

**Minutes of a Meeting of Batheaston Parish Council
held at 7:15pm on Tuesday 10th February 2026
at the Rhymes Pavilion**



**Present: Cllrs Alexis Pavlou (Chair of Council),
Peter Bryant, Evie Gray, Peter Lewis,
Catherine McCarthy and Sue Peachey**

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1. **Council received** apologies for absence from Cllr Squire and for late arrival, from Cllr Bryant.
 - 1.1. In the absence of both Chair and Vice Chair, **Council elected** Cllr Lewis to chair the meeting.
2. **Council received** a declaration of interest from Cllr Lewis, in respect of his role as Trustee of Grow Batheaston.
 - 2.1. Cllr Lewis sought a dispensation to speak and vote on the items.
 - 2.2. **Council approved** the dispensation.
3. **Public participation** regarding matters on the agenda.
 - 3.1. Judith Knight and Emily Wright, trustees of Grow Batheaston, attended in respect of Items 5.2 and 5.3
 - 3.1.1. They explained the background to the grants.
 - 3.1.2. In respect of 5.3, they explained that the grant would support an evening event, but also a series of activities with the school, plus other engagements around the village.
 - 3.1.3. Councillors queried the proportion of the cost that the Parish Council is asked to contribute. Grow Batheaston undertook to ensure that it delivered value to the community.
 - 3.1.4. Council brought forward the item.
 - 5.2 Council approved** a grant of £1,500 to Grow Batheaston to support its operating costs for the year to come
 - 5.3 Council approved** a grant of £2,000 to Grow Batheaston to support a series of talks about rivers and woods.
 - 3.2. A number of residents attended in respect of Item 7.3, concerning the Community Energy Workshop on 3rd February.
 - 3.2.1. They had attended the workshop and were concerned about various aspects of the project.



- 3.2.2. They expressed their opposition to installation of renewable energy facilities – wind turbines or solar arrays – in locations that had been discussed, within the Cotswolds National Landscape.
- 3.2.3. The benefits to the community were very unclear; there was no commitment that it might result in reduced electricity costs for residents.
- 3.2.4. Council brought forward the item.
 - 7.3 **Council received** a verbal report from Cllrs McCarthy and Bryant on the Community Energy Workshop on 3rd February.
 - 7.3.1. They echoed the views of residents, regarding the process and objectives of the project, and also that there are no suitable sites for facilities in the Parish.
- 3.3. A Planning Consultant, attended to support the Planning Application, (Item 11.1.1)
 - 3.3.1. She explained the plans: to install a solar array in the extensive gardens, and that landscaping works would be undertaken to reduce the visibility of this development from both near and far.
 - 3.3.2. Council brought forward the item.
 - 11.1.1 To resolve to submit a response on the following Planning Applications to Bath and North East Somerset Council:
Reference Number: 25/04663/FUL
Site Location: Overmist Bannerdown Road Batheaston BA1 8EG
Description of Proposal: Erection of domestic ground mounted solar PV with associated landscaping.
 - 11.1.1.1 Councillors noted the relatively small scale of the array; the fact that it would be obscured; and that reduction of carbon emissions is an objective the Council shares.
 - 11.1.1.2 Council **resolved not to oppose** the application.
- 3.4. A resident attended regarding Item 11.4, regarding the order to modify footpath BA21/13 at Charmydown, St Catherine.
 - 3.4.1. She explained that the request to recognise the footpath was lodged in 2021, by a neighbour who has since died.
 - 3.4.2. The path is commonly used by walkers and others, and has been for many years. Evidence to this effect had been lodged with B&NES, who had concluded that the path should be formalised, issuing a Definitive Map Modification Order B&NES in October 2025.
 - 3.4.3. This order has been challenged. In this circumstance, B&NES have to take a neutral position, but the Parish Council can support it.
 - 3.4.4. The Clerk explained that there were two options: to support or to propose the change. The former was on the agenda, but could be amended if Council so wished.



3.4.5. Council brought forward the item.

11.4 **Council resolved** to lodge a statement in support of the order to modify footpath BA21/13 at Charmydown, St Catherine to the Planning Inspectorate.

11.4.1 The Clerk will work with the Highways, Transport and Planning Working Group to submit the statement.

Clerk

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

4.1. **Council approved** the minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 13th January 2026

COMMUNITY MATTERS

5. Community Grants

5.1. **Council approved** a grant of £200 to Crimestoppers UK to support its operations in Batheaston.

