the agenda by the Clerk, and that exceptionally no planning applications nor decisions had been notified this month.

14. Clerk's Report

14.1. Council received a report from the Clerk, including these items:

14.1.1. **Council approved** the draft schedule of meetings for autumn and winter 2024.

14.1.2. **Council resolved** to request a copy of the official portrait of HM King Charles III, which is available at no cost to the Parish Council.

Clerk

14.1.3. Taken earlier: **To receive a draft report on the Elmhurst Growing Spaces**

15. Chair's Report


15.1. Cllr Squire closed the meeting.

Meeting closed: 20:52.

Forthcoming Meetings:

Council Meeting, 16th April 2024

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

Signed: -  Parish Clerk

Date issued: 18th March 2024