

Batheaston Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Batheaston Parish Council
held at 7:15pm on Tuesday 20th June 2023 at the Rhymes Pavilion.

Present: Councillors Hannah Squire (Chair of Council),
Peter Bryant, Wesley Hallam, Peter Lewis, Catherine McCarthy,
Alexis Pavlou, and Kate Skelton.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1. Public participation regarding matters on the agenda.

1.1. Ref removal of the streetlight, High Bannerdown, Item 5

The chair noted that Councillors had read the emails the Council had received over the past month, and that she understands the depth of concerns.

1.2. She explained that the Council provides a small number of streetlights in the Parish, most of which were installed a number of years ago, in circumstances that the Principal Authority did not believe that a light was required.

1.3. Residents reiterated these concerns:

1.3.1. Concern over the lack of consultation, and communication of the decision to remove the light.

1.3.2. The junction of High Bannerdown and Bannerdown Road is particularly dangerous, with limited visibility and there have been multiple road traffic accidents or near-misses. Traffic including cycles regularly exceed the speed limit.

1.3.3. Ward Councillor Sarah Warren commented that BANES Road Safety Engineer had visited the location and reaffirmed that it is a dangerous junction, and that a streetlight is highly recommended.

The Chair brought the item forward.

5. Removal of the Streetlight from High Bannerdown

5.1. To note that residents of High Bannerdown has expressed significant concerns about the removal of this light and the manner in which it was decided.

5.2. Councillors accepted that there should have been consultation on the removal of the light. The Chair apologised for this.

5.3. Councillors expressed the view that given the advice from the Road Safety Engineer, it should be for BANES to provide the streetlight at this junction.

5.4. Councillors would like to discuss this with Ward Councillors and Officers but accepted that however it is provided the streetlight should be reinstated.

Pending these discussions, the **Chair proposed to defer** the motion to approve the reinstatement of a light at a cost of up to £2,000.

Council approved the motion to defer.



2. **Council received apologies for absence** from Cllrs Gray and Peachey.
3. There were **no declarations of interest** from Councillors.
4. **Minutes of Previous Meetings**
 - 4.1. **Council approved** the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council held on 16th May 2023.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

5. **Removal of the Streetlight from High Bannerdown**
- item taken earlier
6. **Playground Working Group**

- 6.1. **Council received** a report from the Working Group
- 6.2. Cllr Squire congratulated Cllr Skelton on the fantastic work that she is doing and thanked her on behalf of Council.
- 6.3. Cllr Skelton described the progress so far, which has not been without challenges, particularly relating to access to the site. It is however on schedule, and the facilities are already looking good. She has heard very positive feedback from residents, particularly local children.
- 6.4. A key stage will be the installation of the play surface, which should be allowed to set, un- disturbed, for 24 hours. Weather depending, this is hoped to be next Tuesday, 27th June. The final stage will be a safety inspection which she hopes will be undertaken by Friday 7th July.
- 6.5. Councillors were keen that some form of celebration to open the playground. Cllr Skelton will liaise with the Clerk will liaise.

Cllr Skelton / Clerk

7. Highways

- 7.1. **Council considered** the consultation from BANES regarding changes to parking restriction in the Parish. No significant changes or additions were identified.
- 7.2. **Council noted** that Cllr McCarthy is now planning to recruit volunteers to monitor speeds on the High Street: at the bottom of Penthouse Steps (traffic approaching from Stambridge), and opposite the water trough (traffic entering Batheaston)
- 7.3. **Council approved** the working arrangements with CURO to oversee the opening of the "green gates" (at the junction of Catherine Way and Steway Lane) in exceptional circumstances.



7.4. **Council considered** the request from BANES to nominate Local Green Spaces for special protection.

7.4.1. Council approved that the following spaces would be put forward for consideration:

- Charmy Down;
- Bannerdown Common;
- Bathampton Meadows;
- Riverside including Secret Garden;
- The "Allotments" above Elmhurst Estate (to the east of Nos. 35 to 79).

8. Rhymes Pavilion Working Group

8.1. **Council resolved** that the Working Group will submit an expression of interest to the Community Ownership Fund. The Clerk will coordinate the submission.

