

**Batheaston Parish Council**  
**Minutes of a Meeting of Batheaston Parish Council**  
**held at 7:15pm on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024**  
**at the Rhymes Pavilion.**



**Present: Councillors**  
**Peter Bryant, Evie Gray, Peter Lewis, Catherine McCarthy,**  
**Sue Peachey and Kate Skelton.**

**PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

In the absence of both the Chair and Vice Chair of Council, **Council elected Cllr Skelton** to chair the meeting.

- 1. Council accepted apologies for absence** from Cllrs Butt, Pavlou, and Squire
2. There were **no declarations of interest** from Councillors.
- 3. Public Participation** regarding matters on the agenda.
  - 3.1.** Ward Cllr Sarah Warren attended the meeting and gave a brief update on Bath and North East Somerset Council (B&NES) activity of interest to the Parish.
    - 3.1.1. She highlighted the upgrade of the two crossings on High Street which have been carried out over the summer. Parish Councillors welcomed these development and asked Cllr Warren to thank the Officers at B&NES.
    - 3.1.2. Cllr Warren outlined the current position regarding the Local Plan, in the context of the new UK Government's plan to double the house-building target. She said that this will present major challenges for Bath, with its status as a world heritage site. The timetable for the Local Plan is therefore delayed.
    - 3.1.3. Councillors queried whether it would be wise for the Parish Council to develop a Neighbourhood Plan in this context. Cllr Warren indicated that it would; albeit a lot of work is involved.
    - 3.1.4. As a first step, Councillors asked the Clerk to contact neighbouring Parishes with a view to working with them.
  - 3.2.** A resident attended the meeting to update the Council on the position regarding the Elmhurst Woods Project Group (Item 11.1 Clerk's Report)
    - 3.2.1. She said that a Project Group has been established and has met once.
    - 3.2.2. She commented that B&NES have appointed a Senior Surveyor to liaise with the Project Group and that a meeting was set for early November.

**Clerk**

- 3.2.3. She and the Clerk had met an expert from the Forest of Avon Trust to discuss the options for the space. His initial advice was that it represents valuable natural habitat which should if possible be maintained.

#### **4. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

- 4.1. **Council approved** the minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024.
5. The Clerk apologised for not being able to present the actions from previous meetings.

#### **FINANCE REPORTS**

#### **6. Finance Position at the end of the Half-Year**

- 6.1. **Council received** a report from the Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer, setting out the status of the Council's finances at the end of the first half of 2024/25.
  - 6.1.1. He commented that operational performance in the first half of the year had been very close to that projected for the budget.
  - 6.1.2. He noted that no community grants had been awarded, but that he expected some applications in the latter half of the year.
  - 6.1.3. There has also only been £10k spend on projects, out of the budgeted £60k. Councillors discussed the relatively small response to the survey relating to the future of the Rhymes Pavilion. They asked the Clerk to arrange a planning meeting to develop a plan for this project.

**Clerk**
  - 6.1.4. The Clerk noted also the demand for payment of business rates for the Toilet Block at the Riverside, which has not been charged before. He is querying with B&NES.
  - 6.1.5. **Council approved** the report.

#### **WORKING GROUPS**

#### **7. Highways Transport and Planning Working Group**

- 7.1. **Council received** a verbal report from Cllr McCarthy, Lead of the Working Group.
  - 7.1.1. She reiterated how pleased Councillors are with the crossing on the High Street.
- 7.2. **Council approved** the funding of the 14 winter hanging baskets at a cost of up to £250 (excl VAT)
- 7.3. **Council approved** funding to set up and take down the Christmas Lights at a cost of up to up to £500, and of up to £200 for refreshments and other expenses for a residents' gathering for turning the lights on.

## **8. Nature and Environment Working Group**

**8.1. Council received** a verbal report from Cllr Lewis, Lead of the Working Group.

- 8.1.1. He had attended the “Climate Conversation” at the New Village Hall the previous week, which he said was an interesting event.
- 8.1.2. He informed Councillors of the planned “River Festival” to be held in June 2025 being organised by a group comprising representatives of Parish Councils along the River Avon, and other interested parties.
- 8.1.3. He asked the Clerk to review what can be done to keep the village clean and tidy, and to clear weeds on pavements.

## **9. Communication and Community Working Group**

**9.1. Council received** a verbal report from Cllr Skelton, Lead of the Working Group.

- 9.1.1. She said that the planned meeting to discuss the Council’s Communications had been delayed, but she hoped it would go ahead soon.

## **PROJECT GROUPS**

### **10. Suffragette Memorial Project Group**

**10.1.** Council received a verbal update from Cllr McCarthy.

- 10.1.1. She said that a meeting of the group will be held next week.

### **11. Rhymes Pavilion**

**11.1. Council received** a verbal update from the Clerk on the progress of the current refurbishment works.

- 11.1.1. He commented that good progress had been made, and Councillors agreed that it is looking much better since the volunteers painted it.
- 11.1.2. Bookings are being taken, which are being charged at half the rate approved by Council in October 2021. He undertook to review this and to present it for approval once the works are complete.
- 11.1.3. He noted however that there are still some tasks remaining, and he would need to seek approval for Council for further funding, at a future meeting.

## STANDING ITEMS AND REPORTS

### 12. Planning Applications

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

12.1.1. Application Number: 24/03387/TCA Decision: No Objection

12.1.2. Application Number: 24/02699/CLEU Decision: LAWFUL

**12.2. Council noted** that the Parish Council had not had a meeting at which it could comment on the first. It had opposed the granting of a certificate of lawfulness for the second.

### 13. Clerk's Report

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

13.1.1. He will confirm the provisional dates for meetings in the first half of 2025 at the next meeting.

### 14. Chair's Report

**14.1. Cllr Skelton** closed the meeting.

**The meeting closed at 8:47pm  
Forthcoming Meetings**

Parish Council Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024

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: 30<sup>th</sup> October 2024