

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



Present: Councillors Hannah Squire (Chair)
Peter Bryant, Arif Butt, Evie Gray, Peter Lewis,
Catherine McCarthy, Alexis Pavlou and Sue Peachey

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1. **Council accepted** apologies for absence from Cllr Skelton.
2. **Council received** a declaration of interest from Cllr Lewis, regarding Item 12.1, Planning Application, 24/04200/FUL.
3. **Public participation** regarding matters on the agenda.
 - 3.1. Cllr Hillary Carr, Chair of Bathford Parish Council, thanked the council for the gift of the village sign which was removed from the London Road West location in 2021, and for which a suitable location has not been found.
 - 3.2. The Box Flood Warden, Roger Bolton, gave a presentation by regarding Item 9.2.
 - 3.2.1. He noted that as Box is in Wiltshire, there are some issues coordinating response across the county boundary
 - 3.2.2. He explained his motto: “Engineering – Education – Enactment”, and that he had been successful in encouraging “Citizen Action”, specifically the “Adopt a Drain” campaign.
 - 3.2.3. He noted that the Government had launched the “Prepare” scheme (www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding) in May 2024, which along with B&NES and Environment Agency resources, provides a useful framework for action.
 - 3.2.4. Cllr Carr, of Bathford PC, commented that he is liaising with B&NES regarding the sever flooding that occurs on the A4 in Shockerwick

Chair brought forward the item, 9.2.

Item 9.

9.2. Council **resolved** to seek to create a Community Emergency Response Team, and requested that Cllr Lewis take this forward, in his role as Chair of the Nature and Environment Working Group.

Cllr Lewis

3.3. Trustees of Batheaston Youth Club spoke in respect of Item 6.1, community grant they had requested.

- 3.3.1. Explained that the intention was to give Council the opportunity to plan to allocate the funds, potentially in 2025/26.
- 3.3.2. Have been successful in attaining grants for the substantial capital improvements, notably the replacement of the roof, which has been fully funded this year.
- 3.3.3. Hoping to move to self-sustaining, but continue to need funds, and the Parish Council is a valuable contributor which encourages others to donate. Query about the possible competition with the Rhymes. (Home schooling booking – 3 days / week)

Chair brought forward Items 5, which was necessary to provide the background for assessing the request for funds, and then Item 6.1.

5. Current Finance Position

- 5.1. **Council received** an update from the Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer on finances. He outlined an underspend on operational spend, to the end of period 8, but expected this would be partly balanced out in the final months.

Council had spent very little on Projects (for which £60k was budgeted) and Community Grants (£10k)

6. Community Grants

- 6.1. Council considered the request for a grant of £10,000 to the Batheaston Youth Club.
 - 6.1.1 They noted that as the grant is not requested until March 2025, a decision should not be made in advance of that.
 - 6.1.2 Council delegated to the C&C WG to discuss further with the Youth Club with a view to making a recommendation regarding the grant application to the Council meeting in February 2025.

Action: Cllr Skelton

- 3.4. A resident attended to discuss the planning matters at Charmydown Barns, item 7.1.3.

- 3.4.1. She reported that she had attended meetings at the neighbouring Parishes, Swainswick and St Catherine, and that they were strongly in favour of coordinating efforts to bring pressure to bear on B&NES.

- 3.4.2. The Chair brought forward the item.

7.1.3 Council resolved that Cllr Squire, as Chair of Council, will write to B&NES to express dismay at the lack of enforcement action against the developments of Charmy Down Barns, which have continued in the absence of planning permission and contravention of planning regulations, and to urge them to take action urgently.

Cllr Squire

6.2. Council approved the allocation of a further £2,000 for the refurbishment of the Rhymes Pavilion, subject to two provisos:

6.2.1 The Clerk should seek to ensure that spend is limited only to that which is necessary for the Pavilion to be fully used for the short-term

6.2.2 There should be a focus on generating income, including by improving the booking system.

Clerk

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

4.1. Council approved the minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 12th November 2024.

FINANCE REPORTS

5. Current Finance Position

5.1. Item taken earlier

6. Community Grants

6.1. Item taken earlier

6.2. Item taken earlier

WORKING GROUPS

7. Highways Transport and Planning Working Group

7.1. Council received a verbal report from Cllr McCarthy, Lead of the Working Group.

7.1.1. Council noted that B&NES have published their report of final recommendations for parking restriction changes, and that this includes a recommendation not to proceed with additional restrictions on Prospect Gardens.

7.1.2. **Council approved** a proposal to erect new sign(s) indicating “Non Parking on the Bend”, to discourage the most problematic instances of parking, but asked the Clerk to confirm with local residents that there are no major objections to this.

Clerk

7.1.3. **Item taken earlier**

8. Nature and Environment Working Group

8.1. Cllr Lewis, Lead of the Working Group, reported that there had been a meeting of the Riverside Working Group, which was productive.

9. Communication and Community Working Group

9.1. In the absence of Cllr Skelton (Lead of the Working Group), Cllr Bryant reported that a meeting had been held, to review communications. Actions agreed included redesigning the website to make it more user-friendly; investigating options for integration of social media channels with the website; and the management of noticeboards following the current procurement of new ones.

9.2. Item taken earlier

PROJECT GROUPS

10. Suffragette Memorial Project Group

10.1. **Council received** a report from the Project Group on progress with the installation of the memorial to suffragettes in the Eagle Road Phone Box.

10.1.1. She is looking forward to the formal opening of the Suffragette Memorial at 2pm on Saturday, 14th December. Cllr Harding, Vice Chair of B&NES, will be present for the ceremony.

11. Elmhurst Growing Spaces

11.1. The clerk commented that following a productive meeting on site with the lead of the Project Group and B&NES Surveyor, he will be bring forward a report to set out the options for Council to take this forward.

STANDING ITEMS AND REPORTS

12. Planning Applications

12.1. **To review** the following Planning Applications notified by Bath and North East Somerset Council since the last meeting, and **to approve** responses:

Cllr Lewis left the meeting.

12.1.1. Reference Number: [24/04200/FUL](#)
Site Location: 165 High Street Batheaston BA1 7DW
Description of Proposal: Erection of single storey timber outbuilding and decking for use as home office and holiday let (retrospective)

12.1.2. **Council resolved to oppose** as it is a retrospective application, and that the development of the additional dwelling increases traffic and exacerbates the already difficult parking situation.

Cllr Lewis rejoined the meeting.

12.2. **To note** the following Decisions by Bath and North East Somerset Council since the last meeting:

12.2.1. Application Number: 24/03935/FUL Decision:- PERMIT

12.2.2. Application Number: 23/04209/FUL Decision:- REFUSE

12.3. To note that these accord with the Parish Council's comments, albeit in the latter case with a hope that an "amicable compromise could be found, by making some amendment to the application".

13. Clerk's Report

13.1. Council received a report from the Clerk.

13.1.1. **Council resolved** to submit a response indicating opposition to both remote meetings and proxy voting to the current government consultation.

14. Chair's Report

14.1. Cllr Squire thanks everyone for their contributions in 2024, and wished them all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Meeting closed at 9:18pm

Forthcoming Meetings:

HR and Finance Committee Meetings – 16th December 2024
Parish Council Meeting 14th January 2025

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: 15th December 2024