

**Minutes of a Meeting of Batheaston Parish Council
held at 7:15pm on Tuesday 18th March 2025
at the Rhymes Pavilion**



**Present: Councillors Peter Bryant, Arif Butt,
Evie Gray, Peter Lewis, Catherine McCarthy,
Alexis Pavlou (Vice Chair). Sue Peachey and Kate Skelton**

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1. **Council approved** apologies from Cllr Squire. Cllr Pavlou took the chair in her absence.
2. There were **declarations of interest** from the following Councillors.
 - 2.1. Cllr Lewis on the following items:
 - 2.1.1. Item 6.1 as he is a trustee of Grow Batheaston
 - 2.1.2. Item 14.1.1 a planning application near to his home
 - 2.1.3. **Council approved** his request for a dispensation to speak but not vote on both items.
 - 2.2. Cllr Pavlou on the following item 14.1.1 a planning application near to his home.
 - 2.2.1. **Council approved** his request for a dispensation to speak but not to vote.
 - 2.3. Cllr Skelton on the following item 14.1.1, as she has a professional connection with the applicant.
 - 2.3.1. She did not seek a dispensation.
3. **Public participation regarding matters on the agenda.**
 - 3.1. Ms Immi Corry attended regarding Item 6.1, the grant application for the Art Trail.
 - 3.2. She highlighted the previous success of the last 5 years, and the desire to continue to develop and enhance the event as a major event in the village's calendar.
 - 3.3. She confirmed that this is indeed an application from Grow Batheaston; the Art Trail is organised by a Committee of Grow Batheaston.
 - 3.4. Councillors questioned the financial summary, and in particular the income generated from Artists' fees, which – together with the existing funds – appear to cover the costs.
 - 3.5. The Chair brought item 6.1 forward.



The Chair brought the item forward:

6.1. Council considered the grant application from Grow Batheaston for £1,500 to support the Annual Village Art Trail.

- 6.1.1 Councillors agreed that there was insufficient clarity on the justification for granting funds.
- 6.1.2 They asked the Clerk on their behalf to set out the key questions, with a view to providing a clear picture for the next Council meeting.

Clerk

- 6.1.3 The Chair deferred the item.

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

- 4.1. **Council approved** the minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 18th March 2025

FINANCE

5. Finance Operations Matters

- 5.1. **Council received** an update from the Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer on the financial position at the end of the financial year, 2024/25.

- 5.1.1. In summary, the Council finished the year with ca. £107k in its current and reserve accounts.

- 5.2. **Council noted** the record of transactions for March 2025.

- 5.2.1. He indicated that these documents would be on the website soon.

6. Community Grants

Item taken earlier.

WORKING GROUPS

7. Highways Transport and Planning Working Group

- 7.1. Cllr McCarthy, Lead of the Working Group, gave a verbal update.
- 7.2. She noted that on the morning of the meeting, Northend had been closed without notice for a period of approx. 1½ hours, and that this had caused significant disruption.
 - 7.2.1. A non-urgent ambulance had been amongst those vehicles delayed.
 - 7.2.2. She had investigated and found out that the contractors were filling potholes, which were indeed in urgent need of repair.
 - 7.2.3. The option of opening the “green gates” to provide an alternative route was not possible for reasons which she will also follow up with the assistance of the Clerk.



7.2.4. The Clerk will also contact B&NES regarding the lack of notice.

Clerk / Cllr McCarthy

7.3. **Council approved** up to £500 for Summer Hanging baskets and planters.

7.4. **Council approved** up to £500 to have Penthouse Garden professionally cleared and tidied.

7.5. **Council considered** the resolution to approve up to £1,500 to purchase and install a bench to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE-VJ Day in May.

7.5.1. Councillors broadly welcomed the idea of commemorating the day and wondered whether other ways of doing so could be considered.

7.5.2. It was suggested that something for children, or for adults at the Playground, might be a fitting tribute.

7.5.3. Cllr McCarthy undertook to consult with the Primary School Headteacher.

7.5.4. **Council amended** the motion, to insert the words “or similar tribute” after the word “bench”.

7.5.5. **Council approved** the amended motion.

