

Batheaston Parish Council
Minutes of a Meeting of Batheaston Parish Council
held at 7:15pm on Tuesday 10th September 2024
at the Rhymes Pavilion.



Present: Councillors Hannah Squire (Chair of Council), Peter Bryant, Evie Gray, Peter Lewis, Catherine McCarthy, Alexis Pavlou, Sue Peachey and Kate Skelton.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1. Council accepted apologies for absence from Cllr Butt.

2. There were no declarations of interest from Councillors.

3. Public Participation

3.1. Two residents attended the meeting to comment on Item 9.3, Suffragette Memorial on the agenda.

3.1.1. The noted that the Terms of Reference conflated two objectives: to refurbish the phone box at the bottom of Eagle Road, exploiting the opportunities presented; and to establish a memorial to the suffragettes and the part that was played in their campaign by residents.

3.1.2. These objectives might better be separated, not least because there were other ideas for a memorial which could be considered.

3.2. Cllr Squire brought forward Item 9.1

9.1 To approve the amended Terms of Reference for the Project Group (Cllr McCarthy, A)

9.1.1 Councillors accepted the comments made by residents but noted that the Terms of Reference includes a decision by Council to approve the plans, which would allow for a different memorial – and a different use of the phone box – to be pursued.

9.1.2 **Council approved** the Terms of Reference.

9.1.3 Cllr McCarthy, as lead of the Project Group, will arrange a meeting with the two residents and others who have expressed interest in the development.

Cllr McCarthy

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

4.1. Council approved the minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 16th July 2024.

5. The Clerk apologised that he had not had time to update the progress on actions from previous meetings.

GOVERNANCE MATTERS

6. Highways Transport and Planning Working Group

- 6.1. Council received** a verbal report from Cllr McCarthy, Lead of the Working Group.
- 6.1.1. She noted that the Cotswolds Volunteers have completed some excellent work recently, to restore and improve public footpaths in the Parish.
- 6.2.** To approve funding of up to £1,000 for an initial clearance, and then monthly maintenance for the remainder of the year, of the vegetation in the garden area adjacent to the Penthouse Steps.
- 6.2.1. Councillors were concerned about the cost for such a small plot of land and expressed the hope that it could be maintained by residents on a voluntary basis.
- 6.2.2. Cllr McCarthy emphasised that an initial clearance is quite a substantial job, and that the figure of £1,000 is an upper limit, including regular maintenance.
- 6.2.3. Cllr Squire proposed an amendment of the resolution to reduce the figure to £300, with an expectation that this will cover the initial work, but not maintenance thereafter.
- 6.2.4. **Council approved** the amendment.
- 6.2.5. Council approved the amended motion: to approve funding of up to £300 for an initial clearance of the vegetation in the garden area adjacent to the Penthouse Steps.
- 6.3.** To resolve to submit a “right to bid” application to Bath and North East Somerset Council regarding the Church of the Good Shepherd.
- 6.3.1. Cllr Lewis said that he had collaborated with the Clerk in proposing this, which arises from significant concern in the community regarding the plans – as submitted for approval – for the church.
- 6.3.2. The motion would mean that the Parish Council ask B&NES to recognize the Church as an “asset of community value”, and allow for an offer to be made to maintain the building for community use.
- 6.3.3. Councillors noted that the funds required to be successful would be very considerable and were concerned that this was unrealistic. The possible community uses include as a children’s nursery which is sorely needed.
- 6.3.4. **Councillors resolved** to submit a “right to bid” application to Bath and North East Somerset Council regarding the Church of the Good Shepherd.

Cllr Lewis / Clerk

- 6.4. **Council noted** the support given for Liveable Neighbourhoods in the Parish in July.
- 6.5. **Council noted** that the formal public consultation regarding the extension of parking restrictions in Prospect Gardens is open until 12th September.
- 6.6. **Council noted** that the upgrade of the crossing on Stambridge is due for completion in the week of the meeting, and that further works are planned to implement traffic calming on lower Bannerdown Road, and to refurbishment of the crossing on the High Street (near the junction with The Batch).

