

Batheaston Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Batheaston Parish Council at 7:15pm on Tuesday 28th May, 2019

Present: Emily Wright (chair), Derek Greener, Alexis Pavlou, Catherine McCarthy, Paula Day. Sarah Orme (clerk). Paula Day left after item 6. Patrick Vandesteen joined the council at item 6. We were quorate throughout.

1. **Public Participation** Ward Councillor Sarah Warren attended the meeting.
2. **Apologies for absence** were accepted from Denise Craig and Susanne Hagen.
3. **No declarations of interest** were received from councillors.
4. **The minutes of the meeting held on 14th May** were agreed to be an accurate record and signed.
5. Andrew Lea and Patrick Vandesteen **were co-opted** onto the council.
6. Patrick Vandesteen **signed a declaration of acceptance of office** in the presence of the clerk and received a copy of the code of conduct. Clerk to send register of interests forms to Patrick.
7. **Our code of conduct** was re-affirmed.
8. Derek Greener **was appointed as our ALCA representative**.
9. **It was resolved** to reduce the size of the HR committee to three.
10. **It was resolved** that Patrick Vandesteen join the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.
11. **Preparation for Audit**
 - 11.1. **The financial regulations were reviewed and approved.** It was decided to keep the £100 limit for spending approvals by council, but to review this if the number of transactions proves too time consuming in council meetings.
 - 11.2. **It was resolved** that our asset register and inventory are accurate records.
 - 11.3. **To review and approve** risk register was deferred.
12. **Working Groups Update**
 - 12.1. **Parking**
 - 12.1.1. An email from a local businessman was noted.

Catherine McCarthy reported that parking enforcement are going to actively patrol the High Street area for parking overstays with immediate effect, following feedback from the parish council. They will monitor the situation going forward.
 - 12.1.2. To resolve to sign the Agreement with Smart Parking. This was **deferred** as we had not received the draft contract in sufficient time. Clerk to contact Smart Parking to discuss only having time limits 8am to 8pm, as per the previous B&NES restrictions.
 - 12.2. **Highways**
 - 12.2.1. **Catherine McCarthy reported** that B&NES are returning to **cutting the grass on the estates** every six weeks, following complaints about their previous scheme being unsatisfactory.
 - 12.2.2. **It was resolved** to ask Jan Rich to plant 18 hanging baskets @£15 = £270 for the Pavement and the High St.

Catherine McCarthy

12.2.3. **It was resolved** to spend a total of £159.62 on plants for the three square wooden planters and two round barrels.

Catherine McCarthy

12.2.4. To resolve to spot spray weeds in the High Street twice yearly. The council does not believe that spraying weeds is the best solution. **Highways will discuss** further. Could volunteering assist with this? **Clerk and Catherine McCarthy to meet with staff to discuss.**

Highways WG and clerk

12.3. Suffragettes

12.3.1. **It was resolved** to purchase a new barrel for £50 to be sited beside the memorial at Eagle Road and £15 on planting the barrel.

Catherine McCarthy

12.4. Riverside

12.4.1. **Clerk reported on the Secret Garden Accessible Pathways project** that a start date of 22nd July has now been set. The Secret Garden and corner of the car park nearest to it will be closed from that date for approximately four weeks. Contracts are being drawn up with contractor and also with Ibstock Enover for the grant. Some queries with quotations are being clarified.

12.4.2. **It was resolved** that during the Accessible Pathways project, alternative disabled parking will be allocated at the left hand end of the car park as you come in, near the level path to the High Street. This follows discussion with Age Concern. Clerk to purchase bay markers.

Clerk

12.5. Play Area

12.5.1. **Pavilion fees were raised** to £30 for four hours and £12 for one hour. The school uses the facility for free. We need to cover costs and will review again next year.

13. Planning

To Consider the Following Planning Applications

Prospect House, Seven Acre Lane, Batheaston, Bath, Bath And North East Somerset, BA1 7HE
Conversion of top floor room to bathroom.

Application reference: [19/01969/LBA](#) received on 03/05/2019

Batheaston Parish Council does not object to this application.

163 High Street, Batheaston, Bath, Bath And North East Somerset, BA1 7DW

Installation of a curved track stairlift to the existing staircase between the ground floor living room and the first-floor bedroom and bathroom.

Application reference: [19/02045/LBA](#) received on 08/05/2019

Batheaston Parish Council does not object to this application.

17 The Batch, Batheaston, Bath, Bath And North East Somerset, BA1 7DR

Replacing non original windows and doors, replace and relocate boiler vent/flue, replace back door canopy, roof terrace and bathroom added at first floor

Application reference: [19/02135/FUL](#) received on 14/05/2019

Batheaston Parish Council does not object to this application, as long as neighbours are satisfied.

The following decisions by B&NES were noted.

