

Batheaston Parish Council
Minutes of a Meeting of Batheaston Parish Council
held at 7:15pm on Tuesday 16th April 2024 at the Rhymes Pavilion.
Present: Councillors Hannah Squire (Chair of Council),
Peter Bryant, Arif Butt, Peter Lewis, Catherine McCarthy,
Sue Peachey, and Kate Skelton.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

- 1. Council accepted apologies** for absence from Cllrs Gray and Pavlou.
2. There were **no declarations of interest** from Councillors.
- 3. Public participation regarding matters on the agenda.**
 - 3.1.** Matt McCabe, Bath and North East Somerset Councillor with responsibility for the Local Plan, attended the meeting to give a presentation on the consultation process (Item 6.1)
 - 3.1.1. The Clerk noted that the formal deadline for consultation responses had passed earlier in the evening, at 5pm, but that B&NES Officers had agreed to accept a response from this meeting.
 - 3.1.2. Cllr McCabe explained the process of Local Planning: its importance to the development of the Parish, and the formal process that it goes through before adoption.
 - 3.1.3. He confirmed that the Plan covers a 20-year period from late 2025.
 - 3.1.4. He highlighted the relatively good transport links that Batheaston enjoys, and the range of local amenities – the primary school, surgery, retail, hospitality and others.
 - 3.1.5. On this basis the Plan envisaged an increase of 5% in the number of dwellings in the Parish, which is 63. This does not include “in-fill” (between existing housing, etc).

The Chair brought forward the item:

6. Consultation on the Bath and North East Somerset Local Plan

- 6.1. To approve** a response to the consultation.
 - 6.1.1 Councillors were very concerned about the congested nature of much of the village, and the difficulties already experienced in driving and parking.
 - 6.1.2 Councillors discussed the possible locations for development in the Parish. They concluded that the only obvious acceptable location might be the redevelopment of the CURO garages, on the Elmhurst Estate.

- 6.1.3 It was also felt that the area to the east of the housing at the roundabout on the A4, in Bathford, might be a good location for additional housing.
 - 6.1.4 Councillors agreed that the school and surgery are significant assets to the community. They noted however concerns about the viability of some of the retail and hospitality businesses, which they wanted to highlight in the response. They also noted the need for pre-school provision in the village.
 - 6.1.5 **Council resolved** to submit the response to reflect these points.
- 3.2.** Craig Brooks attended the meeting to give a presentation on the development of a logo for the Parish Council.
- 3.2.1 Cllr Lewis commented that he hoped that the resulting logo would be seen as belonging to the village, not just the Parish Council.
 - 3.2.2. He has developed this following a process of asking the children and staff of the Primary School to provide ideas and thoughts, with the assistance of the school staff and Cllr Lewis.
 - 3.2.3 Craig showed a range of ideas that the children had produced, including picture, logos and text. From these he has pulled out the main themes, such as the river, Solsbury Hill, fields and nature.
 - 3.2.4 He has refined this down to three final designs, of different types.

The Chair brought forward the item:

7. Parish Council Logo

- 7.1. To receive** a report on the work with children at the Primary School to develop a new logo for the Parish Council, and **to approve** the option to adopt.
- 7.1.1 Councillors thanked him and Cllr Lewis for their work, and stated how impressed they were with the work of the children. They expressed enthusiasm for all 3 of the final designs.
 - 7.1.2 Councillors highlighted some particularly positive aspects of all of the designs, which they might like to be incorporated into a single design.
 - 7.1.3 Cllr Squire suggested that the **item be deferred**, and that Councillors send their thoughts to Craig Brooks. He will make any amendments that he is able to, with a view to the logo being approved at the next meeting.

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

- 4.1. Council approved** the minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 16th March 2024.

- 5. Council noted** progress on actions from previous meetings.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

6. Consultation on the Bath and North East Somerset Local Plan

Item taken earlier.

7. Parish Council Logo

Item taken earlier.

