

**Minutes of a Meeting of Batheaston Parish Council
held at 7:15pm on Tuesday 11th February 2025
at the Rhymes Pavilion**



**Present: Councillors Hannah Squire (Chair)
Evie Gray, Peter Lewis, Catherine McCarthy,
Alexis Pavlou, Sue Peachey and Kate Skelton**

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1. **Council approved** apologies from Cllrs Bryant and Butt.
2. There were **no declarations of interest** from Councillors.
3. There were **no members of the public** present.
4. **Minutes of Previous Meetings**
 - 4.1. **Council approved** the minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 14th January 2024

FINANCE – BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2025/26

5. Finance Operations Matters

- 5.1. **Council received** an update from the Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer on the financial position at the end of January (month 10), and forecast for the end of year.
 - 5.1.1. He noted that some of the larger expenditure items may be delayed until after the end of the financial year, which would increase the surplus for the year.
 - 5.1.2. With this caveat, his current estimate is that the Council will have approximately £110k.
- 5.2. **Council approved** the purchase of a brush cutter at a cost of approximately £1,000, to be used by the Cotswolds Volunteer Wardens as part of their work maintaining the Parish's 12 miles of footpaths.
 - 5.2.1. Cllr McCarthy commented that the volunteers do a fantastic job for the Council in maintaining the 12 miles Public Rights of Way throughout the parish.
 - 5.2.2. Councillors asked the Clerk to pass on their thanks for the work they do.

Clerk



6. Recommendation from Finance Committee

6.1. Council received an update and recommendation from Cllr Pavlou, Chair of the Finance Committee.

6.1.1. The Committee was mindful that there are a number of potential projects that the Council will want to begin work on over the next year. These include the Rhymes Pavilion; the Playground over-5's provision; the Car Park; and a number of open spaces.

6.1.2. Funds and resources will be required to initiate these projects, with the hope that external funding will supplement the Council's investment.

6.1.3. He noted that the Finance Committee endorsed the recommendation from the HR Committee to increase internal resources to undertake projects, with an annual cost of approx. £10k p.a.

6.1.4. The Committee therefore recommended that Council Reserves should be further increased by approximately £50,000 in 2025/26.

6.1.5. They also noted that this could be achieved with only a modest increase of 4% in the Precept payment for each household.

6.2. Council approved the Precept request of £135,420, based on 4% rise per household, to be made to Bath and North East Somerset Council.

6.2.1. Cllr Squire, Chair of the meeting, duly signed the precept request, which the Clerk will submit to B&NES.

Clerk

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 noted that there continue to be significant problems with traffic on School Lane especially at the start and end of the school day, and this is a concern to parents and the school.

7.1.2. Councillors noted that there are concerns that the new tenants of the Youth Club during the day which may add to the traffic congestion.

7.1.3. Councillors noted that there are similar concerns relating to the crossing on Catherine Way, at the top of Muddy Lane.

7.1.4. She and other members of the Working Group are seeking to push B&NES to provide additional measures, such as a zebra crossing.

Cllr McCarthy



8. Nature and Environment Working Group

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

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 noted that she hopes to hold a meeting of the Working Group on 27th February meeting, and will aim to complete the action to review the Youth Club Grant Application that was submitted to Council in December, in time for it to be considered at the March meeting of Council.

PROJECT GROUPS

10. Elmhurst Growing Spaces

10.1. Council received a verbal update on progress from the Clerk.

10.1.1. He noted that he had not yet agreed a proposal for the Council to consider. The intention is that this will outline the extent of support that the Parish Council can offer, and any conditions it wishes to place on an agreement. The working assumption is that there would need to be consensus amongst the residents and tenants.

11. Batheaston Emergency Response Team

11.1. Council approved a draft terms of reference for a Project Group to establish “BERT”, the Batheaston Emergency Response Team, to coordinate community action to reduce the likelihood and impact of emergencies.

STANDING ITEMS AND REPORTS

12. Planning Applications

12.1. Council noted that no Planning Applications have been notified by Bath and North East Somerset Council since the last meeting.

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: 24/02402/VAR Decision: PERMIT

12.2.2. Application Number: 24/03082/FUL Decision: PERMIT

12.3. Council noted that in both cases these accord with the recommendations of the Parish Council.



12.4. Council noted that Bath and North East Somerset Council have informed us that an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate has been lodged with respect to:

- 12.4.1. Appeal Ref: 25/00001/ENFAPL
Enforcement Ref: 21/00091/UNDEV
Planning Inspectorate Appeal Ref: 3351608 & 3351609
Site Location: Parcel 0096 Ramscombe Lane Batheaston Bath
Nature of Breach: Without planning permission, the change of use of land from agriculture to a mixed use consisting of agriculture, charcoal production, leisure and residential uses, the siting of a caravan and the erection of ancillary buildings and structures, as well as the carrying out of engineering operations to create a pond.

13. Clerk's Report

13.1. Council received a report from the Clerk.

- 13.1.1. **Council noted** proposals for the Annual Village Meeting, to be held on Tuesday 25th March.
- 13.1.2. **Council approved** the dates for Council meetings from the summer to the end of the year.

14. Chair's Report

14.1. To receive a verbal report from the Chairman.

Meeting closed at 8:43pm

Forthcoming Meetings:

HR and Finance Committee Meetings, 11th March 2025
Parish Council Meeting 18th March 2025 (not 11th as previously advertised)

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: 28th January 2025