

Batheaston Parish Council
Minutes of a Meeting of Batheaston Parish Council
held at 7:15pm on Tuesday 14th January 2025
at the Rhymes Pavilion.

Present: Councillors Hannah Squire (Chair)
Peter Bryant, Arif Butt, Peter Lewis, Catherine McCarthy,
Alexis Pavlou and Sue Peachey.



PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1. **Council approved** apologies from Cllrs Gray and Skelton
2. There were no **declarations of interest** from Councillors.
3. **No members of the public** were present.
4. **Minutes of Previous Meetings**
 - 4.1. **Council approved** the minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 10th December 2024.

FINANCE REPORTS

5. Current Finance Position

- 5.1. **Council received** an update from the Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer.
 - 5.1.1. He referred Councillors to the detailed update to the Finance Committee of 16th December.
 - 5.1.2. This indicated that at the year end, operational costs are forecast to be £2k under budget and operational income £5k over budget.
 - 5.1.3. There remained £45k in the “discretionary pot”, for projects and community grants.
 - 5.1.4. Reserves are forecast to be just over £100k at the year-end, which the Finance Committee view as a reasonable position in light of the significant investments to be undertaken in the near future.
- 5.2. **Council received** an update from Cllr Pavlou, the Chair of the Finance Committee, on the process of development and approval of the budget and precept for 2025/26.
 - 5.2.1. He said that Finance committee will meet next week and will propose two options, which he expects will allow Council to make the decision on the Precept at its next meeting.
 - 5.2.2. He also briefed Council on other decisions at the Finance Committee meeting;
 - 5.2.2.1. The Committee had asked the Clerk to prepare options for the Council to reduce the number of noticeboards it maintains for consideration at the next Council meeting.



5.2.2.2. The Committee decided that it should not take out a PRS/PPL licence for the Rhymes Pavilion, meaning that hirers would need to make their own arrangements if they wish to play music.

5.2.2.3. The Committee approved a £25 Christmas bonus to each member of staff.

5.2.3. Cllr Pavlou shared some thoughts regarding changes to the staffing structure to support it in its ambitious programme of projects. These will be discussed at the HR and Finance Committee meetings next week, with a view to confirming the budgetary impacts if any in setting the Precept at Council's February meeting.

WORKING GROUPS

6. Highways Transport and Planning Working Group

6.1. **Council received** a verbal report from Cllr McCarthy, Lead of the Working Group.

6.1.1. She commented on a recent intervention by Cllr Sarah Warren to highlight run-off of water and mud from building works at the former site of Avondale Garage.

6.1.2. She reported that B&NES are proposing to accede to St Catherine Parish Meeting's request to extend the 20mph limit on Northend throughout the Parish.

7. Nature and Environment Working Group

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

8. Communication and Community Working Group

8.1. Cllr Skelton, Lead of the Working Group, was absent from the meeting, and other members of the group commented that there was nothing to report pending a meeting of the group.

PROJECT GROUPS

9. Suffragette Memorial Project Group

9.1. Cllr McCarthy, leader of the project group, reported that the formal event to open the memorial on 14th December had been a great success.

9.1.1. She reported that since then she had seen members of the public taking an interest in, and photographs of, the memorial box.

9.1.2. She outlined publicity that she has in mind, including inclusion in the Village Art Trail.

9.1.3. Councillors noted that a member of the group is hoping to establish a memorial wood in the Parish.



10. Elmhurst Growing Spaces

10.1. **Council received** an update on progress from the Clerk.

10.1.1. Councillors recognised the challenges in developing a proposal that would address the various perspectives of the current tenants and the householders.

11. Village Party – Summer 2025

11.1. **Council approved** a draft terms of reference for a Project Group to oversee the planning and execution of a Village Party, to form part of the Wild Waters Festival (<https://wildwatersfestival.com/>).

11.1.1. Councillors proposed the date of Sunday 8th June 2025 for the Party.

11.1.2. Cllr Squire, as leader of the group, undertook to call a meeting.

Cllr Squire

STANDING ITEMS AND REPORTS

12. Planning Applications

12.1. **Council reviewed** the following Planning Application notified by Bath and North East Somerset Council since the last meeting:

12.1.1. Reference Number: 24/04656/FUL, and resolved **not to oppose** it.

12.2. **Council noted** that no decisions have been notified by Bath and North East Somerset Council since the last meeting.

13. Clerk's Report

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

13.1.1. He commented that dogs are being exercised on the playground and football pitch, and he is purchasing new signs to seek to enforce a ban on dogs, before taking more serious actions.

13.1.2. He noted that as instructed he had submitted a response on behalf of Council indicating opposition to both remote meetings and proxy voting to the current government consultation on 17th December 2024.

13.1.3. He outlined progress on the short-term refurbishment of the Rhymes Pavilion.



14. Chair's Report

- 14.1. Cllr Squire reported that she is liaising with residents and Chairs of neighbouring parishes to carry out the action to write to B&NES regarding the developments of Charmy Down Barns.

The meeting closed at 8:23pm

Forthcoming Meetings:

HR and Finance Committee Meetings – 21st January 2025
Parish Council Meeting 11th February 2025

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: 20th January 2025