

**Minutes of a Meeting of Batheaston Parish Council
held at Tuesday 8th September 2026
at the Rhymes Pavilion**

**Present: Cllrs Peter Bryant, Arif Butt, Peter Lewis,
Catherine McCarthy and Sue Peachey**



PROCEDURAL MATTERS

- 1. Council accepted** apologies for absence from Cllrs Gray, Squire, Pavlou and Skelton.
 - 1.1. In the absence of both the Chair and Vice Chair of Council, **Council elected** Cllr Butt to chair the meeting,
- 2. An application for co-option to join the Council.**
 - 2.1. Alice Lowe described her background and reasons for applying to be a Councillor.
 - 2.2. **Council elected** Ms Lowe as a Councillor
 - 2.3. Cllr Lowe duly signed the declaration of acceptance form, which the Clerk counter signed.

Cllr Lowe joined the meeting.
- 3. There were no declarations of interest** from Councillors.
- 4. Public participation** regarding matters on the agenda.
 - 4.1. Fiona Monk, the manager of the Citizens Advice Bureau for B&NES (CAB), attended the meeting to present the application for a grant (Item 7.1).
 - 4.1.1. Fiona introduced the CAB, and explained that it is an autonomous organisation, financially independent on the national organisation. In the past, it has relied principally on funding from B&NES, but this has not increased over recent years, meaning that they have had to make savings, in particular making the trainer role redundant.
 - 4.1.2. They are therefore applying to local councils in B&NES, seeking grants according to the use made of the service by their residents.
 - 4.1.3. She highlighted that 51 residents of Batheaston were directly helped by the CAB in the past year, of whom 23 were disabled.
 - 4.1.4. The Clerk confirmed that the Council is allowed to fund a regional organisation if there is direct benefit to the residents of Batheaston.
 - 4.1.5. The Chair brought forward Item 7.1.



7.1. Council approved a grant of £1,000 to Citizens Advice BANES.

- 7.1.1 Councillors asked that the service be promoted in the village through the channels available, and possibly at events.

Clerk

- 4.2. A resident attended in support of item 12.1.3, Planning Application, Reference Number: 26/02310/LBA.

4.2.1. He briefly outlined the application.

4.2.2. The chair brought forward the Item

12.1.3 Reference Number: 26/02310/LBA

Site Location: 189 High Street Batheaston BA1 7DP

Description of Proposal: Replacement of existing timber glazed link with a heritage aluminium, and restoration to damaged sash window in barn.

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

- 4.3. A resident attended to support the application for funds to produce a history of Batheaston, Item 10.2.

4.3.1. She outlined the background to the bid. The objective is to produce a collection of memories of elderly residents, to serve as successor to the book produced in 1976.

4.3.2. She emphasised that £1,000 is the upper limit of the contribution needed, with the possibility of contributions from WERN and others.

4.3.3. She is not seeking remuneration for her work. The funds will principally be used to provide free copies to contributors; it would be sold to others at a reasonable price.

4.3.4. Councillors asked the Clerk to liaise with the resident to ensure that the book could be made available in digital format, and to confirm the Parish Council's rights to reproduce the book.

4.3.5. The Chair brought forward the item.

- 10.2. To approve £1,000 to fund the production of a follow-up book to "Village Life 1883–1940: Batheaston Remembers" which was published in 1976.

10.2.1 **Council approved** an amendment to "To resolve to support the production of a follow-up book to "Village Life 1883–1940: Batheaston Remembers" (published in 1976), committing to provide up to £1,000 subject to presentation of valid expenses"

10.2.2 **Council approved** the amended motion.



5. Minutes of Previous Meetings

- 5.1. **Council approved** the minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 14th July 2026.

FINANCE

6. Finance Operations Matters

- 6.1. **Council noted** completion of the AGAR audit for 2025/26, and associated actions.

- 6.1.1. The Clerk commented that the only recommendation from the External Auditor was to reduce the general reserve. This has been resolved.

- 6.2. **Council noted** the record of transactions for July and August 2026, which are on the website.

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

- 6.3.1. The Clerk commented that in broad terms the financial position is as budgeted, with a forecast balanced budget.

7. Community Grants

- 7.1.1. **Item taken earlier.**

WORKING GROUPS

8. Highways Transport and Planning Working Group

- 8.1. **Council received** a verbal report from Cllr McCarthy.

- 8.1.1. She commented that following the accident on the High Street in July caused by an intoxicated driver, residents had asked B&NES to take action. The response was that they would not at this stage, as there was insufficient evidence of speeding.

- 8.1.1.1. B&NES had suggested that the Council might wish to install a Speed Indicator Device. Council requested that the Clerk ask B&NES what actions they would take if this provided evidence of frequent and excessive speeding.

Clerk

- 8.1.2. Cllr McCarthy noted that B&NES' proposals for changes to parking restrictions have been distributed. She commented that she views these as positive: they address problems at junctions which have impeded buses, but the overall result is a reduction in restrictions.



- 8.1.3. Cllr McCarthy reported on the closure on Northend and the use of the Catherine Way as a diversion route over the summer.

