Minutes of a Meeting of Batheaston Parish Council held at Tuesday 13th October 2026 at the Rhymes Pavilion

Present: Cllrs Hannah Squire (Chair of Council), Alexis Pavlou, Alice Lowe, Catherine McCarthy and Sue Peachey

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1. **Council approved** apologies for absence from Cllrs Bryant, Butt, Gray, Lewis and Skelton.

2. There were **no declarations** of interest from Councillors.

3. **Public participation regarding matters on the agenda.**

   3.1. Tracy Benson, the new CURO Housing Officer for Batheaston, attended in respect of Items 11.1.4, 13.4 and 16.1.2.

   3.2. She explained that her role is a wider role, covering a smaller area; she will cover anything relating to tenants and communal land. She stressed that the CURO Customer Contact Centre remained the first point of contact.

   3.3. She commented that the merger with Abri is expected to take effect in January 2027 and is expected to benefit tenants by bringing economies of scale.

4. **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

   4.1. **Council approved** the minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 8th September 2026.

GOVERNANCE MATTERS

5. **The B&NES Local Plan and related planning**

   5.1. **Council discussed** the current proposals for the Airfield at Colerne, and to consider the traffic implications for Batheaston, and specifically Bannerdown.

   5.2. Unfortunately, Richard Tonge, Chair of Colerne Parish Council, was unable to attend. The Clerk related the information he had heard from him, noting that the plans for very substantial development of the Airfield are included in the current draft of the Wiltshire Local Plan, which is at an earlier stage than B&NES; it is still open to substantial change.

   5.3. Councillors expressed concern that there is no evidence of a credible plan for access, for HGVs and other traffic during construction, nor resident traffic thereafter. By default, therefore, the assumption has to be that this will substantially increase traffic along Bannerdown Road, through the centre of Batheaston and along London Road (East or West), all of which are inappropriate routes; unable to sustain a substantial increase in traffic.

5.4. Councillors asked the Clerk to contact B&NES planning policy to raise early concerns regarding the impact of the development on Batheaston – additional traffic down Bannerdown and London road.

Clerk

5.5. **Council received** a report on the B&NES Local Plan pre-submission draft and **Council approved** a formal response.

6. Publication Scheme

6.1. **Council approved** the Publication Scheme for the Parish Council, in accordance with Freedom of Information legislation.

7. Grant Awarding Policy

7.1. **The Clerk withdrew** the item, noting that the current policy is not in need of review.

FINANCE

8. Finance Committee Report

8.1. **Council received** a report on the meeting of 15th September from the Chair of the Finance Committee.

8.2. **Council noted** the request to the Clerk to consider upgrading the Public Conveniences, with the expectation of increasing the charge for use.

8.2.1. The Clerk commented that he has had preliminary meetings with two contractors and is expecting indicative prices to be able to present a proposal for a project to a future meeting.

8.3. **Council noted** the process for the development of the budget and precept for 2027/28.

9. Finance Operations Matters

9.1. **Council noted** the record of transactions for September 2026 are now on the Council website.

9.2. **Council received** a report on the current status of finances.

9.2.1. He noted that operational spend and income are both approx. £9k below budget, resulting in a forecast outturn on budget.

9.2.2. He has assumed that Council will grant the budgeted amount of £10k in Community Grants.

9.2.3. currently known Exceptional Items are projected to finish the year above budget by £14k, and Projects by a similar amount, which would result in an outturn on budget. There is however the possibility of further unexpected costs.

HUMAN RESOURCES

10. Human Resources (HR) Committee

10.1. **Council received** a report on the meeting of 15th September from the Chair of the Human Resources Committee.

10.1.1. **Council approved** staff Christmas bonuses for 2026.

WORKING GROUPS

11. Highways Transport and Planning Working Group

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

11.1.1. **Council approved** funds of up to £1,000 for the Christmas Lights,

11.1.1.1. Cllr McCarthy noted that the likely cost is actually of the order of £500

11.1.2. **Council approved** up to £300 for the Winter Hanging Baskets.

11.1.3. **Council approved** up to £100 for the party to celebrate the switching on of the Christmas lights.

11.1.4. Motion to approve up to £5,000 for streetlights we have to the north of the playground (Muddy Lane, Scout Hut area).

11.1.4.1. The Clerk explained that this sum is required to renew the power connection between these lights, which has caused two failures within the past 12 months.

11.1.4.2. The engineer recommendation that when this work is undertaken the columns are replaced.

11.1.4.3. The expectation is that he had heard within the past couple of days that the cost is actually likely to be higher, at about £5,500.

11.1.4.4. Council amended the motion to approve up to £6,000.

11.1.4.5. Councillors commented that this area is very heavily used and is very dark at night when these lights are needed.

