

Batheaston Parish Council

**Minutes of a Meeting of Batheaston Parish Council is held at 7:15pm on Tuesday 18th January 2022, at the Rhymes Pavilion.
Present: Councillors Hannah Squire (Chair of Council), Peter Bryant, Peter Lewis, Catherine McCarthy, Alexis Pavlou, Sue Peachey.**

In attendance: Richard Maccabee (Clerk).

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1. Public participation regarding matters on the agenda.

- 1.1. Regarding Item 10.1, the Grant Application from Batheaston Youth Club
 - 1.1.1. The Chairman of the Youth Club made a short presentation outlining the activity of the Club, and its importance to the Community.
 - 1.1.2. The Chair asked that agenda Item 10 be taken now.

Item 10. Community Grant

- 10.1 A grant of £9,500 to Batheaston Youth Club
 - 10.1.1 Councillors expressed support for the Youth Club, and how important it is to maintain its activities.
 - 10.1.2 It was noted that the Youth Club had received grants during the past year, associated with the Covid support schemes, which had allowed it to increase its reserves.
 - 10.1.3 **Council approved** the grant of £9,500.

Clerk

- 1.2. Regarding Item 14.1.4, Planning Application Reference Number: 21/05561/FUL Victory Gardens.
 - 1.2.1. The Chair declared an interest and withdrew from the meeting. Cllr Pavlou chaired the meeting for the remainder of this item.
 - 1.2.2. A neighbouring resident made a number of points regarding this application.
 - 1.2.3. Firstly, he recognised that the developers have worked hard to make it unobtrusive, matching build line, and materials, etc.
 - 1.2.4. He did however have the following concerns:
 - 1.2.5. The proposed entrance to the small development is not positioned in the optimum space, being in the narrower stretch of road.
 - 1.2.6. It is not clear that refuse can be collected safely and reliably
 - 1.2.7. There are no details in the application of how disruption during the construction will be mitigated.
 - 1.2.8. Cllr Pavlou (in the Chair) asked that agenda item 14.1.4 be taken at this point in the meeting.

Item 14.1.4 Planning Application, 21/05561/FUL Victory Gardens.

Council resolved to oppose the application on the grounds of health and safety, limited access, lack of a plan to address disruption during the construction project.

Clerk

Cllr Squire resumed the Chair.

1.3. Regarding Item 14.1.6, Planning Application Reference: 21/05623/FUL, Charmydown Hill House

- 1.3.1. The property owner and her representative attended, and the latter spoke, seeking Council's support. He indicated that the development is being undertaken in a sympathetic manner, which will remedy some previous changes to the property.
- 1.3.2. The Chair asked that agenda item 14.1.6 be taken at this point in the meeting.

Item 14.1.6, Planning Application Reference: 21/05623/FUL, Charmydown Hill House

A number of Councillors spoke in support of the application, and **Council resolved** not to oppose the application.

Clerk

1.4. Regarding Item 14, Planning Applications

- 1.4.1. The Clerk introduced this item, indicating that although the planning applications concerned were not registered as being in the Parish, and were not on the agenda, the member of the public could make her comments.
- 1.4.2. He noted however that Council could not make any decisions on the applications I question; that these would have to be included in the agenda for a future meeting if Councillors so desired.
- 1.4.3. A resident of Marshfield Parish, whose land extends into Batheaston, made comments relating to 3 Planning Applications Charmydown 21/04650/FUL, Paper Mill Cottage; 21/05053/VAR Doggie Doos Day Care; and 22/00036/FUL Brook Cottage.
- 1.4.4. She raised concerns that the developments represent further erosion of the agricultural nature of the area, in favour of residential and leisure activities. She was also concerned that, because the developments are near the borders of 3 parishes, and 2 unitary authorities, there have been inadequate steps taken to alert neighbours to them.
- 1.4.5. Councillors requested that the Clerk include these planning applications on the agenda of the next Council meeting.

Clerk

2. There were no apologies for absence.

- 2.1. **Cllr Squire noted** the resignation of Cllr Carr-Shand, due to changes in her professional commitments.

3. Declarations of interest from Councillors.

- 3.1. Cllr Squire declared an interest regarding 14.1.4, the Planning Application relates to property near her home.
- 3.2. Cllr Bryant declared an interest regarding 14.1.6, as he knows the person submitting the Planning Application

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

- 4.1. **Council approved** the minutes of the Co-option meeting of Council held on 30th November 2021.
- 4.2. **Council approved** the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 30th November 2021.

VILLAGE MATTERS

5. Streetlights

- 5.1. Council noted that the seven streetlights that the Council maintains around School Lane, Muddy Lane, and the Playground were upgraded shortly before Christmas.
- 5.2. Council approved expenditure of up to £500 to repair the light on the Batch and the lights on the Car Park.
 - 5.2.1. The Clerk commented that he is meeting the BANES Highways Engineers tomorrow to progress these.
- 5.3. **Council approved** the £190+VAT to move the planter from London Road West to the Riverside.
 - 5.3.1. The Clerk noted that this work was not as straightforward as it might seem, involving the lifting of a very object, located on an island in the middle of the busy road. It therefore needed to be undertaken by a professional contractor.

