

**Minutes of a Meeting of Batheaston Parish Council
held at 7:15pm on Tuesday 18th March 2025
at the Rhymes Pavilion**



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

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1. **Council approved** apologies from Cllrs Bryant, Butt and Pavlou.
2. There were **declarations of interest** from the following Councillors.
 - 2.1. Cllr Lewis on the following items:
 - 2.1.1. Items 6.2 & 6.3, as he is a trustee of Grow Batheaston
 - 2.1.2. Items 14.1.2 and 14.1.3, planning applications near to his home
 - 2.1.3. Council approved his request for a dispensation to speak but not vote.
 - 2.2. Cllr Skelton on the following items:
 - 2.2.1. Items 6.1, as her child attends the Youth Club
 - 2.2.2. Items 14.1.3, as she has a connection with the applicant.
 - 2.2.3. Council approved her request for a dispensation to speak and vote on Item 6.1.
3. **Public participation regarding matters on the agenda.**
 - 3.1. Rob Mimmack, a Trustee of Batheaston Youth Club, attended to answer questions on Item 6.1, their grant application.
 - 3.1.1. The Chair brought item 6.1 forward

6. Community Grants

6.1. To receive a grant application from Batheaston Youth Club for £10,000.

- 6.1.1. Cllr Skelton, Leader of the Community and Communications Working Group, described the meeting that she and other members of the Working Group had had with the trustees of the YC, see it in action.
- 6.1.2. She described the developments that have been made, including the improvement of the financial position, attendance and promotion. These were very positive, and she welcomed them.
- 6.1.3. The Trustees are in process of recruiting staff.



- 6.1.4. Cllr Skelton reminded Council that the award last year was £6,000 with an additional £1,000 for promotional activities. She recommended an award of £5,000, to provide security through their continued transition and development.
- 6.1.5. She noted that the Councillors on the WG would welcome a further application for funding in the autumn if further progress has been made.
- 6.1.6. Cllr Squire proposed amendment of the motion to insert “of £7,000”.
 - 6.1.6.1. **Council approved** the amendment.
- 6.1.7. **Council approved** the amended motion.
- 3.2. Judith Knight, a Grow Batheaston Trustee, attended to make a presentation and to answer questions on their grant application, Item 6.2.
 - 3.2.1. She commented that the event for the Beavers Project last year had been a great success, particularly in the work done with the school. This year’s event – Tales of Our River Bank – will broaden its focus, to all aspects of the river
 - 3.2.2. She emphasised that although the project will culminate in a single event, it has a longer time span – work has already started with schoolchildren, and the output from the event will be available afterwards.
 - 3.2.3. In answer to a question, she confirmed that applications have been made to other grant-giving organisations, but without success to-date.
 - 3.2.4. Councillors clarified that the grant application comprises £1,000 for the event, £1,500 for the running costs of the organisation.
 - 3.2.5. Councillors interrogated the finances and options for increasing revenue, including ticket prices. Judith Knight explained that GB trustees were keen to make the event accessible to those, especially with families, who might be put off by a higher price.
 - 3.2.6. The Chair brought forward the item.
- 6.2. To receive a grant application from Grow Batheaston for £2,500 as a contribution to its event as part of the Wild Water Festival, and its operating costs.
 - 6.2.1. **Council noted** the support from B&NES Ward Councillors Kevin Guy and Sarah Warren.
 - 6.2.2. Cllr Squire proposed amendment to take the separate parts of the motion separately, taking first the “Tales of our river Bank” project.
 - 6.2.3. **Council approved** the amendment



- 6.2.4. Cllr Squire reviewed the discussion thus far.
- 6.2.5. **Council approved** the amended motion, to award a grant of £1,000 to Grow Batheaston for the “Tales of our river Bank” project.
- 6.2.6 **Council approved** the award of the grant of £1,500 contribution to the annual running costs of Grow Batheaston.

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

- 4.1. **Council approved** the minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 11th February 2025.

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 11) and forecast for the end of year.
 - 5.1.1. He noted that the principal change in the forecast outturn is due to phasing; delay in some major expenditure items
 - 5.1.2. The only new item is the approx. £5,200 charge for business rates for the Riverside Facilities.
- 5.2. **Council noted** the publication of the record of transactions for the year to the end of the February.