Cllr McCarthy

8. Nature and Environment Working Group

8.1. **To receive** a verbal report from Cllr Lewis, Lead of the Working Group.

8.1.1. He noted that the Clerk had repocured grass cutting services and was in the process of procuring tree surgery work, to carry out the recommendations of the survey undertaken recently.

8.1.2. In this latter, costs had been requested to remove the leylandii hedge along the entirety of the perimeter of the football pitch. This could be part of a setoff activities to make better use of the small natural space that the Parish Council owns running along St Catherines Brook.

8.1.3. He undertook to report back to Council with any proposals.

Cllr Lewis

9. Communication and Community Working Group

9.1. **To receive** a verbal report from Cllr Skelton, Lead of the Working Group.
Cllr Skelton has been publishing B&NES PRs
Website -

9.2. **Council considered** the resolution to approve the outline of a campaign over the next 2 months to recruit new Councillors and Volunteers

9.2.1. They commented that there is much more that can be done to improve the Council's communications: its website, social media and other aspects.



9.2.2. Cllrs Gray and Butt volunteered to join the Working Group.

9.2.3. Cllr Skelton undertook to call a meeting of the Working Group.

Cllr Skelton

9.3. Cllr Lewis requested the item to review opportunities for facilitating the creation of pre-school provision in the village **be deferred**.

PROJECT GROUPS

10. Summer “Wild Water” Party

10.1. In Cllr Squire’s absence, **Cllr Pavlou commented** that the Project Group had held a successful meeting the previous Wednesday, and that actions are underway to make this another great event.

STANDING ITEMS AND REPORTS

11. Planning Applications

11.1. **Council considered** the following Planning Applications to Bath and North East Somerset Council:

11.1.1. Application Number: 24/04200/FUL

Council resolved to reiterate its opposition to this application. It considered that the allocation of off-street parking outlined in the additional information provided is unlikely to substantially reduce the additional pressure on on-street parking, which is already very limited in this vicinity.

Council considered the following applications and **resolved not to oppose** them:

11.1.2. Reference Number: 25/01333/LBA

Application Type: Listed Building Consent (Alts/exts)

Site Location: First Floor Flat 248 High Street Batheaston BA1 7RA

Description of Proposal: External alterations for the cleaning of stonework (paint removal).

11.1.3. Reference Number: 25/01255/FUL

Site Location: 5 Court Gardens Batheaston BA1 7PH

Description of Proposal: Inclusion of timber cladding to front, rear and side elevations.

11.1.4. Reference Number: 25/01088/FUL

Site Location: 25 Barnfield Way Batheaston BA1 7PW

Description of Proposal: Erection of two storey side extension, single storey rear extension, front porch & renovation works.



- 11.1.5. Reference Number: 25/01111/FUL
Site Location: 169 High Street Batheaston BA1 7DW
Description of Proposal: Erection of single storey side extension following demolition of existing single storey side extension.
- 11.1.6. Reference Number: 25/00750/FUL
Site Location: 4 Eagle Road Batheaston BA1 7HL
Description of Proposal: Erection of replacement garage.
- 11.2. **Council noted** that the following decisions have been notified by Bath and North East Somerset Council since the last meeting.
 - 11.2.1. Application Number: 25/00766/FUL Decision: PERMIT
 - 11.2.2. Application Number: 25/00698/TCA Decision: No Objection
- 11.3. **Council noted** that these decisions align with the comments of the Council.

12. Clerk's Report

- 12.1. **Council received** a verbal report from the Clerk.
 - 12.1.1. He drew Councillors' attention to the response to the survey from the West of England Rural Network that he had submitted.
 - 12.1.2. He highlighted that he would now focus on the preparations for the Annual Parish Council Meeting, and the Annual Governance and Accountability Report.
 - 12.1.3. He noted that the Rhymes Pavilion would be used as a Polling Station in the elections for the West of England Combined Authority Mayor in the following week.

13. Chair's Report

- 13.1. Cllr Pavlou thanked Councillors for their contributions to a productive meeting, and their continuing hard work for the village.

Meeting closed 8:51pm
Forthcoming Meetings:

Annual Parish Council Meeting, 20th May 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: 28th March 2025