

Batheaston Annual Village Meeting

Minutes of the 2023 meeting

Held on 23rd May 2023, at the Batheaston New Village Hall

The meeting was attended by approximately 50 local residents.

Note: the presentations and notes which are linked to in this document are available on the Parish Council website, <https://www.batheaston-pc.gov.uk/annual-meeting-of-electors> or from the Parish Clerk by calling 01225-923820

Welcome and Introduction

Hannah Squire, the Chair of Parish Council, opened the meeting. She explained that this is not a Parish Council meeting, but apparently it is traditional that the Chair of the Parish Council chairs proceedings.

She asked that the meeting formally approve the Minutes of the 2022 Meeting, which was done.

She thanked the trustees of the marvellous New Village Hall for hosting the meeting free of charge, and handed over to George Riley, the Chair of the Trustees

George gave a brief overview of the operation of the Hall, including hosting its first Wedding Reception successfully.

Joanna Rolfe, National Trust Project Manager for the Bathampton Meadows, gave a presentation about the Meadows.

The presentation is [here](#).

She commented that as a local girl, Batheaston born-and-bred, she is delighted the National Trust has acquired the Meadows, which are such an important natural resource. They form part of the green corridor into Bath, which is important to wildlife and people alike.

She described some of the work undertaken by the national Trust in its first year of stewardship of the Meadows. NT has created a baseline of data regarding the soil and flora and fauna that depend on the Meadows.

There was a question about parking for visitors to the Meadows. Jo replied that it is recognised that parking is limited, and that the NT will always seek to facilitate other transport options.

Emily Wright gave an update from Grow Batheaston

Emily is the Chair of Grow Batheaston.

The presentation is [here](#).

She said that this organisation came into existence during the pandemic and has now established itself and its range of activities in the village. It is in the process of becoming a charity.

An update from the Youth Club

Pam Burcombe, Chair of the Trustees of the Youth Club, presented a report on their activities. The text is [here](#).

She said that the Covid pandemic was still having an effect on attendance, with parents and children nervous about mixing widely. Nevertheless, activities have continued, including contact via WhatsApp to check that all is well with regular clients. There are BBQs in the summer, and various organised activities such as basketball, pool, table tennis.

They are now looking forward, facing the challenge of fund-raising to be able to replace the roof.

Rob Kendall: caring for the Natural Environment

Rob described his role as the Cotswolds Volunteers Parish Warden for Batheaston. They undertake many maintenance and improvement projects to support this part of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Rob also described the work of the Batheaston Freeholders Association, which looks after the Batheaston Commons (and has done since 1719!), and for which is Secretary and Land Manager.

His notes are [here](#), and more information about the Commons is available here: www.batheastoncommons.co.uk.

Various Parish Councillors gave updates on the Council's activities:

Cllr Hannah Squire highlighted the **Coronation Party** which the Parish Council will be hosting at the Riverside and on Stambridge.

She discussed the Parish Council's ambitions for the **Rhymes Pavilion**, to provide for the next generation. Residents expressed a desire to see the plans as soon as possible; she replied that there will be widespread consultation at every stage.

A concern was expressed about the current operation of "Penny's Pantry", and the need to immediate improvement. Hannah said that she understood the importance of Penny's Pantry, and that the Parish Council was considering how to ensure it can continue to operate.

The Refurbishment of the Playground

Cllr Kate Skelton gave a short presentation, which can be found [here](#).

She reinforced the request for residents to get involved, to shape the development and to help!

River Water Quality Testing

Cllr Peter Lewis gave a short presentation, and showed a video of the process of water testing, which can be found [here](#).

He explained that the objectives of doing this, are to be able to support people in swimming in and enjoying the river, and for the section of the river in Batheaston to be formally designated as a Bathing Site, with the protections that that provides.

Reducing speeding in the village

Cllr Catherine McCarthy outlined the initiative that she has begun to reduce speeding in the village. She is keen to hear from any residents who would like to help.

There followed questions from the floor and general discussion.

Richard Maccabee, Parish Clerk
18th March 2024