**Batheaston Parish Council – Council Meeting 10th November 2026**
**Clerk's Report**

The **Energy at Home** events were both excellent, with high-quality presentations, a range of practical and cost-effective measures, and samples of products that that householders could take away. I was disappointed in the attendance at both but am told this is not unusual.

It might also serve as a further reminder to improve our **Communications**. I am aiming to present a report to the next Council meeting, which will include better use of Facebook and other social media channels. It will also refer to active management of our **noticeboards**, with the final two now awaiting installation.

I am in contact with **Ageing Well** at B&NES regarding the establishment of a **bookable transport organisation**. They have a fund offering up to £1,000 to make life better for older people. I am aware also that they are considering a bid for the **Seated Dance Sessions** that we are hosting at the Rhymes Pavilion (the first having been this morning).

**Illegal removal of hedge on Oakford Lane.** I was contacted by local residents regarding the illegal destruction of a section of hedgerow, and installation of a gate. B&NES acted very quickly to contact the landowners and serve a Planning Contravention Notice. I am continuing to stay in touch with them to try to make sure no further damage is done.

With Cllr Peter Lewis, Ward Cllr Sarah Warren, I continue to liaise with the Public Rights of Way team at B&NES regarding the repair to the **footpath along the river from the Riverside Park – the Limestone Link.** It is however a complicated project requiring approval from the Environment Agency to the works.

I am trying to establish a basic level of **Emergency Response Coordination**, by asking Batheaston Leadership Group members to join a group to offer places of refuge, resources, and support in the event of emergencies. I am not getting much response, yet!

I have arranged for **PCSO Barrington Scott to attend the Community Lunch** at the Village Hall this Friday. I would like to ask him to come to another meeting, at a time more convenient for young families. I have suggested a session before our next Council meeting, 8th December, but would welcome Councillors' advice.

I was contacted by a resident following a **"trick or treat burglary,"** suggesting the Parish Council alert residents to this risk.

With thank to Cllr Lewis, we have distributed a request to parents and carers of children at the School to help to lead the refurbishment of the Over-5's equipment at the **Playground.**

Following meetings with the two main contractors last month, I have one estimate of the likely cost of full **toilet refurbishment**; £50,000. I am expecting the second contractor to provide graded quotes – gold, silver, bronze – and expect the costs to range from £10,000 upwards. My current assumption is that Council will want this to be included as an option for **the budget for 2027/28**. I am attending a NALC training session on this tomorrow, featuring Looe Town Council fittingly!

I've circulated an invitation to join the West of England Bus Passenger Forum on 19th November from 5.30-7pm. As I understand it, the Council cannot engage in this, but it would be possible for a Councillor, or me, to sign up with a view to representing the community's views.

For the **Annual Village Meeting** (Tuesday 23rd March), I would like to confirm the invited speaker or theme. My suggestions are Neighbourhood Watch, Air Ambulance, Wessex Water or Citizens Advice. We might also arrange a discussion about "parking policy"? I'd welcome advice!

The AGM of the Avon Local Councils Association (ALCA) takes place on Saturday 5th December (10:00-12:00) via Teams. I intend to attend, in my role as Chari of the B&NES sub-group (which I am hoping to relinquish at this meeting!); we are entitled to nominate a second voting attendee (and additional non-voting attendees may also be registered). Let me know if you are able to attend.

**Richard Maccabee**
**Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer**
**10th November 2026**