

Batheaston Parish Council – Council Meeting 26th April 2022

Clerk's Report

Finances

There is a separate report on the status of finances on the agenda.

Vandalism

As Councillors will doubtless be aware, there was a spate of acts of vandalism in the week of 11th April. A lot of residents' property was damaged, and a window was broken in the Rhymes Pavilion. My thanks to Tina Connor and Immi Corry for clearing up the debris, and to Cllr McCarthy for organising the emergency boarding up of the window.

I have been in touch with our neighbouring Parishes who also suffered attacks at the same time, and propose to contact our Police Community Support Officers to discuss what can be done to protect the Parish.

Communications

The Batheaston Times – which the Council funded – has been well received. I have agreed to receive and handle emails sent to the contact email address.

Playground Project

The slide and climbing net are scheduled to be installed next week. This has been delayed as it had to be manufactured to meet the specific needs of the slope. This will complete Phase 1 of the project.

I am concerned that we are not making progress on the second phase of the project. It is important that we do so, to ensure that we secure the existing offer of grant (£27,000) and to address outstanding needs from the first phase.

The Queens Platinum Jubilee

I have requested that the High Street to closed for the day, and expect formal confirmation of this imminently. There are a large number of administrative tasks that I need to do to support the wide range of attractions and food options that Councillors have developed: including securing licences, health and safety, and risk assessments.

Annual Meeting of Electors and the Annual Parish Council Meeting

These meetings, on 10th and 17th May respectively, are important fixtures in our annual calendar.

The Annual Meeting of Electors is the residents' opportunity to discuss matters of common interest. It is not a Parish Council meeting, and it is only by convention that we organise it, and the Parish Council Chairman chairs it. I will seek suggestions for topics in the next few days (and would welcome any suggestions or requests from Councillors).

The Annual Parish Council Meeting is in many ways a routine monthly Council meeting but is required to fulfil a specific requirement which is the election (or re-election of course) of a Chairman. It is also traditionally used to review, and update and re-confirm key policies. It is my intention that we will do this for our standing orders, financial regulations, and code of conduct, as a minimum. In all cases, I intend to adopt model templates (from SLCC or NALC) as much as possible.

Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)

I am working with Rachel Orme to complete the year-end financial processes. I will also prepare the other documents required for the AGAR to the May meeting. The Internal Auditor is due to visit on 17th June, which should allow Council to approve the submission at its meeting on 21st June.

Richard Maccabee, Parish Clerk

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