

Batheaston Parish Council

**Minutes of a Meeting of Batheaston Parish Council
held at 7:15pm on Tuesday 18th July 2023 at the Rhymes Pavilion.**

**Present: Councillors Hannah Squire (Chair of Council),
Peter Bryant, Evie Gray, Wesley Hallam, Peter Lewis,
Catherine McCarthy, Sue Peachey, and Kate Skelton.**

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1. Public participation regarding matters on the agenda.

1.1. A resident commented on Item 10, AGAR

1.1.1. She explained that she had noticed some significant errors in the submitted Accounting Statements, which she had highlighted to the Clerk who had confirmed that they were errors. He is presenting the corrected documents today.

1.1.2. She commented that these were not minor errors, and in one case, should have been obvious to Councillors.

1.1.3. Cllr Squire indicated that she would discuss the matter with the Clerk, with a view to bringing any proposals for a change of process or structure to the next meeting.

1.2. A resident commented on Item 8, Playground Working Group

1.2.1. She asked what the budget position for the Playground Project was. The Clerk explained that the Budget had been approved at a previous Council meeting, and although the finances were not quite complete, he and Cllr Skelton are confident that the project will have been delivered within the approved sum.

1.2.2. Further, the resident asked if Councillors were aware that legislation (Deposit Return Scheme) due to come into force in 2025 will incentivise retailers to collect recycling, and thereby make an investment in a bin with recycled containers redundant.

1.2.3. Councillors noted her comments.

1.3. A resident attended regarding Item 9, the Rhymes Pavilion.

1.4. A resident attended regarding Item 6, Removal of the Streetlight from High Bannerdown

1.4.1. They noted that it has always been a particularly dangerous junction and is even more so now that cyclists sometimes pass it at high speeds.

2. Council received apologies for absence from Cllr Alexis Pavlou

3. Council approved the co-option of Dr Arif Butt to become a Councillor.

3.1. He duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance.

He joined the meeting as a Councillor.


12-18-23

4. There were no declarations of interest from Councillors.

5. Minutes of Previous Meetings

5.1. Council approved the minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 20th June 2023.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

6. Removal of the Streetlight from High Bannerdown

6.1. Council noted that the advice from the Safety Engineer of the Highways Department of Bath and North East Somerset Council was to the effect that a streetlight is not required at the junction. He proposes instead reflective bollards and changes to the configuration of the junction.

6.2. Council approved the motion to approve the reinstatement of a light at a cost of up to £2,000.

Clerk

7. Playground Working Group

7.1. Council received a verbal report from Cllr Skelton.

7.1.1. She commented that the site security has been removed, safety inspection completed, and that the new section of the playground is now fully in use. Councillors noted that they had heard many positive comments about it and offered Cllr Skelton their congratulations.

7.1.2. The Clerk noted that he will present a final summary of the finances at the next meeting.

7.2. Council considered an item for the installation of a new bin with containers for recycled waste at a total cost for purchase and installation of up to £2,000, and with an annual increase in costs of up to £640.

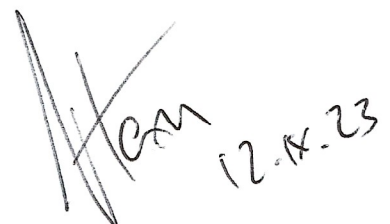
7.2.1. They noted that the "brown bear bin" is to be removed, as it is not sanitary, and it is far from ideal to make a bin attractive to young children.

7.2.2. Cllr Skelton explained that the cost includes installation, safely and securely (on a concrete base).

7.2.3. Councillors were in favour of encouraging recycling if possible and would wish to extend the practice to other Parish Council sites if it is successful.