8.1.3.1. She said that there were some problems initially, with some complaints and disruption of parking restrictions imposed by Wessex Water. She had however spoken to the people concerned and reached an amicable conclusion.

8.1.3.2. She noted that the road was reopened earlier than initially notified.

- 8.1.4. **Council approved** up to £300 for 7 new drought-resistant bushes for our planters around the village.

9. Nature and Environment Working Group

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

9.1.1. Climate Change and Biodiversity.

9.1.1.1. **Council noted** the establishment of a sub-group of Grow Batheaston to focus on these matters.

9.1.1.2. He said that as Leader of the Working Group he was happy to take up their suggestion that this be a standing item on the Council's agenda.

- 9.1.2. **Council deferred** "To resolve to adopt the Avon Charter, to formally recognise the intrinsic value of the River Avon, and our shared duty to care for it"

9.1.2.1. Cllrs were keen to ensure that they understand what specific commitments the Council would be making, and how these would be put into effect.

- 9.1.3. **Council noted** that the stone masonry repairs in the Secret Garden are due to be completed within the next couple of weeks.

- 9.1.4. **Council noted** that the tree surgery and tree survey has been completed, and that further tree surgery will be undertaken in the autumn, following a procurement process.

10. Communication and Community Working Group

- 10.1. In Cllr Skelton's absence, there was no report

10.2. **Item take earlier.**

11. Batheaston Sports Foundation (BSF)

- 11.1. **Council received** a verbal report from Cllr Bryant, Chair of the Trustees.

11.1.1. He described the meetings with Architects over the summer, and the intention to move forward with one of them in the near future.



11.1.2. First steps have been taken towards fund raising, and a solicitor has been engaged to establish the lease of land and facilities from the Council.

11.2. **Council approved** the proposal for the Woodland Walk along St Catherine Brook, and the intention to apply for a grant from West of England Combined Authority Mayor's Community Nature Fund to cover half of the costs.

11.2.1. The Clerk explained that the deadline for the submission to this fund had been extended to 13th October, and that he would therefore have the chance to bring the final submission to Council at its next meeting.

Clerk

STANDING ITEMS AND REPORTS

12. Planning Applications

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

12.1.1. Reference Number: [26/02545/LBA](#)

Application Type: Listed Building Consent (Alts/exts)

Site Location: 22 Northend Batheaston BA1 7EN

Description of Proposal: Damp remediation works to existing basement vault. The proposed works involves the installation of a Type C Cavity Drainage system.

12.1.2. Reference Number: [26/03157/FUL](#)

Site Location: 9 Barnfield Way Batheaston BA1 7PW

Description of Proposal: Proposed rear dormer loft conversion with internal alterations to the ground floor, raising the front gable ridge, demolition of the detached garage, acoustic timber fence around rear boundary and shed.

12.1.3. Item taken earlier

12.1.4. Reference Number: [26/02798/FUL](#)

Site Location: 215 London Road East Batheaston BA1 7NB

Description of Proposal: Change of use of veterinary clinic (class E(e) with ancillary use as residential on first floor to dwelling house (C3).

12.1.5. Reference Number: [26/02711/TCA](#)

Application Type: Tree Works Notification in Con Area

Site Location: Garden House Church Lane Batheaston BA1 7EF

Description of Proposal: T1- Cypress- Fell. T2- Bay- Fell.



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

- 12.2.1. Reference Number: [26/02351/FUL](#), The Vine House Bailbrook Lane BA1 7AB
- 12.2.2. Reference Number: [26/02406/VAR](#), Site Of Former Nursery, Bailbrook Lane, Lower Swainswick
- 12.2.3. Reference Number: [26/02348/FUL](#), Catholic Church of the Good Shepherd Northend BA1 7EN.

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

- 12.3.1. Application Number: 26/02522/FUL Decision PERMIT
- 12.3.2. Application Number: 26/02711/TCA decision No Objection
- 12.3.3. Application Number: 26/02168/FUL decision PERMIT
- 12.3.4. Application Number: 26/02465/VAR Decision PERMIT
- 12.3.5. Application Number: 26/01876/FUL Decision PERMIT

12.4. **Council noted** that these decisions align with the comments of the Council, with the exception of 12.3.2 and 12.3.5 on which the Council did not submit comments.

13. Clerk's Report

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

- 13.1.1. He summarised the matters of interest to the Parish in the B&NES Local Plan: that there are no developments proposed in the Parish, but there are proposals for housing and commercial development on Box Road.
- 13.1.2. **Council noted** the plans for the Energy at Home events on Tuesday 4th and Saturday 7th November.
 - 13.1.2.1. He commented that this would be publicised widely, both by the Parish Council and by B&NES.
- 13.1.3. **Council noted** the progress in assessing the options for installing defibrillators in the Parish.
- 13.1.4. **Council deferred** consideration of the adoption of the defibrillator at the Medical Centre pending further consideration.



14. Chair's Report

14.1. **Council received** a verbal report from Cllr Butt.

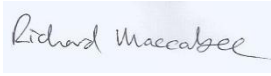
14.1.1. He warmly welcomed Cllr Lowe.

Meeting Closed at 8:51pm

Forthcoming Meetings:

Parish Council Meeting, 13th October 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: 11th September 2026