7. Nature and Environment Working Group (Cllr Lewis)

- 7.1. **Council noted** the planned work to take the Jubilee Oak back and limit the risk of damage to adjacent properties.
- 7.2. **Council approved** funding of up to £8,000 for the Riverside Masonry Works update.
 - 7.2.1. The Clerk explained that the work includes repair of a listed section of wall in the Riverside, and therefore requires consultation with Planning Officers at B&NES.
 - 7.2.2. He had sent out the invitation to tender included in the Supporting Papers, in anticipation of this approval, to expedite the process.

8. Communication and Community Working Group

- 8.1. To note and approve a review of the Parish Council's funding of and the management of the Batheaston Times.
 - 8.1.1. Councillors noted the recent challenges ensuring that distribution throughout the village. They also believed that many residents would be happy to receive this in digital format, which is cheaper and reduces use of paper.
 - 8.1.2. The Clerk confirmed that the net cost – after sponsorship – is just over £650 for each quarterly edition.
 - 8.1.3. Councillors agreed that it would be better to halve the number of copies, and for these to be made available in a number of public locations in the Parish.
 - 8.1.4. Councillors will communicate this to the Batheaston Leadership Group at its forthcoming meeting.
 - 8.1.5. Councillors are also keen to improve the Parish Council's own communication especially on social media and using the website. The Working Group will pursue this.

Cllr Skelton / Clerk

PROJECT GROUPS

9. Suffragette Memorial Project Group

9.1. Item taken earlier.

10. Summer Party Project Group

10.1. **Council received** a review of the party held on Sunday, 14th July including the summary of the finances.

10.1.1. It was noted that improvements could be made to the advertising and presentation of stalls, for instance of the bar, to improve the experience, and perhaps increase takings.

10.1.2. The cost of the road closure had increased significantly this year, to £1,400, due to the requirement for staff to be provided for it. Councillors believe this is not necessary.

10.1.3. The financial summary is not quite complete, but provisionally indicates a net cost of about £1,400.

11. Establishing a Charity

11.1. The Clerk noted that now that the bank account is set up, and funds have been assigned to it, the application to the Charity Commission is ready to be submitted.

Clerk

12. Elmhurst Woods Update

12.1. Item deferred

13. Rhymes Pavilion

13.1. Councillors noted that the number of responses to the survey is still disappointing, in spite of the publicity given to in the Batheaston Times.

13.2. The Clerk commented that progress had continued on the refurbishment of the current building, with painting by volunteers over the summer. There remain only a couple of major items to resolve.

STANDING ITEMS AND REPORTS

14. Planning Applications

14.1. To note that the Working Group submitted responses objecting to the following planning applications (Cllr McCarthy, A):

14.1.1. Reference Number: 23/03753/FUL

14.1.2. Reference Number: 24/02699/CLEU

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

14.2.1. Reference Number: 24/03082/FUL

14.2.2. Reference Number: 24/03214/FUL

14.2.3. Reference Number: 24/02974/FUL

14.2.4. Reference Number: 24/02975/LBA

14.2.5. Reference Number: 24/03334/FUL

14.3. Council noted that the following decisions have been notified by Bath and North East Somerset Council since the last meeting:

14.3.1. Application Number: 24/02211/PIP Decision: REFUSE

14.3.2. Application Number: 23/01720/FUL Decision: PERMIT

14.4. Council noted that the Parish Council's decision on both of these was not to oppose the application.

15. Clerk's Report

15.1. Council received a report from the Clerk including:

15.1.1. Council received the notice of the conclusion of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for 2023/24 from the External Auditors, and Council approved the actions that will be taken to in relation to this.

15.1.1.1. The principal action relates to the valuation of assets.

Clerk

The meeting closed at 9:03pm Forthcoming Meetings

Parish Council Meeting 15th October 2024 September 2024

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: 17th September 2024