

## **Batheaston Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the meeting of Batheaston Parish Council held at 7:30pm on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**Present: Councillors Derek Greener, Catherine Gregory, Alison James,  
Andrew Lea, Tamsin May, Catherine McCarthy, Alexis Pavlou,  
Sue Peachey, Hannah Squire, Patrick Vandesteen.**

In attendance: Richard Maccabee (Clerk).

The Clerk took the Chair until Item 4, Election of Chairman.

#### **1. Public Participation.**

- 1.1. A member of the public made a presentation relating to Item 9, "Village Green Updated Workplan"
- 1.2. He indicated that he would like to hear the update and argued that it was inappropriate for Councillors to choose to exclude members of the public for the relevant items (9.2 and 9.3).

**2. No apologies were tendered.** Councillor Tovey was absent.

#### **3. Declarations of interest.**

- 3.1. Cllr Greener declared that he had an interest in Item 7, the formal complaint, by virtue of personal relationship with the Complainant.
- 3.2. Cllr Pavlou indicated that he had an interest in Planning Application, Reference 20/03633/LBA, due to its proximity to his home.

#### **4. Election of Chairman**

- 4.1. Cllrs Lea and Peachey were nominated for the post and made short presentations.
- 4.2. An equal number of votes were cast for each candidate. Cllr Vandesteen, as the outgoing Chairman, declined the request to deploy his casting vote, as he felt that it would be divisive.
- 4.3. It was agreed to defer the item to the next meeting, and to nominate a Chairman for this meeting only, and Cllr Jeffrey was elected so to do.

Cllr Jeffrey took the Chair.

#### **5. Election of Vice Chairman**

- 5.1. Cllrs Gregory and Pavlou were nominated for the post and made short presentations.
- 5.2. Cllr Gregory was duly elected to the post of Vice-Chairman.

**6. Council approved** the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020

## **7. A formal complaint**

- 7.1. The Clerk explained the process that he had followed, based on a previous draft policy of the Council. He indicated that he had verified that this conformed with good practice.
- 7.2. **Council approved** a motion **to exclude members of the public** and the press for the following items, 7.3 and 7.4. This in the public interest owing to protect the personal details of the Complainant in accordance with Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960.

### **Members of the Public left the meeting**

- 7.3. The complainant, a resident of Batheaston, supported by a representative, presented a complaint in respect of the Council's management of the Riverside Car Park. They expressed frustration that the Council had not implemented controls and penalties as recommended by a Working Group in early 2019.

7.3.1. Councillors asked questions of the Complainant and her representative.

### **The Complainant and her representative were asked to leave the meeting.**

- 7.4. Councillors reviewed a draft report provided by the Clerk and outlined a response for the Clerk to draft, for approval by Cllr Jeffrey, Chairman of the meeting.

**Clerk**

### **Members of the Public were allowed to return to the meeting**

## **8. Communication and Engagement Plan**

- 8.1. Cllr May introduced this item, on behalf of Councillors Lea, Squire, and herself.
  - 8.1.1. She indicated that the plan included a new website, and reactivation of social media channels, on Facebook and Twitter, and of the BREDAC email list.
  - 8.1.2. The plan indicates how these services will be supported and kept up to date, and how they will be used. Councillors viewed some images of the new website.
  - 8.1.3. Councillors welcomed the development. Cllr Vandestein requested targets for this initiative, in terms of – for instance – the number of visitors to the website.
  - 8.1.4. He and Cllr Gregory also requested projections of costs. Although it is recognised that this will be difficult, as it depend on many factors, some unknown, but it is noted that it will be necessary to set the budget for 2021/22.
  - 8.1.5. **Council** approved the proposed strategy.
- 8.2. **Council** approved the proposed steps for further implementation of the communications and engagement strategy, and the associated costs, per the action plan presented under heading 7 of the paper.

## 9. Village Green Updated Workplan

9.1. In answer to a question, Cllr Vandesteen indicated that it was requested that members of the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items as he intended to provide information provided in confidence by third parties.

9.1.1. **Council approved** the motion that for the following items – 9.2 and 9.3 – members of the public should be temporarily excluded from the meeting. This is in the public interest owing to the need to retain confidentiality of commercial discussions in accordance with Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960.

### Members of the Public left the meeting

9.2. **Council received** a confidential update from Cllr Vandesteen.

9.3. **Council noted** the updated participatory design approach to building community engagement and support for the Village Green project.

### Members of the Public were allowed to return to the meeting

10. **Council approved** a motion to defer items 9.4, 9.5, 9.6, 10, 11, 14, 16, 17; taking only Planning Application 20/03633/LBA, and only the motion 18.1.1 in Item 18; and to extend the meeting by up to 15 minutes.

10.1. Council moved to Item 12.

10.2. Cllr Greener registered his discontent that items 9.4-9.6 were deferred.

## 12. Half-year budget review

12.1. Cllr Gregory presented the half-year budget 2019/20 position, **and Council noted** that the remaining discretionary cash at end October to be c£500, to ensure that the Council finishes the current financial year on a neutral footing, without depleting reserves.

## 13. Process for setting the Precept and budget 2021/22

13.1. Cllr Gregory presented this item and indicated that she was still awaiting input from a number of fellow Councillors to assist her and the Clerk in preparing the budget for 2021/22 for review at the Finance Committee.

13.2. **Council noted** the process, time scales and issues for the internal process of setting the precept for 2021/22; to agree the budget at the December meeting and set the Precept at the January meeting.

## 15. Planning

- 15.1. In accordance with Motion 10 above, Council only considered the Planning Application Reference Number: 20/03633/LBA
- 15.1.1. **Council approved** a motion proposed by Cllr Gregory to strongly support this application, noting that it wishes to support all residents seeking to mitigate climate emergency particularly those doing so in older buildings.
- 15.1.2. The Clerk to submit this feedback to the Planning Officer at Bath and North East Somerset Council.

Clerk

## 18. Clerk's Report

- 18.1. In accordance with Motion 10 above, Council only considered the motion in the report.
- 18.1.1. **Council approved** the sending of condolences on behalf of Council to the family and friends of Michael Tabb. Michael was a resident of the Parish for many years and served as a Parish Councillor for a number of years.

## 19. Chairman's Report

- 19.1. Cllr Jeffrey thanked members of the public who had attended the meeting for their patience

**The meeting closed at 9:22pm**

### **Forthcoming Meetings**

Parish Council Meeting, 7:15pm on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020  
Finance Committee Meeting, 7:15pm on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021  
Parish Council Meeting, 7:15pm on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Parish Council Meetings are open meetings; members of the public are welcome to attend and may speak by invitation.

Signed: - 

Parish Clerk

Date 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021