

**Minutes of a Meeting of Batheaston Parish Council
held at 7:15pm on Tuesday 17th June 2025
at the Rhymes Pavilion**

**Present: Councillors Hannah Squire (Chair),
Evie Gray, Peter Lewis, Catherine McCarthy,
Alexis Pavlou and Kate Skelton**



PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1. **Council accepted** apologies for absence from Cllrs Bryant, Butt and Peachey.
2. Cllr Lewis **declared an interest** in respect of Item 8, the Community Grant for the Art Trail, as he is a trustee of Grow Batheaston
 - 2.1. He sought a dispensation to speak but not vote.
 - 2.2. **Council approved** the dispensation.
3. **Public participation** regarding matters on the agenda.
 - 3.1. Two residents attended to comment on Item 9.2 Parking. They made comments regarding:
 - 3.1.1. The use of spaces in Batheaston as an unofficial “park and ride” for commuters into Bath
 - 3.1.2. The additional parking caused by holiday and short-term lets.
 - 3.1.3. The recent loss of the 12-14 spaces at the back of the Church of the Good Shepherd
 - 3.1.4. The particular difficulties for those who drive to work during the day, returning late to have to hunt for spaces. This can sometimes result in a long walk after dark, which is a particular concern for those who feel vulnerable.
 - 3.1.5. They suggested that remedial actions might be for B&NES to mark current parking bays more clearly (to reduce the incidence of poor parking), and to institute residents’ permit parking.
 - 3.1.6. The Chair brought the item forward.



9.2 To discuss the recurrent and growing problems that parking poses in many parts of the village, with a view to facilitating discussion with residents and other bodies to formulate strategies to alleviate the problems.

9.2.1 Cllr McCarthy, lead of the Highways, Transport and Planning Working Group, commented that the decisions on parking are made by B&NES, and that the Parish Council has resisted introduction of increased parking restrictions.

9.2.2 Councillors discussed various areas of restrictions, and the way that a parking is not used efficiently. They expressed varying views regarding the introduction of residents' parking permits.

9.2.3 They reaffirmed the rationale underlying the restriction of 3 hours on parking in the Riverside Car Park, which was to reduce its use as an informal park and ride, and to support local businesses.

9.2.4 Council requested that the Highways, Transport and Planning Working Group consider the matter, and take forward any actions that might improve matters.

3.2 Ms Immi Corry attended the meeting to present the application for grant funding the Art Trail, Item 8.

3.2.1 Councillors queried the relatively large marketing spend, which constitutes a significant proportion of the costs. Ms Corry explained that she intends to publicise locally, but that to attract a wider audience for a specialist, it is necessary to publicise it more widely.

3.2.2 Councillors expressed concerns about the benefit to residents. In particular that the practice of charging for workshops meant that they are "paying twice". Ms Corry undertook to consider ways in which this concern could be addressed.

3.2.3 Councillors urged Ms Corry to seek to attract corporate sponsorship and other grant funding for this year's event, if possible, but certainly for future years.

3.2.4 They noted that the event does promote the village and supports culture in the village.

3.2.5 The Chair brought the item forward.

8. Grant application from Grow Batheaston for £800 to support the Annual Village Art Trail.

8.1. Council approved the grant application.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

4. Council approved the minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 3rd June 2025.



ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN

5. Briefing from Clerk and Chair of Finance Committee

- 5.1. To receive a report from the Clerk on the process of developing the AGAR, and the confirmation required from Council.
- 5.2. To receive a report from Cllr Pavlou, Chair of the Finance Committee, on its discussion of the documentation at its meeting of 10th June 2025.
 - 5.2.1. Cllr Pavlou explained that the Finance Committee discussed the assertions that Council is required to make.
 - 5.2.2. He explained that the Finance Committee recommended that Council can assert positively in regards to all of the considerations in the Return.

6. Approval of AGAR Documents to be submitted

- 6.1. **Council approved** the Clerk's statement of there being no Conflict of Interest with the External Auditors.
- 6.2. **Council approved** the Annual Governance and Accountability Statement.
- 6.3. **Council approved** the Accounting Statements.
- 6.4. **Council approved** the Explanation of Variances.
- 6.5. The Clerk and Chair of the meeting signed the forms, which the Clerk will submit to the External Auditors forthwith.
- 6.6. **Council noted** that the 30-day period for the public to inspect documents (the "Exercise of Public Rights") will be announced the following day and will commence on Thursday 19th June 2025 and end on Wednesday 30th July 2025.