Clerk

9. Establishment of a Charity

9.1. **Council approved** the draft constitution of the charity Batheaston Sports Foundation

9.2. Council nominated: Councillors Bryant, Pavlou and Squire as the inaugural trustees.

GOVERNANCE MATTERS

10. Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)

10.1. **Council received** a report from the Clerk summarising the process for submission of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return

10.1.1. He commented that the process had been smoother than in previous years, as it has been possible to conduct it entirely digitally.

10.1.2. The outcome of the audit is also much more positive than in previous years, albeit there is still work to be done on Risk Management processes and reviewing the Asset Register.

10.2. **Council received** the Internal Auditor's Report and Recommendations

10.3. **Council approved** the Annual Governance and Accountability Statement.

10.4. **Council approved** the Accounting Statements.



- 10.5. The Clerk and Chair of the meeting signed the forms which the Clerk will submit to the External Auditors forthwith.

Clerk

- 10.6. **Council noted** that the 30-day period for the public to inspect documents (the "Exercise of Public Rights") will be announced the following day, and will commence on Friday 23rd June and end on Thursday 3rd August 2023.

FINANCE MATTERS

11. Bathampton Meadows Alliance

- 11.1. **Council discussed** draft response to the consultation from the BMA Working Group that recommends that the remaining funds should be donated to the National Trust.

11.1.1. The clerk noted that he had been contacted by a resident who dispute the basis on which the consultation is being carried out. He had reassured the resident that the Council is not endorsing the consultation, but nevertheless given that there are funds remaining, it was valid for the Council, as a donor to the Alliance, to express a view on the distribution of remaining funds.

11.1.2. A variety of views were expressed by Councillors. Some were in support of the proposed response to agree that the money should go to the National Trust.

11.1.3. Others proposed an amendment "that the response should be as follows:
Q1. Do you agree that the money raised to protect Bathampton Meadows should be spent on the Meadows?
"No"

Q2 Do you agree that the money should be transferred to the National Trust for the benefit of the Meadows and/or for activities on the Meadows:
"No"

Q3 If you do not agree that the funds should be transferred to the National Trust, what do you think they should be spent on and which organisation(s) should administer these funds?

"The money should either be given in equal parts to Batheaston and Bathampton Parish Councils, or to charities in the locality".

11.1.4. **Council approved** the amendment, and **approved the amended motion**.

11.1.5. The Clerk will submit the response.

Clerk

12. Finance Operations Matters

- 12.1. **Council approved** the transactions undertaken in April and May 2023



STANDING ITEMS AND REPORTS

13. Planning Applications

- 13.1. Council reviewed the following planning applications from Bath and North East Somerset Council and resolved not to oppose:

Reference Number: 23/01795/TPO
Reference Number: 23/01815/FUL
Reference Number: 23/01527/FUL
Reference Number: 23/01990/TCA
Reference Number: 23/01720/FUL
Reference Number: 23/02180/TCA

- 13.2. Council noted that an appeal against a decision on planning application [22/03918/FUL](#) has been notified by Bath and North East Somerset Council.

- 13.3. Council noted the following planning applications have been notified by Bath and North East Somerset Council since the last meeting:

- 13.3.1. Application Number: 23/01559/TCA, No Objection, and noted that this accorded with the Council's response, which was not to object.

14. Clerk's Report

- 14.1. Council received a report from the Clerk, including these items:

14.1.1. They noted that the Annual Village Meeting, on 23rd May 2023, had been a success with approximately 50 residents in attendance. There was a small concern that two issues had been raised in the meeting which reflected a misinterpretation of the Council's position, and created an unnecessarily negative impression. These were being addressed by the Clerk.

14.1.2. Council approved the renewal of support and maintenance of the Council's Finance Systems for 3 years.

14.1.3. Council approved the upgrade of the website system to the latest version and the associated Google Analytics.

15. Chairman's Report

- 15.1. Council received an oral report from the Chairman; she reiterated her thanks to Cllr Skelton.

The meeting closed at 9:23 pm

Forthcoming Meetings:

Parish Council Meeting, 18th July 2023.

Council meetings are open to the public, and members of the public are welcome to join and may speak by invitation.

