

**Minutes of a Meeting of Batheaston Parish Council
held at 7:15pm on Monday 23rd March 2026
at the Rhymes Pavilion**



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

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1. **Council accepted** apologies for absence from Cllr Butt and Peachey
2. There were **no declarations of interest** from Councillors.
3. **Public participation** regarding matters on the agenda.
 - 3.1. Residents attended to speak on Item 8.2, the on the "Energy in your Community" project.
 - 3.1.1. They made a number of comments critical of the process and the project.
 - 3.2. The Parish Warden for the Cotswold Volunteers attended to support the grant application, at Item 6.2
 - 3.2.1. He described the work of the Cotswolds Warden Volunteers noting that over 600 hours of work had been undertaken in the Parish last year.
 - 3.2.2. Council brought forward the item.
 - 6.2 Council approved** a grant of £1,000 to the Cotswolds Wardens.
 - 3.3. Residents of Upper Northend attended to support Item 9.2, regarding defibrillators and other life-saving equipment.
 - 3.3.1. They commented that they are more than the recommended 8-10 minute round-trip from the nearest defibrillator at the New Village Hall.
 - 3.3.2. They also said that the chance of survival following a heart attack increases from 5% to 40-70% if a defibrillator is used.
 - 3.3.3. Council **brought forward** the item.
 - 9.2 Council approved** a proposal to specify the requirements for defibrillators and other life-saving equipment in the village, with a view to bringing a costed project proposal to a future meeting of the Council.
 - 3.4. The applicant for the Planning Application, Item 12.1.4, spoke in support of the application.
 - 3.4.1. Council **brought forward** the item.
 - 12.1.4 Council **resolved not to oppose**
Reference Number: 26/00680/VAR



4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

- 4.1. **Council approved** the minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 10th February 2026.

5. Finances

- 5.1. **Council noted** the current status of finances including expected spend in final weeks of financial year.
- 5.2. **Council approved** the public statement on the 2026/27 Precept.
- 5.3. **Council approved** the budget for 2026/27.
- 5.3.1. Clerk commented the utilities supplies had been fixed recently.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

6. Community Grants

- 6.1. **To approve** a grant of £7,500 to the Batheaston Youth Club.
- 6.1.1. The Chair invited Rob Mimmack, a Trustee of the Youth Club, to introduce the application.
- 6.1.2. He commented that a lot of work had been to upgrade the building and to reinvigorate the activities at the Youth Club.
- 6.1.3. He noted that the Youth Club does possess significant reserves, although most of these are ear-marked for building work. Nevertheless some of the reserves could fund expenses for the next few months.
- 6.1.4. Councillors commended the work of the Youth Club, with the introduction of new activities. In particular, they welcomed the moves to make it more financially sustainable.
- 6.1.5. They reasserted the importance of supporting a Youth Club in the village.
- 6.1.6. **Council approved** an amendment to the motion to reduce the grant to £5,000.
- 6.1.7. **Council approved** the amended motion: to award a grant of £5,000 to the Batheaston Youth Club.
- 6.2. **Item taken earlier.**



WORKING GROUPS

7. Highways Transport and Planning Working Group

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

7.1.1. **Council noted** that B&NES will be progressing changes to restrictions on Northend (opposite Church Lane) and around Catherine Way, to reduce pinch points which delay buses.

7.1.1.1. Cllr McCarthy explained the rationale for each of these changes, noting she is loth to support the addition of restrictions, but in both cases, they are the minimum required.

7.1.1.2. The Clerk noted that these would be taken forward by B&NES to be formally proposed as Traffic Regulations Orders for public consultation. These are expected to be published this summer.

7.2. **To approve** a further £2,500 for the purchase and installation of noticeboards in the Parish.

7.2.1. This supplements the £3,000 that Council approved in November 2022.

7.2.2. Councillors discussed the significant expense. They also noted the considerable interest amongst key stakeholders in maintaining all of the noticeboards.

7.2.3. **Council approved** the item.

7.3. **To approve** up to £2,000 to install an additional street light on Victoria Gardens.

7.3.1. **Council deferred** the item pending further consultation.

7.4. **Council approved** the decision not to relocate the West View Road light to the north side of the road.

7.4.1. The clerk will progress the repair of the light in its current location.

7.5. **Council approved** up to £600 for 15 hanging baskets with plants for the centre of the village.

8. Nature and Environment Working Group

8.1. **Council received** a verbal report from Cllr Lewis.

8.1.1. He commended the fantastic work done by the volunteers in the Secret Garden and the Forest Garden.

8.1.2. He reminded Council that there will be an Open Afternoon at the Secret Garden on 25th April.



- 8.2. **Council received** a verbal report on Energy in your Community, including from Councillors who attended the meeting called by members of the public on 5th March.

8.2.1. Cllr Squire commented that she and other Councillors attended the meeting.

8.2.2. She had subsequently had an update from B&NES and CSE in which they had indicated that they intended to halt the strand of the project seeking sites in Batheaston and St Catherine Parishes.

- 8.3. **To approve** a statement of the Parish Council's position and role in the project.

8.3.1. Councillors expressed concerns about the statement.

8.3.2. Council **voted to defer the motion**.

- 8.4. **Council approved** continuation of weekly professional cleaning of the Public Conveniences at the Riverside at a cost of approximately £240 per month as a standing commitment and until further notice.

9. Communication and Community Working Group

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

9.1.1. She noted that she has had to step back from the role for an extended period for personal reasons but hoped now to re-engage and to work with the Clerk to improve communications.

- 9.2. **Item taken earlier: To approve** a proposal to specify the requirements for defibrillators and other life-saving equipment in the village, with a view to bringing a costed project proposal to a future meeting of the Council.

10. Batheaston Sports Foundation

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

10.1.1. Cllr Bryant outlined the project.

- 10.2. **Council approved** the nomination for Richard Turner as a trustee.

11. Summer Party 2026

- 11.1. **Council deferred** the item to consider progress on the preparation for the party on the Riverside on 6th June.

STANDING ITEMS AND REPORTS

12. Planning Applications

- 12.1. **To resolve** to submit responses on the following Planning Applications to Bath and North East Somerset Council:

12.1.1. Reference Number: 26/00528/TCA



- 12.1.1.1. The Clerk noted that he had received notification of the decision by B&NES, "No objection", so the item was withdrawn.

Council **resolved not to oppose** the following Planning Applications to Bath and North East Somerset Council:

12.1.2. Reference Number: 26/00608/TCA

12.1.3. Reference Number: 26/00523/FUL

12.1.4. Item taken earlier.

12.1.5. Reference Number: [26/00846/FUL](#)

12.1.6. Reference Number: 26/00859/FUL

12.1.7. Reference Number: 26/00912/LBA

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

12.2.1. Application Number: 26/00103/TCA Decision: No Objection

12.2.2. Application Number: 26/00135/FUL Decision: PERMIT

- 12.3. **Council noted** that these decisions accorded with those of the Parish Council

13. Clerk's Report

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

13.1.1. He noted that he has responded to a Freedom of Information request regarding the Bathampton Meadows Alliance.

13.1.2. He is also working with local residents to gather evidence to submit to the Planning Inspectorate in support of the adoption of a footpath in Charmy Down.

14. Chair's Report

- 14.1. **Council received** a verbal report from the Chairman.

14.1.1. She thanked all for their attendance and contribution to a difficult meeting.

Meeting closed at 9:19pm

Forthcoming Meetings:

Parish Council Meeting, 21st April 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: 6th April 2026