6. Community Grants

- 6.1. To receive a grant application from Batheaston Youth Club for £10,000.
Item taken earlier
- 6.2. To receive a grant application from Grow Batheaston for £2,500 as a contribution to its event as part of the Wild Water Festival, and its operating costs.
Item taken earlier
- 6.3. To approve a grant application from Grow Batheaston for £800 to support the Annual Village Art Trail.
 - 6.3.1. **Council deferred** this item as the person leading this was unable to attend the meeting.

7. Restructuring of Staff Resources

- 7.1. **Council approved** a recommendation from Cllr Peachey, in absence of Cllr Pavlou, to increase staff resources for at least the first 6 months of next financial year with additional cost of approximately £7,000.



WORKING GROUPS

8. Highways Transport and Planning Working Group

- 8.1. **To receive** a verbal report from Cllr McCarthy, Lead of the Working Group.
 - 8.1.1. She reported that sewerage works is scheduled during April in Northend around School Lane.
 - 8.1.2. She noted that she and the Clerk will be reviewing road signage in the village, to ensure that it is up to date.
 - 8.1.3. The letter signed by Cllr Squire and the Chairs of two neighbouring Parishes regarding the Charmydown Barns development has been sent to B&NES. No response has been received yet.

9. Nature and Environment Working Group

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

10. Communication and Community Working Group

- 10.1. **Council received** a verbal report from Cllr Skelton, Lead of the Working Group.
- 10.2. **To receive** a report from the Clerk summarising the options available to refurbish and update the Council's noticeboards.
 - 10.2.1. **Council amended** the motion to delegate to the Communication and Community Working Group a proposal to upgrade and reconfigure the Parish Council's inventory of Noticeboards up to a value of £7,500.
 - 10.2.2. **Council approved** the amended motion.

Cllr Skelton / Clerk

- 10.3. **Council delegated** the action to response to the survey from the West of England Rural Network who are seeking to provide more support to parishes.

Clerk

PROJECT GROUPS

11. Elmhurst Growing Spaces

- 11.1. **To approve** a proposed approach to establishing a management arrangement for the Elmhurst Growing Spaces
 - 11.1.1. **Councillors amended** the document to make it clear that Council will review and approve the final agreement.
 - 11.1.2. **Council approved** the amended motion.



12. Establishing a Charity

12.1. **To note** that the Charity Commission have confirmed registration of Batheaston Sports Foundation

12.1.1. The Clerk will work with Cllr Bryant and other Trustees to fully establish the Charity.

13. Summer “Wild Water” Party

13.1. **Council received** an update from Cllr Squire, Chair of the Project Group, on the progress in planning for the Party to be held on Sunday 8th June, as part of the Wild Water Festival.

STANDING ITEMS AND REPORTS

14. Planning Applications

14.1. **Council reviewed** the following Planning Applications notified by Bath and North East Somerset Council since the last meeting, and resolved to respond as follows.

14.1.1. Reference Number: 25/00766/FUL
Site Location: Wayfield House Solsbury Lane BA1 7HB
Description of Proposal: Erection of a single storey side extension.
Resolution: **Not to oppose**

14.1.2. Reference Number: 25/00698/TCA
Application Type: Tree Works Notification in Con Area
Site Location: 153 High Street Batheaston BA1 7DW
Description of Proposal: Leylandii screen (T1-T4) - fell to near ground level.
Resolution: **Not to oppose**

14.1.3. Application Number: 24/04200/FUL
Site Location: 165 High Street Batheaston BA1 7DW
Description of Proposal: Erection of single storey timber outbuilding and decking for use as home office and holiday let with associated off-street parking space in Vale View garage court (retrospective).

Councillors noted that there was insufficient documentation relating to the provision of off-street parking, and asked the Clerk to request this from the Planning Officer.

Clerk

As two Councillors had declared an interest in respect of this item, Council was inquorate and unable to approve a response.

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



15. Clerk's Report

15.1. **Council received** a verbal report from the Clerk.

15.1.1. They noted the preparation for the Annual Village Meeting and agreed that a "roadmap" for the Parish Council should be presented, with an indication of the help that is needed.

16. Chair's Report

16.1. The Chair thanked Councillors for their contribution to a full and productive meeting.

Meeting closed at 9:19pm

Forthcoming Meetings:

Annual Village Meeting, 25th March (at the New Village Hall)

Parish Council Meeting 22nd April 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 March 2025