FINANCE

7. Finance Operations Matters

- 7.1. **Council noted** the record of transactions for April and May 2025.

COMMUNITY GRANT

8. Item taken earlier.



WORKING GROUPS

9. Highways Transport and Planning Working Group

9.1. **Council received** a verbal report from Cllr McCarthy.

9.1.1. She commented that vegetation in the Penthouse Garden will be cut back and tidied this week.

9.1.2. She and the Clerk are progressing the refurbishment and replacement of the Council's Noticeboards

9.1.3. Councillors commented that weeds have grown rapidly in the past few weeks, particularly along School Lane and Muddy Lane. They suggested that a contractor could be employed to assist the handyman.

9.2. **Item taken earlier.**

10. Nature and Environment Working Group

10.1. **Council received** a verbal report from Cllr Lewis.

10.1.1. He commented that, as part of the Wild Water Festival, a group of volunteers had done an "amazing job" in clearing a substantial amount of rubbish from St Catherine Brook. He thanked the Clerk for arranging for the disposal of the rubbish at short notice.

10.1.2. Also, as part of the Wild Waters festival, the Grow Batheaston event on 7th June, went very well with a full house.

10.2. He presented the proposal to replace the existing coin-operation for the toilet door with a contactless card payment system with disabled access at a cost of up to £2,000.

10.2.1. It was noted that this is a significant investment, but it is an important community facility, and the current coin operation is liable to misuse leading to jamming.

10.2.2. **Council approved** the proposal.



11. Communication and Community Working Group

11.1. **Council received** a verbal report from Cllr Skelton.

11.1.1. She commented that she is particularly busy at the moment and would welcome help in leading the group.

11.1.2. Cllr Gray volunteered. Councillors thanked her and approved her nomination.

11.1.3. The Clerk will update the Terms of Reference accordingly.

Clerk

11.2. Councillors discussed plans for the campaign over the next 2 months to recruit new Councillors and Volunteers.

11.2.1. The Clerk and Cllr Gray to meet to progress.

Clerk

PROJECT GROUPS

12. Summer Riverside Party

12.1. Cllr Squire thanked everyone involved on the Party to be held on Sunday 8th June.

12.1.1. She commented that the feedback from those attending had been overwhelmingly positive.

12.1.2. The Clerk commented that he has not yet had compiled a final report on the financial outcome.

12.1.3. She will arrange a review meeting.

Cllr Squire.

13. The Future of the Rhymes Pavilion Project Group.

13.1. The Clerk commented that the survey results on the progress of the project.



STANDING ITEMS AND REPORTS

14. Planning Applications

14.1. **Council discussed** the following Planning Applications to Bath and North East Somerset Council:

14.1.1. Reference Number: [25/02214/LBA](#)
Application Type: Listed Building Consent (Alts/exts)
Site Location: 290 High Street Batheaston BA1 7RA
Description of Proposal: External alterations for repointing listed walls and relaying paving stones.

14.1.2. Reference Number: [25/02106/LBA](#)
Application Type: Listed Building Consent (Alts/exts)
Site Location: 290 High Street Batheaston BA1 7RA
Description of Proposal: External alterations for repairs following unauthorised works to boundary wall and removal of graffiti.

Council resolved to welcome the applications and are relieved to note that B&NES are taking action to ensure that the work is done properly.

14.1.3. Reference Number: [25/02043/FUL](#)
Site Location: 16 The Batch Batheaston BA1 7DR
Description of Proposal: Removal of existing timber storage shed and erection of a garden room and combined storage.

Council resolved to **not to oppose** the application.

14.2. **Council noted** that no decisions have been notified by Bath and North East Somerset Council since the last meeting.

15. Clerk's Report

15.1. **Council received** a report from the Clerk.

16. Chair's Report

16.1. Cllr Squire thanked all Councillors for their continued hard work on the range of Council initiatives, in particular the party.

Closed the meeting 9:07pm

Forthcoming Meetings:

Parish Council Meeting, 15th July 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: 30th June 2025