6. Playground

- 6.1. **Council noted** that the upgrade is proceeding.
 - 6.1.1. The Clerk reported that the work has progressed well, and that the work undertaken so far appears to be of a high standard. There has however been a problem regarding the slide, which needs to be replaced, to better fit the slope. The supplier is pursuing urgently, and it is hoped that it will be in place by March.
 - 6.1.2. The Clerk reported that he has confirmed the process for release of the Section 106 funds (ca. £18,900) which BANES holds and will carry out this process this week.

Clerk
 - 6.1.3. Councillors warmly thanked him for ensuring that this money was not forfeited.
- 6.2. **Council approved** expenditure of £477 (+VAT) from the Playground Reserve for the removal of the tree and bush branches overhanging the playground.

7. Riverside

- 7.1. **Council approved** retrospectively the repairs of the coin-operated door of the toilet at a cost of £250 (+VAT), which the Clerk commissioned as a matter of urgency.
- 7.2. **Council approved** expenditure of £700 (+VAT) for the following works:
- 7.2.1. To dig out and remove a damaged pedestrian guard rail
 - 7.2.2. To supply new pedestrian guard rail and install it in place of the old one
 - 7.2.3. Dig out the old plastic bollard next to the toilet block and tarmac over
 - 7.2.4. For the removable bollard at the entrance of the Secret Gardens – to clean out socket of debris to get bollard working in the socket.
- 7.3. **Council approved** up to £500 for the annual pruning of bushes, including the lime walk, in the Secret Garden.
- 7.3.1. The Clerk noted that the quote had now been received, and is £340+VAT.
- 7.4. **Council approved** up to £1,000 (projected maximum cost) to pollard the willow trees in the Secret Garden, which are overhanging the listed wall and the pavement of the High Street.

Clerk

8. Car Park

- 8.1. **Council noted** that the Clerk has arranged a consultation (free-of-charge) with specialist contractors to discuss the implementation of the plans, to take place the next day.

9. Queens Platinum Jubilee

- 9.1. **Council approved** the establishment of a Working Group to develop plans for a celebration.
- 9.1.1. Cllr Catherine McCarthy commented that this event had been discussed with other organisations in the Parish at a meeting the previous evening. There is a desire to stage a number of events over the long weekend.
 - 9.1.2. **Council approved** Cllr McCarthy as lead of the Working Group, to be supported by all Councillors.

FINANCE MATTERS

10. Community Grant – this item was taken earlier

11. Precept

- 11.1. The Clerk presented a report on the options for the Precept to be set for 2022/23.
- 11.2. Council considered options to maintain the Precept at the current level, or to increase it by 5%.
 - 11.2.1. A number of Councillors felt that it was necessary to build up the Council's reserves to allow for investment in projects such as the refurbishment of the Rhymes Pavilion.
 - 11.2.2. **Council approved** a 5% increase in the value of the Precept.

Clerk

12. Finance Update

- 12.1. The Clerk reported briefly on the financial position of the Council and undertook to present a full report at the next meeting.
- 12.2. Music Licence (PRS/PPL) to allow music to be played in the Rhymes Pavilion.
 - 12.2.1. The Clerk commented that it was necessary to have such a licence to cover the playing of music at parties, social events, and other uses.
 - 12.2.2. He noted that to his knowledge the Council had not had such a licence for at least 3 years. Because of this, the figure includes payment for last year, as well as the current year, to 15/12/22.
 - 12.2.3. **Council approved** the payment of £727 (+VAT)
- 12.3. **Council approved** Cllrs Peter Lewis and Peter Bryant to be signatories to authorise payments for the Council's bank.
 - 12.3.1. The Clerk will initiate the process to action this.

Clerk

GOVERNANCE MATTERS

13. Co-option Policy

- 13.1. This item was deferred

STANDING ITEMS AND REPORTS

14. Planning Applications

- 14.1. **Council reviewed** planning application from Bath and North East Somerset Council.
 - 14.1.1. Note that items 14.1.4 and 14.1.6 were taken earlier in the meeting.

14.1.2. Council resolved not to oppose the remaining applications, as follows:

Reference Number: 21/05458/FUL

Reference Number: 21/05496/FUL

Reference Number: 21/05536/FUL

Reference Number: 21/05567/FUL

Reference Number: 22/00002/FUL

Reference Number: 22/00054/FUL

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

14.2.1. Application Number: 21/02996/LBA, Decision: CONSENT.

14.2.2. Application Number: 21/03271/FUL, Decision: PERMIT

14.2.3. Application Number: 21/04342/FUL, Decision: PERMIT

14.2.4. Reference Number: 21/04946/TCA, Decision: No Objection

14.2.5. Reference Number: 21/04437/FUL, WITHDRAWN

14.2.6. Application Number: 21/04438/LBA, WITHDRAWN

14.2.7. Application Number: 21/04445/FUL, Decision: PERMIT

14.2.8. Reference Number: 21/05201/TPO, Decision: CONSENT

15. Clerk's Report

15.1. The Clerk commented that the year had started with a lot of activity, not least the refurbishment of the playground.

15.2. He noted that he had had to care for his family, who contracted Covid, in the period before Christmas, which had set back some activities.

16. Chair's Report

16.1.1. Cllr Squire ... did you say anything, Hannah?!

Meeting closed at 9:15pm

Upcoming Meetings: -

7:15pm, Tuesday 15th February 2022

7:15pm, Tuesday 15th March 2022

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: