

Batheaston Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Batheaston Parish Council held at 7:15pm on Thursday 14th October 2021, at the Rhymes Pavilion. Present: Councillors Hannah Squire (Chair of Council), Peter Bryant, Catherine McCarthy, Alison James, Alexis Pavlou, Sue Peachey.

In attendance: Richard Maccabee (Clerk).

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1. Public participation

- 1.1. A member of the public made a representation relating to item 16.5, the alleged breaches of planning regulations on Charmydown. She commented that there were significant breaches, which had been identified by Bath and North East Somerset Council Planning Officers. Two retrospective Planning Applications have been submitted, which are assigned to St Catherine's Parish Council, but affect this Council. She anticipates more retrospective Planning Applications will be submitted to cover other breaches.

2. Council received apologies for absence.

- 2.1. **Council noted** the resignation of Cllr Lea.
- 2.2. **Council noted** that no candidates came forward for co-option to the Council, which now numbers only 6 Councillors, substantially below its complement of 15.
 - 2.2.1. Councillors discussed how to attract more residents to put themselves forward to be Councillors. It was agreed that there should be a publicity campaign, using all of our available channels of communication. The clerk will coordinate.

Clerk

3. Council received any declarations of interest from Councillors.

- 3.1. Cllr Squire in respect of the Planning Application in Item 16.1.10, which is a near neighbour.

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

- 4.1. **Council deferred approval of** the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 23rd March 2021.
- 4.2. **Council approved** the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 17th August 2021

Clerk

VILLAGE MATTERS

5. The Summer Party, Sunday 29th August 2021

- 5.1. **Council received** a verbal report from Cllr Pavlou on the party
 - 5.1.1. He commented that the event was a success and was very popular amongst those that attended. Lessons were learned, and it would have been good to have had more volunteers to assist.

5.2. Council received a verbal report from the Clerk regarding the money raised by the Party. He commented that the event made a small surplus, of the order of £100.

5.3. Council considered holding more community events in the future.

5.3.1. There was strong support for an event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022, including participating in a national network of beacons. The Clerk will progress to find out more details.

Clerk

5.3.2. Cllr Squire will follow-up to develop plans for a Christmas party, perhaps coinciding with switching on the Christmas Lights.

Cllr Squire

6. Playground Working Group

6.1. Council approved a proposal from the Clerk, regarding a first phase of enhancement.

6.1.1. The Clerk highlighted that the timescales are very tight, and he would advise Councillors of the need to call additional meetings as soon as it became clear.

6.1.2. The Clerk to contact potential suppliers.

Clerk

6.2. Council received a verbal report from Cllr Pavlou regarding subsequent Phases.

6.2.1. He intends to hold a meeting for residents to come forward to help in development of the playground, to be publicised in the next few days.

Cllr Pavlou

7. Riverside Working Group

7.1. Council received a progress report from Cllr James.

7.1.1. She plans to hold a meeting to establish the Working Group, which will bring together all those interested in the Riverside, including the volunteers who look after the Secret Garden and those who are seeking to establish Forest Garden.

Cllr James / Clerk

7.2. Council approved a set of proposals for maintenance activities in the Riverside area.

7.2.1. The Clerk to progress

Clerk

7.3. Council noted the action already taken to treat an infestation of Box Moth Caterpillars in the Secret Garden.

7.3.1. It was noted that this prompt action may have eradicated the infestation, but that it may recur, possibly in the Spring.

8. Parking Working Group

8.1. **Council received** a report on the open meeting held on 21st September, and the consultation prompted by this.

8.2. **Council approved** a proposal for developing detailed plans for a subsequent Council meeting.

8.2.1. Cllrs Peachey, Bryant and McCarthy to work with the Clerk to progress.

Cllrs Peachey, Bryant, McCarthy, Clerk

9. Grow Batheaston Liaison (Cllr Pavlou)

9.1. **Council received** a verbal report from Cllr Pavlou, on collaboration with Grow Batheaston.

10. Highways (Cllr McCarthy)

10.1. **Council received** a verbal report from Cllr McCarthy on matters relating to Highways.

10.2. **Council approved** a proposal to invest up to £2,500 to upgrade the 6 street lights that the Parish Council own in the School Lane / Muddy Lane area to the latest technology.

Clerk

10.3. **Council resolved** to pay £255 for 17 hanging baskets for winter flowering (12 at the pavement and 5 on the High Street) at £15 each.

Clerk

10.4. **Council considered** a response to Bath and North East Somerset Council Highways Department to investigate the feasibility and carry out design/cost for widening the path between Batheaston School, School Lane, and Coal Pit Road to accommodate cyclists on this path as well as pedestrians.

10.4.1. **Council approved** an amendment to “mandate the Clerk to submit a positive response to Bath and North East Somerset Council regarding the need to widen the path [etc]”

10.4.2. **Council approved** the amended motion

Clerk

10.5. **Council approved** a proposal that the Clerk arrange a meeting with representatives of CURO to discuss matters of common interest.

Clerk

FINANCE MATTERS

11. Audit Action Plan

- 11.1. **Council approved** an updated action plan arising from the Internal Auditor's Report to the Council.
 - 11.1.1. **Cllrs** Peachey and Squire volunteered to assist the Clerk in developing the Risk Management Policy and carrying out Risk Assessments on Council facilities and activities.
 - 11.1.2. The Clerk to progress this, and the other action items within the Plan.

Clerk

12. Finance Update

- 12.1. **Council received** a verbal report from the Clerk.
- 12.2. **Council approved** the charges for booking the Rhymes Pavilion and the Council's sports facilities.
 - 12.2.1. Cllr Pavlou will communicate the new charges to Grow Batheaston.

Cllr Pavlou

- 12.3. **Council approved** the renewal of the Council's annual insurance.

Clerk

- 12.4. **Council approved** up to 5 more cuts of the Council's areas of grass the football pitch, playground and the Riverside, or the remainder of this calendar year, at a cost approximately £1,650 + VAT.
 - 12.4.1. It was noted that two of the above cuts had already taken place (owing to the delay in holding this meeting) and that it may not be necessary for there to be a further three.

Clerk

- 12.5. **Council deferred** consideration of a proposal to establish a dedicated reserve fund for the Playground Project.

GOVERNANCE MATTERS

13. Strategic Plan

- 13.1. **Council approved** the establishment of a sub-group to develop a Strategic Plan.
 - 13.1.1. Cllr Squire to action the establishment of the group

Cllr Squire

14. Co-option Policy

- 14.1. **Council deferred** a new policy for Co-opting Councillors.

15. Human Resources (HR) Committee

15.1. **Council received** a verbal report from the Clerk.

15.1.1. Clerk indicated that he would set up the first meeting when dates for forthcoming Council meetings are confirmed (17.1.2), and at that point he would contact members of the Committee with the priority items for its consideration.

Clerk

STANDING ITEMS AND REPORTS

16. Planning Applications

16.1. **To review** the following planning application from Bath and North East Somerset Council

16.1.1. Council resolved not to oppose the following Planning Applications:

21/03847/LBA

21/04018/FUL

21/04045/FUL

21/04058/FUL

21/04102/FUL

21/04126/TCA

21/04159/NMA

21/04231/TCA

21/04269/FUL

21/04342/FUL

21/04419/CONDLB

16.1.2. In respect of the 2 Planning Applications Reference: 21/04344/CONDLB and 21/04358/COND which both relate to 244 High Street, Batheaston, BA1 7RA, **Council resolved** to express concern that the development would exacerbate the current difficulties regarding parking in this location.

Clerk

16.2. **Council reviewed** the re-submitted application that Council previously reviewed, Application Reference: 21/03092/FUL, and **resolved not to oppose**.

Clerk

16.3. Council noted the following decisions on planning applications have been notified by Bath and North East Somerset Council:

- 16.3.1. 21/02889/LBA
- 16.3.2. 21/02699/FUL
- 16.3.3. 21/02700/LBA
- 16.3.4. 21/02961/LBA
- 16.3.5. 21/03176/FUL
- 16.3.6. 21/03424/FUL
- 16.3.7. 21/03503/FUL
- 16.3.8. 21/03561/NMA
- 16.3.9. 21/03611/COND
- 16.3.10. 21/04231/TCA

16.4. Council noted that an appeal has been made to the Planning Inspectorate regarding the refusal of planning application reference, 21/00411/FUL, at Eagle Farm House Northend Batheaston.

16.5. Council considered the item to note that Bath and North East Somerset Council have initiated a process to investigate alleged breaches of planning at Charmydown Barns.

- 16.5.1. **Council resolved** to amend the item “to resolve that the Clerk will write to Bath and North East Somerset Council to express the Council’s significant concern relating to these breaches, noting that two retrospective PAs have been lodged. Even though these are located in neighbouring St Catherine’s Parish, the breaches are partly located in Batheaston Parish.”
- 16.5.2. **Council approved** the amended motion.

Clerk

16.6. Council noted that Bath and North East Somerset Council have served an enforcement notice on the owners of Parcel 0096 Ramscombe Lane, Batheaston, requiring that the building be demolished or dismantled.

17. Clerks Report

17.1. Council received a report from the Clerk, including the following specific items.

- 17.1.1. **Council noted** that regular distribution of emails has started, incorporating previous subscribers to the “BREDAC” list.
- 17.1.2. **Council approved** the future schedule of meetings.

Clerk

- 17.1.3. **Council deferred** consideration of proposals for a tree survey.

18. Council received an oral report from the Chairman.

18.1. Cllr Squire commented that she was pleased to see positive progress on many important matters.

Meeting Closed 9:15pm

Upcoming Meetings: -

7:15pm, Tuesday 30th November 2021

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

Signed by Cllr Hannah Squire, Chair of Council:

Date: