

Batheaston Parish Council

Minutes of Batheaston Parish Council Meeting at 7:15pm on Tuesday 24th September 2019

Present: James Jeffery (chair), Patrick Vandesteen, Catherine McCarthy, Derek Greener, Denise Craig, Paula Day and Sarah Orme (clerk)

1. **Public Participation** regarding matters on this agenda

A representative from Stop 5G Bath and NE Somerset Campaign detailed their concerns about the 5G roll-out: -

- The speed of roll-out and the lack of consultation or risk assessment.
- Antennas near nurseries, schools and on lampposts outside homes.
- Possible risk to human health, especially children and pregnant women
- [Government consultation](#) closes November 4th about whether masts become permitted development (and therefore don't need planning permission).

2. Apologies were accepted from Andrew Lea.

3. Catherine McCarthy declared a conflict of interest regarding item 5 on the agenda and applied in writing to the clerk for a dispensation. **It was resolved** to grant a dispensation to Catherine McCarthy to participate in the discussion and vote at this meeting only.

4. This motion was moved to later in the agenda, but is recorded here. The minutes of the meeting on 10th September, 2019 were amended by the addition of a page and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

5. **It was resolved** to formally agree our position regarding the request for a grant from BNVH Trustees and to delegate two councillors to meet the BNVHT for communication of that position and a without prejudice discussion.

Voting for the motion are James Jeffery, Patrick Vandesteen, Derek Greener and Denise Craig

Voting against the motion are Catherine McCarthy and Paula Day

The situation is that:

1. The BNVHT asked the BPC for a 25-year, Public Works Loan Board backed grant or loan of £200,000 to finalise the financing of the New Village Hall, and for a referendum on same.
2. This is the only request the BPC is to decide on formally at this time, notwithstanding exchanges on matters that may suggest alternative structuring ways.

The BPC's position is that:

3. The policy, guidance and technical notes of SLCC, NALC and the DMO/PWLB website are unambiguous that legally a Public Works Loan cannot be deployed on the terms proposed by the BNVHT;
4. In addition, financial prudence cannot be satisfied on the basis of forecast financials supplied;
5. Given the above points 3 and 4, we cannot remain committed to any form of referendum on an action that cannot exist;
6. In the interest of the community, the BPC wishes to work collaboratively with the BNVHT – and other organisations as may be relevant – to explore whether alternative ways forward can exist;
7. Patrick Vandesteen and Andrew Lea are mandated to meet the BNVHT, communicate the BPC's position and explore, without prejudice, possible alternatives;

8. In support of 5 and 6 above, the BPC intends to set up a Village Hall Working Group (“VHWG”) and recruit into this working group residents with planning, legal and financing experience.

6. **It was resolved** that BPC recognises that it failed to honour its publicly declared timing of response to an urgent request of the BNVH trustees

7. **It was resolved** that BPC recognises that due effort to honour this commitment was unduly frustrated

8. Working Groups Review

8.1. The Working Group Review was reviewed at previous council and presented for decision making.

It was resolved that

- Working groups need only one councillor.
- The coordinator does not have to be a councillor.
- A meeting must have a councillor in attendance.
- This councillor must ensure that notes and actions are recorded and shared appropriately

Due to changes in the council and at **SmartParking**, our planned implementation of parking controls has slipped. There is frustration in the village about lack of parking at Riverside. We will reform the Parking WG to review and resolve.

Many councillors have worked hard on the **Neighbourhood Plan**, which will, when approved, give us greater control of planning decisions and bring additional CIL payments into the village. However, it is a long and complex process. We invite expertise from the community. The WG coordinator’s role should be to project manage this expertise. Parishes that have been successful with this are Pensford and Clutton. Can we learn from them?

Although we have many ideas for new community collaborations, we must finish the above two projects before starting anything else.

Communications – BREDAC is missed. Some people want information “pushed” to them digitally. This could be incorporated into a new website. The **Local Look** article is normally written by the chair. We need to review this. The article is written by a councillor and emailed to the clerk for checking and dispatch to the LL. Communication of all types needs to be improved.

8.2. **It was not resolved** to dissolve any WGs

8.3. and 8.4 **It was resolved to have the following WGs**

- a) Suffragette WG – plus tourism remit - Catherine McCarthy (C)
- b) Highways – Catherine (C) and Paula
- c) New Village Hall – Patrick (C) and Andrew
- d) Communications – Patrick (C) and James
- e) Parking – James (C), Paula and Catherine
- f) Neighbourhood Plan – Alexis (C, tbc), Derek and Denise
- g) Riverside – possibly now with a wider environmental and recreational remit - Andrew (C), Catherine, Derek, Denise

Motions 8.5 to 8.6 were deferred to a later meeting.

9. **It was resolved** to pay up to £2100 to renew our annual insurance policy after receiving three quotations.

10. Clerk's Report

- The clerk has been busy and needs some "quiet time" to catch up with essentials.
- She attended a Police Cyber Security briefing and will report back.
- ALCA area meeting – The Community Empowerment Fund has been replaced by the ward councillor fund (back to the previous system).
- Excellent solar-powered motion-activated lights are available.
- ¾ funding is available to parish councils for electric car charging point provision.
- Playground – most repairs have been carried out but we're waiting for a new auto-close cylinder quotation.
- Graffiti in the play area has been addressed. Skateboard ramp needs painting.
- The Riverside Pathways Project Celebration is happening on Saturday and is organised. All are welcome, but RSVP for refreshments.
- Full tree survey work is starting tomorrow. This was delayed beyond the date stated by the company for carrying out the work.

11. **Chairman's Report**

James attended ALCA's Chair's training and found it useful.

Upcoming Meetings: -

7:15pm on Tuesday 8th October in the Rhymes Pavilion tbc

These are open meetings.

Members of the public are welcome to attend and may speak by invitation

Signed.....

Dated.....