WORKING GROUPS

8. Highways, Transport and Planning Working Group

8.1. Council received a report from the Working Group

8.1.1. Cllr Lewis commented that he and the Clerk are meeting a B&NES Officer in the coming days, to clarify the position regarding parking restrictions on Prospect Gardens.

8.2. To approve the replacement of the streetlight on Fosse Lane at a cost of approx. £1,800 (the light is situated about 30m up Fosse Lane, at the entrance to the lane to garages)

8.2.1. Cllr Squire explained that she and Cllr McCarthy had canvassed opinion of the local residents, which had been illuminating, and had changed her mind: there is a strong desire for a light to be provided at this location.

8.2.2. She and Cllr McCarthy explained that the lane is quite difficult to negotiate in the dark, and that there are concerns about loitering in the area at night.

8.2.3. **Council approved** the motion.

Clerk

8.3. To approve funding of £320 for 16 hanging baskets, and £100 for the large planters.

8.3.1. **Council approved** the motion.

Clerk / Cllr McCarthy

9. Riverside Working Group

9.1. Cllr Lewis updated the meeting on progress, commenting that a meeting of the Working Group was due to be scheduled soon.

9.1.1. He noted that the professional clean of the toilets had happened, but that the state of the toilets had once again deteriorated.

10. Summer Party

10.1. Cllr Squire updated the meeting on progress.

11. Rhymes Pavilion Working Group

11.1. Councillors discussed the progress.

11.1.1. They noted that the survey of residents' views will be ready for distribution for the Annual Village Meeting, 21st May.

12. Suffragette Memorial

12.1. Cllr McCarthy on the progress of the memorial, which is very nearly complete.

12.2. Council noted that approval was given previously for funds to complete the project.

GOVERNANCE MATTERS

13. Nature And Environment Working Group

13.1. Council approved the draft Terms of Reference for a Working Group to cover all aspects of the natural environment in the Parish.

13.2. Council nominated Cllr Lewis to lead the Working Group.

13.3. The new group will incorporate the existing Riverside WG. Cllr Lewis and the Clerk will discuss with members and bring any changes to the Council for approval.

STANDING ITEMS AND REPORTS

14. Finance Operations

14.1. Council noted the transactions undertaken in March 2024 (for subsequent approval at Finance Committee).

14.2. Council noted a short report on the financial position at the end of the financial year.

14.3. The Clerk commented that the process for preparation and submission of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is covered in his report (Item 16).

15. Planning Applications

15.1. Council reviewed the following planning applications from Bath and North East Somerset Council, and **resolved not to oppose** them:

15.1.1. Reference Number: 24/00999/TPO

15.1.2. Reference Number: 24/00957/FUL

15.2. Council noted that the following decision which has been notified by Bath and North East Somerset Council since the last meeting:

15.2.1. Application Number: 23/04772/FUL – Decision: PERMT

15.2.2. Application Number: 24/00474/TPO – Decision: CONSENT

15.3. Council noted that for the first of these applications, the Parish Council did not oppose, but expressed concerns about parking, risks associated with change of use, and visual impact. In the second, the Parish Council did not oppose.

16. Clerk's Report

16.1. Council received a report from the Clerk.

16.1.1. **Council noted** the progress on remedying immediate problems in the Rhymes Pavilion with a view to allowing its use pending the outcome of the Working Group.

16.1.2. **Council noted** the progress on the Elmhurst Growing Spaces, and that the terms of reference for the Working Group will be brought to the next meeting for approval.

16.1.2.1. The Clerk commented that this initiative could be overseen by the new Nature and Environment Working Group.

16.1.3. **Council approved** the following topics for the Parish Council to include on the agenda for the Annual Village Meeting:

16.1.3.1. Rhymes Pavilion consultation and project

16.1.3.2. Description of the Working Group structure, and a plea for volunteers and new Councillors

16.1.3.3. The new logo

17. Chair's Report

17.1. Cllr Squire closed the meeting.

Meeting closed: 21:32.

Forthcoming Meetings:

Council Meeting, 14th May 2024

Annual Village Meeting, 21st May 2024 (at the New Village Hall)

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

Signed: -  Parish Clerk

Date issued: 23rd April 2024