5.2 & 5.3 Items taken earlier.

WORKING GROUPS

6. Highways Transport and Planning Working Group

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

6.1.1. She commented that there are a lot of issues regarding parking in Northend, at:

6.1.1.1. Prospect Gardens, for which she will request that B&NES add restrictions on the bend from Seven Acres Lane

6.1.1.2. At 36 Northend, where vehicles sometime park on the pavement, blocking access to the property. She has requested an extension of Double Yellow Lines.

6.1.1.3. On Northend near Eagle House Villa, where vehicles frequently block the pavement – the Monk's Causeway – completely. She has spoken to residents, but has been unable to resolve the situation.

6.1.2. Cllr Lewis reported that he, along with Cllr McCarthy and the Clerk, had attended the B&NES Planning Committee to object to Planning Application, 25/02637/FUL, at Vine House on Bailbrook Lane.

6.1.2.1. Unfortunately, the Application was approved.

6.1.2.2. He noted also that – at the same property – the Clerk had lodged a request for enforcement action regarding the development of Planning Application 10/01067/FUL, regarding unsafe practices.



- 6.2. **Council approved** up to £250 for the creation of an illustrative map of the village to be placed in noticeboards and elsewhere.

Clerk / Cllr McCarthy

7. Nature and Environment Working Group

- 7.1. **Council received** a verbal report from Cllr Lewis.

7.1.1. He noted the work done on the mulberry tree, which will help it to survive for a few more years, hopefully.

7.1.2. He commented that a meeting of the Riverside Working Group was due in the next week or so.

- 7.2. **Council received** a report from the Clerk on progress in evaluating the proposal for a nature walk along St Catherines Brook, and **Council approved** expenditure of up to £2,000 to carry out necessary surveys of wildlife, trees and other flora as required.

- 7.3. **Item taken earlier.**

- 7.4. The Clerk commented that he had not been able to submit the planning application for the stone masonry repairs to the wall of the Secret Garden, including a section that is listed.

7.4.1. He said that he has all of the necessary paperwork, and hopes to do this very soon.

8. Communication and Community Working Group

- 8.1. This item was **deferred** in the absence of Cllr Skelton.

9. Batheaston Sports Foundation

- 9.1. **Council received** a verbal progress report from Cllr Bryant.

9.1.1. He reported that conversations have been initiated with local architects, to start to scope out what is possible.

9.1.2. The administration of the Charity is being set up; a bank account has been opened.

10. Summer Party 2026

- 10.1. This item was **deferred** in the absence of Cllr Squire.

STANDING ITEMS AND REPORTS

11. Planning Applications

- 11.1. **Council resolved** to submit responses **not to oppose** the following Planning Applications to Bath and North East Somerset Council:

11.1.1. Item taken earlier



11.1.2. Reference Number: 26/00135/FUL
Site Location: 3 The Batch Batheaston BA1 7DR
Description of Proposal: Replacement of existing windows and doors, alteration of lounge windows to form French doors within existing openings, and renewal of roofline including soffits, fascias and rainwater goods.

11.1.3. Reference Number: 26/00103/TCA
Application Type: Tree Works Notification in Con Area
Site Location: 153 High Street Batheaston BA1 7DW
Description of Proposal: 5no. small Yews (T1) - adjacent to boundary retaining wall - reduce height to approx 6' (2m) - to allow to form dense low level screen. 2no Leylandii (T2)- adjacent to Oak - reduce height to approx 12' (4m)- to maintain low level screening. Oak (T3)- adjacent to 2no Leylandii - dismantle wind blown major limb.

11.2. **Council noted** the following decisions have been notified by Bath and North East Somerset Council since the last meeting.

11.2.1. Application Number: 25/04655/TCA Decision: No Objection

11.2.2. Application Number: 25/03318/FUL Decision: PERMIT

11.2.3. Application Number: 25/02637/FUL Decision: PERMIT

11.3. **Council noted** that the decision for 25/03318/FUL accorded with that of the Parish Council, but the decision to permit 25/02637/FUL did not, and that Cllr Lewis had spoken in opposition to the application at the B&NES Planning Committee.

12. Clerk's Report

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

13. Chair's Report

13.1. Cllr Lewis thanked Councillors for supporting him as stand-in Chair.

Meeting Closed at 8:57pm
Forthcoming Meetings:

Finance and HR Committee Meetings, 24th February 2026
Parish Council Meeting, 10th March 2026

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 February 2026