11.1.4.6. **Council approved** the amended motion

11.1.5. Motion to approve up to £5,000 for a Speed Indicator Device, to be positioned according to advice from the Police and B&NES Highways Officers, but initially on the High Street near to the Penthouse Steps capturing eastbound traffic (travelling towards Bath).

11.1.5.1. Councillors were concerned that a device at the proposed location would have little effect.

11.1.5.2. **Council deferred** the motion.

11.1.5.3. Councillors asked the Clerk to investigate the costs, in particular of the installation and removal to re-install at another location.

12. Nature and Environment Working Group

12.1. In the absence of Cllr Lewis, there was no report.

12.2. **Council noted** the Stream Clean undertaken by members of Grow Batheaston and local company Future Positive.

12.3. **Council noted** the recent report from the River Care group of Grow Batheaston on water quality in Parish watercourses.

12.3.1. **Council noted** the completion of the stone masonry repairs in the Secret Garden.

12.4. **Council noted** that quite extensive tree surgery will result from the recent tree survey, for which a procurement process will begin shortly.

13. Communication and Community Working Group

13.1. **Council received** a verbal report, including from the meeting of the Batheaston Leadership Group which had just taken place, immediately before this meeting.

13.2. **Council noted** that the Clerk will bring an updated Communications Plan to a Council meeting, with the aim of reducing cost while reaching more residents.

13.3. **Council noted** the progress on installation of noticeboards and **Council approved** a policy on the management of information displayed and posters publicly displayed elsewhere.

13.4. **Council received** a report from the Clerk on the provision of defibrillators in the parish and **Council did not approve** to progress to install devices.

13.5. **Council resolved** to set the date for the Riverside Party in 2027 as either Saturday 17th or Sunday 18th July 2027, and to initiate planning.

14. Batheaston Sports Foundation (BSF)

14.1. **Council received** a verbal report from Cllr Peachey, one of the Trustees of the BSF.

14.2. **Council approved** the nomination of Craig Brooks as a Trustee of Batheaston Sports Foundation.

14.3. **Council approved** the payment of £10,000 to cover BSF costs as follows:

14.3.1. To provide up to £1,000 to purchase new goalposts for the Coalpit Road pitch, with 75% of the funding from the Football Foundation, and the possibility of further contribution from community fund-raising.

14.3.2. To provide up to £6,000 for the woodland walk along St Catherine Brook, with 50% funding expected from the West of England Combined Authority Mayor's Community Nature Fund.

14.3.3. To cover operational costs including trust insurance.

14.4. **Council approved** the proposal for the Woodland Walk along St Catherine Brook, as submitted to West of England Combined Authority Mayor's Community Nature Fund to cover half of the costs.

STANDING ITEMS AND REPORTS

15. Planning Applications

15.1. **Council resolved not to oppose** to submit responses on the following Planning Application to Bath and North East Somerset Council (B&NES):

15.1.1. Reference Number: 26/03372/LBA

15.1.2. Reference Number: 26/03766/TCA.

15.2. **Council noted** that the following applications on which the Council commented are still under consideration:

15.2.1. Reference Number: 26/02351/FUL, The Vine House Bailbrook Lane BA1 7AB

15.2.2. Reference Number: 26/02406/VAR, Site Of Former Nursery, Bailbrook Lane, Lower Swainswick

15.2.3. Reference Number: 26/02348/FUL, Catholic Church of the Good Shepherd Northend BA1 7EN.

15.3. **Council noted** that a pre-application requesting an Environmental Impact Assessment has been registered with B&NES, 26/03265/SCREEN, for a proposed development of 9-12 houses on the site of a former nursery behind the Batch.

15.3.1. Councillors noted that there is considerable concern amongst nearby residents and will pay particular attention to any subsequent full application.

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

16. Clerk's Report

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

16.1.1. **Council noted** the request to investigate the establishment of a bookable transport organisation, along of that previously operated by the Batheaston Neighbourhood Group and to consider options to take this forward.

16.1.1.1. The Clerk commented that the Parish Council could not take on the responsibility for such a service but could assist a separate entity.

16.1.2. **Council noted** the progress in planning and publicity for the Home Energy events in November.

16.1.3. **Council resolved** to set the date for the Annual Village Meeting in 2027 as Tuesday 23rd March.

16.1.4. **Council noted** the plans to create a basic level of Emergency Response Coordination.

16.1.5. **Council noted** that the trial of the pop-up sauna at dawn at the riverside is proceeding with three mornings to be scheduled over the next few months.

17. Chair's Report

17.1. **Council received** a verbal report from the Chairman.

Meeting Closed at 9:16pm

Forthcoming Meetings:

Parish Council Meeting, 10th November 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: 16th October 2026