

Batheaston Parish Council

Notes of the Annual Village Meeting of the Batheaston Parish Council held in The Rhymes Pavilion on Thursday 27th APRIL 2017 at 7-30 pm

Present :- Cllrs G Riley (Chair), E Adams, P Burcombe, N Clutterbuck, P Corley, S Hagen, J Jeffrey, C McCarthy, R Mimmack, D Redding and M Townley (Clerk)

Apologies:- Cllrs P Bennett, S Cast, S Frayling, D Greener

Attend:- Cllr M Veal and Ladies = P Mimmack, T Griffith, C Wilkinson, L Clutterbuck, E Coles
with Gents = H Adams, W Beese, P Johnston, P Davenport

A Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all to this Meeting which would comprise slide photographs of last year's events and proposed topics for the coming year. Questions were invited throughout any of the presentations. Each Parish Councillor introduced themselves to the Meeting.

B Presentation - Achieved

- 1 New Pavement at the Shops
Including new Street Posts for Hanging Baskets and Seasonal Decorations.
- 2 Celebrated the Queen's Birthday
Using above Street Posts etc.
- 3 Reopened an Uni-sex Toilet
Since October over 1200 users – there was a Need
- 4 Enhancements
Hanging Baskets – needing watering and replacement
New Planters and Trees in Streets
New Cycle Racks at the White Lion Crossing
- 5 Speed Table
After some years had B&NES lower the height at the High Street pedestrian crossing down to the legal limit.
- 6 Bannerdown Road Pavement
New Pavement installed at the bottom – problems still with the signage.
- 7 New Parish Councillors
Six new Councillors have joined the Team – still a single vacancy.
- 8 New Trees at the Brook
Planted so that the too-tall Leylandii trees beside the Football Field can be addressed in the future
- 9 Website
Resident has volunteered as the Webmaster.
Updated and further improvements being programmed.
- 10 BLA Transfer
The Lease is due for ending in 2019. Now approved for cessation on 1st May 2017
- 11 Accounts 2016 -17
A brief explanation showed how all Money movements are recorded each month and then summarised.
Income was forecast to be £53,000 but increased by £5000 thanks to ward Councillors generously assisting with the Toilet re-opening at £4500 and a resident donation of £500.
Expenditure was forecast at £70,000 but resulted in only £60,000 because of deferring some costs as highlighted in the Annual Report published in the local Look.

C Presentation – What is in Progress

- 12 Community Asset Transfer (CAT)
After over 2 years of dialogue with B&NES almost ready to consider the legal papers to transfer the Car Park and Secret Garden to our control.
- 13 Neighbourhood Plan
Again, after some 2/3 years, a Plan almost ready to issue to all villagers for review.
- 14 Vacancies
Need a 15th Parish councillor (as 7 above)
Need a replacement Handyman/Gardener.
- 15 B&NES Water Space Study
To review and implement proposals in this Study.
- 16 Friends of Bathampton Riverside
To continue the many developments to the new Cycle Path across the Meadows.
- 17 B&NES Park & Ride Proposal
To continue to resist – together with our sister Parish Councils – the proposed developments on The Meadows.

Refreshments were served, with delicious cake provided by Cllr Hagen – grateful Thanks also to Pam and Penny.

D Presentation – Peter Davenport Twinning Association

- 18 Peter explained the Twinning with the small Village of Oudon in France – some 30 miles upriver – the Loire – from Nantes. A flyer explaining the Association was issued.
Oudon is very similar in size to Batheaston but their local government means the Mayor has so much more control than here in England.
We now exchange visits every year and this year it is the turn of Oudon to come to Batheaston.
A full programme of entertainment is planned but accommodation is sought from anyone who is interested.
Somehow there is no language barrier and most families seem to enjoy practicing their 'franglais'.
At the beginning there was EU funding to establish this European bonding but those monies are no longer available.
There are no fees for joining and more participation is welcomed.
Peter was thanked for his time and explanations.

E Presentation – Rob Mimmack Trustee of Batheaston New Village Hall (BNVH)

- 19 Using slides Rob explained the tortuous development of an Application to replace the Church Hall. The Hall is over 65 years old, established (when planning regulations were only just being legislated and developed), very tired and replacement was mooted back in 2009. With Patsy Townsend's bequest the first Application was issued in 2012 and twice the Application was approved by B&NES and then 'quashed' at judicial reviews.
- The 3rd re-Application was issued in November 2015 but B&NES is ensuring that every possible issue has been covered. For the past 15 months a considerable amount of detail has been demanded, delaying a consideration by the B&NES Development Control Committee (DCC).
- The "final" date for the DCC was put back to May but another request for a "Sustainability Study" further supporting information means maybe a hearing in on 31st May.
- If this date is confirmed then much support requested from the Village.
- Some residents – the Batheaston Shared Vision Group (BSVG) - have funded an alternative Hall on this site. The Application was rejected by the Parish Council on 1st November – and this Application might be held at the same DCC meeting. The proposed Hall is 25% smaller than existing.
- Even if either, or both, approved there will be much work required so reworking of the all will be much later in the year.
- Rob was thanked for his forthright explanations.

F Presentation – Cathy McCarthy

- 20 Using slides Cathy explained the proposals as prepared by th B&NES "Water Spaces Study" – covering the River Avon from near Limpley Stoke to beyond Saltford.
- There are 4 x Parties involved – Our 3 x Parishes, Wessex Water, Environment Agency and Canal & River Trust and some £1.65 million has been granted by the Heritage Lottery Fund for this development.
- There are 4 specific proposals for the 3 x Parishes of Batheaston, Bathampton and Bathford and a series of recommendations has been prepared for a review of this Study on 22nd May.
- Batheaston is to be the Eastern Gateway, starting with our Bridge and Cycle Path, and the many improvements to this Path already initiated or completed.
- The Parish council is seeking the CAT (item 12 above) and hopes to develop the Car Park and Secret Gardens area – with a mooring jetty for water sports/activities. The northern River Footpath (BA2/5 "Limestone Link") needs to be maintained and included in these schemes
- The Cycle/Pedestrian link pathway to the Canal side is dangerous and improvements must be sought. A champion for this improvement is need and Alan Reynolds (Bath Cycling) will be approached to assist.
- This entire development is very exciting and will keep the Parish Council and this Village quite busy.

G Other Comments

- 21 The Film Club Established this year and welcomes more attendance.
Held every month on the third Friday from 2-00 to 4-00 pm at £2 with refreshments
- 22 Lack of Parking on the Estate – Investigated with B&NES and CURO and provision of "grasscrete" blocks being pursued to allow 'safe' parking on some grass verges.
- 23 Stambridge Roundabout – Scheme prepared by HFL and B&NES have programmed a redesign in their capital budget for this year.

Meeting closed at 9.40pm.