

**Minutes of a Meeting of Batheaston Parish Council
held at 7:15pm on Tuesday 14th October 2025
at the Rhymes Pavilion**



**Present: Cllrs Hannah Squire (Chair of Council),
Peter Bryant, Evie Gray, Kate Skelton
Catherine McCarthy and Sue Peachey**

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1. **Council accepted** apologies for absence from Cllrs Butt and Lewis, and from Cllr Pavlou for early departure (after Item 3 below).
2. There were **no declarations of interest** from Councillors.
3. **Public participation regarding matters on the agenda.**
 - 3.1. A resident attended with an interest in hearing the discussion of Item 6, and in particular the Auditors' comments regarding the Council's financial reserves.
 - 3.2. The Chair brought forward Item 6

6. Finance Committee

6.1. Council received a verbal report from Cllr Pavlou, Chair of the Committee following its meeting on 23rd September.

6.1.1. Council noted the External Auditors' feedback, in particular regarding the Council's reserves.

6.1.1.1 Cllr Pavlou commented that the Council have some significant projects in mind and aim to allocate funds to the Batheaston Sports Foundation to carry out some of the large-scale developments, such as for the Rhymes Pavilion.

6.1.1.2 He also noted the proposal to follow for up to £10,000 to be allocated to a project(s) to be led by members of the community.

6.1.1.3 In summary, he expected that the reserve would be reduced to approximately the target level of 60-70% of the Precept.

6.1.2. To note the status of finances at the end of the 1st Half of the Financial Year

6.1.2.1 Cllr Pavlou that operational costs and income are on budget.

6.1.3. Council noted the proposed timeline for development of the Budget and submission of the Precept for 2025/26

6.1.4. **Council approved** the funding of a Project to be led by members of the Community.

6.1.4.1 Councillors commented that it will be important to have clear and robust governance around the award and management of the projects.

3.3. The Chair brought forward Item 5.



5. Human Resources (HR) Committee

5.1. **Council received** a report from Cllr Pavlou, Chair of the Committee following its meeting on 23rd September.

5.1.1. He noted the training requirements for all Councillors arising from the new "Assertion" (no. 10) in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return. The Clerk will arrange these sessions.

5.1.2. He commented that he has circulated draft copies of the Clerk's appraisal and targets for this year and would welcome comment from fellow Councillors.

Cllr Pavlou left the meeting.

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

4.1. To approve the minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 9th September 2025

4.1.1. Councillors noted that the date was incorrect.

4.1.2. With this amendment, **Council approved** the minutes.

5. Human Resources (HR) Committee

Item taken earlier.

6. Finance Committee

Item taken earlier.

LOCAL PLAN

7. Council received the first draft of the Council's response to the BANES Local Plan Consultation. (A)

7.1. **To approve** the draft options for housing to be submitted

7.1.1. This was delegated to the subgroup.

7.2. **To approve** the key themes for the Parish Council to submit in its feedback

7.2.1. This was delegated to the subgroup.

7.3. **Council approved** the proposed survey of residents' priorities.

7.3.1. Council noted that this will be circulated on the email list, on Facebook, and that printed copies will be distributed to communal locations around the village.

7.4. **Council approved** the creation of a sub-group comprising all Councillors to support the Clerk in developing the final version of the Council's response for approval at the next meeting.

7.4.1. The Clerk will seek to arrange weekly meetings for the period until the November meeting.



WORKING GROUPS

8. Highways Transport and Planning Working Group

- 8.1. **Council received** a verbal report from Cllr McCarthy.
- 8.2. **Council approved** funds of up to £1,000 for the Christmas Lights
 - 8.2.1. Cllr McCarthy that this year this included replacement of the tree lights, at approximately £500.
- 8.3. **Council approved** up to £300 for the Winter Hanging Baskets.
- 8.4. **Council approved** up to £100 for the party to celebrate the switching on of the Christmas lights.
 - 8.4.1. A provisional date was set of Friday 28th November.
- 8.5. **Council noted** recent discussions with B&NES Officers regarding signage and parking.
 - 8.5.1. Signs will be amended or added to remove references to the Methodist and Catholic Churches, and to indicate the Village Hall, School and other amenities.
 - 8.5.2. They also discussed parking on Northend near to the school and are awaiting the report from B&NES Officers.
- 8.6. **Council noted** the status of Noticeboards.
 - 8.6.1. Cllr McCarthy commented that a large noticeboard is to be placed next to the existing one on Stambridge, next to the bus stop.
- 8.7. Cllr McCarthy also mentioned other developments, including the continuing problems with lorries from a development in Wiltshire using Bannerdown Road, which has been highlighted to B&NES on several occasions.

9. Nature and Environment Working Group

- 9.1. In Cllr Lewis' absence, the Clerk reported that the Riverside Working Group is meeting next week.

10. Communication and Community Working Group

- 10.1. Council received a verbal report from Cllr Skelton.
 - 10.1.1. She reported that she had met the Clerk and agreed that he will propose a comprehensive communications strategy encompassing all channels.
 - 10.1.2. She noted that the recent email newsletter had been well-received, with over 200 people reading it. This suggests that its regular reinstatement is worthwhile.
 - 10.1.3. The Clerk will collaborate with Councillors to use Facebook more regularly to highlight news.



10.1.4. The copy for the winter edition of the Batheaston Times: Council agreed with her suggestion that this focus on the community-led project.

10.1.4.1. It should also refer to the Christmas Lights celebration, and retrospectively, the Local Plan Consultation Response.

10.1.4.2. She and other members of the Working Group will review the effectiveness of the Batheaston Times and bring any proposals for change to the Council for approval.

10.1.5. She reported that she has offered to liaise with the Youth Club and attend committee meetings to provide support and receive updates.

PROJECT GROUPS

11. Rhymes Pavilion

11.1. **Council approved** the clerk's report on the Rhymes Survey.

12. Batheaston Sports Foundation (BSF)

12.1. Cllr Bryant, Chair of Trustees, reported that the Trust will be meeting soon, and is hoping to appoint more trustees to provide representation from across the community.

STANDING ITEMS AND REPORTS

13. Planning Applications

13.1. Council **resolved not to oppose** the following Planning Application to Bath and North East Somerset Council:

13.1.1. Reference Number: 25/03318/FUL

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

13.3. **Council noted** that B&NES have decided to issue the modification order to amend the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way in the St Catherines area, as discussed at the last meeting.

14. Clerk's Report

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

14.1.1. **Council noted** that BPC is a lead participant in a Community Energy Network project, with St Catherine Parish Meeting and other local organisations.

14.1.2. **Council nominated** Cllr McCarthy to support the Clerk in taking this forward.



- 14.2. The Clerk commented that he would approach the Air Ambulance and Neighbourhood Watch organisations for speakers for the Annual Village Meeting in March 2026.

Clerk

15. Chair's Report

- 15.1. Approval of the proposal regarding the party next year was deferred.

Meeting Closed at 9:20pm Forthcoming Meetings:

Parish Council Meeting, 11th November 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: 21st October 2025