Ref	Address	BPC Opinion	B&NES/ Status
19/00785/FUL	Garage Block, Brookside Cl	Do not object	Withdrawn
19/01145/TCA	288 High Street	Do not object	No objection
19/01075/TPO	Gattrell, Steway Ln	Do not object	Consent
19/00132/FUL	1 Bannerdown Road	Do not object	Permitted
19/01257/FUL	Washpool Water Works	Do not object	Permitted
18/03934/FUL	47 Bailbrook Lane	Object	Refused
19/01120/FUL	3 Barnfield Way	Do not object	Permitted
19/01679/TCA	26 Northend tree works	Do not object	No objection

31 High Bannerdown

Our ward councillors have also submitted an objection against 31 High Bannerdown, which has gone to committee. Although unable to attend the meeting, the clerk was instructed to reiterate our objection to the planning officer.

Clerk

14. To approve the following payments.

- 14.1. **It was resolved** to pay our ALCA membership fee of £500.01. ALCA provide the council with many valuable services and representation.
- 14.2. **It was noted** that wages totalling £1602.42 have been paid for May.

15. **The transfer of direct debits and standing orders** to Unity Trust bank was signed by two councillors.

16. Clerk's report

- 16.1. Payment has been made for green recycling bins for Riverside £91.80 via online banking. We will need to find a new arrangement at some point, but we have now paid for this year.
- 16.2. Contact with new district councillors Kevin and Sarah.
- 16.3. Clerk has been seeking clarification on our insurance on Riverside. B&NES insures the Riverside toilet block and all fixtures and fittings. They do not insure railings. Clerk needs to get valuation on railings to update insurance. She has confirmed valuation of pavilion is satisfactory.

Clerk

16.4. Barrier at Riverside car park is broken. Clerk seeking quotes.

16.5. B&NES ALCA AGM to be held at Saltford Hall on Wednesday 29th May. Clerk and Derek Greener to attend.

- 16.6. Staff checks on play area. Staff check play area daily, but we should conduct a weekly check and sign off. Contact Jane Dobson at B&NES for a checklist. Discuss in Play Area WG.

Emily Wright, Play Area WG

- 16.7. Please send agenda items to clerk 14 days before next meeting.

- 16.8. Clerk to spend £150 to install power sockets in Riverside kitchen.

Clerk

- 16.9. Pavilion Handover. Clerk is currently taking pavilion bookings and has calendar. She will advertise job shortly.

- 16.10. Councillors have received minutes from the annual village meeting. Residents requested better communication about working group meetings, i.e. advertise dates and put notes on website.

All Working Group Coordinators, Clerk.

They also want to know what is happening with Crossman Homes Site

Catherine McCarthy.

- 16.11. School sports day is in hand.

- 16.12. The school are tackling the hogweed on their side.

- 16.13. It was agreed to pay the mystery bill for £29 but to write to notify that this is now against council policy.

Clerk

- 16.14. The clerk met with Andrew Combe from Combe Fending. The holes in the fence between the football field and the brook have been flagged as red on our play inspection report. Clerk has notified the school of these holes for their risk assessment. However, we have discussed with Andrew Combe the possibility of repairing these holes before sports day. The whole fence is very old and needs full replacement with new technology mesh fencing. This will cost £1000s and must be part of our longer-term strategy. It is very difficult to work on due to large leylandii trees and roots. Clerk will also ask Andrew to make safe the ragged fencing behind the goal near the pavilion. This has sharp edges. Making good will not prevent access to the land behind, but this is away from the brook and has not been flagged on our safety report. Thank you to Andrew Combe.

Clerk

- 16.15. Council Services EXPO Droitwich Spa 21st June.

- 16.16. Contracts over £25,000 should now be put out to public tender.

- 16.17. Report from resident that footpath from Radford Farm up to the Hollies Lane/Ramscome Lane junction is overgrown. Clerk to ask Peter Fear and Rob Kendall secretary of the Freeholders if they are able to help or suggest way forward.

Clerk

- 16.18. A resident has asked if she can put a bouncy castle on the playing field when hiring the hall. Hirer to sign waiver.

Clerk

- 16.19. Truespeed broadband would want to put in a new physical network though they will use existing conduits where possible.

- 16.20. We have enough councillors for B&NES to not be concerned about us. They won't want to run a governance review because of cost, so we won't be able to reduce the size of the council.

- 16.21. Clerk is struggling to get everything done due to lack of time. Some things are not being done. Clerk was asked to report overtime, which she will do again from next month.
- 16.22. CURO wish to meet with the council.

Clerk

Chairman’s report

Emily thanked all the councillors.

Ward Councillor Sarah Warren reported that B&NES are exploring transferring the Meadows to the National Trust. This was in the Liberal Democrat Manifesto. If the National Trust acquire the land, it would then have a special status in law that would protect it from development unless overturned by an act of parliament. It is still early days on this as well as for the new councillors. The National Trust will need to examine whether the land fits their criteria and then agree a price. They would then consult the local community about the use of the land. The National Trust own several areas of land around Bath as part of its heritage setting, and there is a campaign to maintain “green fingers” into the centre of Bath. BPC expressed a desire to be kept in the loop about these developments and to be invited to meetings because the Meadows have long been important to residents of Batheaston and we have campaigned to keep them safe.

Next Meeting: -

7:15pm on Tuesday 11th June in the Rhymes Pavilion TBC

These are open meetings.

Members of the public are welcome to attend and may speak by invitation

Signed..... Dated.