7.2.4. Council approved the resolution.

Clerk / Cllr Skelton

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8. Highways

- 8.1. **Council noted** the actions the Council is taking regarding speeding in the village.
 - 8.1.1. Cllr McCarthy explained that she had held further discussions with the Police Community Support Officer. They plan to monitor speeding on two or three days per month at locations on the High Street.
 - 8.1.2. A number of people have offered to help, and they will be briefed by the PCSO to ensure that the operation is carried out safely.
- 8.2. Cllr McCarthy also noted that she and Ward Cllr Warren have been addressing complaints of pavement parking on Northend which has been obstructing pedestrians, and also farm traffic. It seems that the only option may be to ask Bath and North East Somerset Council to install double yellow lines may be needed to address the matter.

9. Rhymes Pavilion Working Group

- 9.1. **Council discussed** a motion to approve a plan to ensure that the Rhymes Pavilion can continue to operate for the next 2 years, while plans for refurbishment and replacement are drawn up, with allocation of funds of up to £3,000 for repairs and minor improvements.
 - 9.1.1. Councillors noted the views expressed by the members of the public; that many in the community value the Rhymes Pavilion highly, and that Penny's Pantry provides a service to some isolated and vulnerable members of the community.
 - 9.1.2. They also noted that they are obliged to make a decision for the long-term, "for tomorrow's needs, not just today's". It was noted that there are a number of community buildings in the village which offer similar accommodation.
 - 9.1.3. The problems that closing the building might cause in respect of vandalism were also noted.
 - 9.1.4. **Council rejected** the motion and instructed the Rhymes Pavilion Working Group to close the building, pending an assessment of H&S issues, and to develop plans for BPC September.
- 9.2. **Council noted** that the Working Group intend to consult widely on the future of the Rhymes Pavilion in September, via the Batheaston Times, noticeboards, and all available online channels to engage as widely as possible.

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GOVERNANCE MATTERS

10. Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)

10.1. **Clerk received** a report on errors identified in the Accounting Statements as approved at the June meeting.

10.1.1. Cllr Squire undertook to discuss with the Clerk ways in which the process could be improved the process for future.

Cllr Squire / Clerk

10.2. **Council approved** the submission of the corrected Annual Governance Accounting Statements.

10.3. **Council approved** the submission of the Clerk's Conflict of Interest Form.

FINANCE MATTERS

11. Finance Operations Matters

11.1. **Council approved** the transactions undertaken in June 2023.

STANDING ITEMS AND REPORTS

12. Planning Applications

12.1. **Council reviewed** the following planning applications from Bath and North East Somerset Council, and resolved not to oppose:

12.1.1. Reference Number: 23/02125/FUL

12.1.2. Reference Number: 23/02126/LBA

12.1.3. Reference Number: 23/02184/LBA

12.1.4. Reference Number: 23/02316/FUL

12.1.5. Reference Number: 23/02327/TCA

12.1.6. Reference Number: 23/02430/VAR

Clerk

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

12.2.1. Application Number: 23/01527/FUL Decision: PERMIT

12.2.2. Application Number: 23/01815/FUL Decision: PERMIT

12.2.3. Application Number: 23/01795/TPO Decision: CONSENT

12.2.4. Application Number: 23/00826/FUL Decision: PERMIT

12.3. **Council noted** that these decisions accord with the Council's response, which was in all cases not to object.

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12.11.23

13. Clerk's Report

13.1. **To receive** a report from the Clerk, including these items:

- 13.1.1. **Council approved** the proposed timetable for Council meetings in the first half of 2024.
- 13.1.2. **Council noted** that the Clerk is in the process of responding to a Freedom of Information request for correspondence and files regarding the consultation from the Bathampton Meadows Alliance.
- 13.1.3. **Council noted** the outcome of the Student Project regarding the Car Park, which will be progressed by the Car Park Working Group.

14. Chair's Report

14.1. The Chair welcomed Cllr Butt, and thanked all Councillors for the work that they do for the people of Batheaston. She wished them all a good summer.

The meeting closed at 9:23 pm

Forthcoming Meetings:

Parish Council Meeting, 12th September 2023.

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



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