

DRAFT – SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

## **BRADFORD ON TONE PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 JANUARY 2017**

#### PRESENT

Mr D Venn (Chairman), Mrs J Cape (Vice Chairman), Mr C Dinsdale OBE, Mr C Ellis, Mr P Haines, Mr R Pearse

Mr J Hunt (County Councillor)

Mr R Habgood (District Councillor)

Mr T Burton (Assistant Director Planning and Environment, Taunton Deane Borough Council)

Seven members of the public

A minute's silence was held in memory of Mavis Hardy, a previous Chairman of the Parish Council, who had been a resident of Bradford on Tone for 48 years. Mr Venn paid tribute to Mavis's involvement in many, many ways in the life of Bradford on Tone.

#### 1. APOLOGIES

Mrs L Sidhu and PCSO Sharon Baker.

#### 2. INTERESTS

None.

#### 3. POLICE REPORT

PCSO Sharon Baker's report for December 2016 indicated one theft and one road related incident in Bradford on Tone.

The Clerk mentioned receipt of an email from the Clerk of Bleadon Parish Council in Avon regarding future non-availability of police officers and PCSOs at Parish Council meetings as a matter of course, and that police reports take a disproportionate amount of time to prepared. Councillors were unhappy that reports may not be presented to PC meetings in future, and asked the Clerk to make enquiries of the Police Crime Commissioner, Sue Mountstevens.

[It was subsequently suggested that this might not apply to the Somerset area and further information was awaited.]

#### 4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 NOVEMBER 2016

The minutes, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as correct. The proposer was Mrs Cape, seconded by Mr Ellis.

#### 5. UPDATE ON MINUTES

##### 5.1 Defibrillator and Telephone Box

Unfortunately refurbishment to the inside of the box had not yet taken place.

#### 5.2 Letter from Councillor Haines

This matter was deferred from the November meeting. Councillors discussed Mr Haines' letter. On the proposal of Mr Pearse, seconded by Mr Ellis, Councillors unanimously accepted that Mr Haines had acted in good faith in raising the issue of the cedar tree on behalf of the community at the Parish Council meeting on 20 July 2016 and that the condition of the tree was and still is a matter of public interest and concern.

#### 5.3 Parish Council website

To date there had been no interest in taking over responsibility for maintaining the Parish Council's website. The Clerk would make further enquiries.

#### 5.4 Heatherton Park Junction A38 – kerbing around outside of red hatched area and also use of mirrors

The question of the use of mirrors at this junction had been raised by a member of the public and referred to Somerset County Council. Their response stated that mirrors of any kind placed out on the highway were regarded as unauthorised signs. They would not seek the necessary special permission from the Department of Transport as mirrors could give a misleading impression of vehicle movements, could cause dazzling when positioned incorrectly, required regular maintenance to keep them clean, were ineffective during inclement weather and were often the subject of vandalism or accidental damage. No response had yet been received on the question of kerbing.

Two residents from Heatherton Park who attended this meeting were concerned that vehicles were still coming from the arts venue (on the far side of Heatherton Park) and using the private access through and under the archway to access the A38. This was despite a strict condition in the relevant planning permission for the arts venue that the private access would not be used. Mr Burton said that Taunton Deane Planning Department would look into the non-compliance of the condition.

#### 5.5 Drains in Bradford on Tone

Following an inspection of drains in the village last year Somerset Highways had indicated that the only work they were proposing to undertake was the jetting of the drainage system between Bramble View and the Old Police House. Unfortunately all other small general maintenance budgets were fully committed for the current financial year.

Somerset Highways would consider the inclusion of the footway patching works in Regent Street and minor draining works by Avrio, to stop surface water flowing over the pavement, in the next financial year.

[Mr Venn, who was feeling unwell, asked the Vice Chairman, Mrs Cape, to take over the meeting.]

6. REPORT OF THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Mr Dinsdale had missed the last meeting but there were no issues which affected the Parish Council.

7. TAUNTON STRATEGIC FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PHASE ONE OPTIONS

Mr Habgood said that people needed to understand the flood potential for Taunton in heavy rainfall. Mr Burton explained what actions could be taken to reduce the threat of flooding. The strategy would be to slow water flow through Taunton by storing it upstream from Bradford bridge towards East Nynehead and out towards Hockaller. In the town there would be improvements to flood walls and weirs. Consultants appointed jointly by Taunton Deane Borough Council and the Environment Agency had started the technical work on detailed feasibility and design. In order to undertake this work access was needed to land within the area of search and Taunton Deane Borough Council had contacted landowners. Most of the land involved would be farmland.

Funding was in place for the feasibility study but not for the actual work. Mr Burton was thanked for his attendance.

8. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

A member of the public had raised the question whether the Parish Council had a Neighbourhood Plan in place and whether consideration had been given to amalgamation with Oake Parish Council. The Clerk had emailed Councillors for their comments. He said that the Council had prepared a draft strategy in 2013. He had also prepared a question and answer questionnaire in 2012, but the Parish Council had decided at that time to take no further action due to insufficient interest.

After discussion it was agreed there would be a lot of effort in preparing a Plan only for it to fail at the Government level decision stage.

On the question of amalgamation as Oake and Bradford on Tone were two completely different communities, Councillors could see no advantage in amalgamation. On the proposal of Mr Dinsdale, seconded by Mr Haines it was unanimously agreed not to pursue either preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan nor any proposals to approach Oake Parish Council about possible amalgamation.

A member of the public suggested amalgamation could be put on the agenda for the January 2018 meeting.

9. NEW GARDEN TOWN

Mr Habgood explained the reasoning behind Taunton Deane's success in being awarded £350,000 by Government to cover the master planning costs and identify the important infrastructure requirements after Taunton was named as one of only three new wave of Garden Towns. Development would centre on urban extensions already identified – Monkton Heathfield, Comeytrove/Trull and Staplegrove. Taunton Deane Borough Council

had been working closely with partners, including Somerset County Council, on the bid and news of its success had been widely welcomed.

Mr Hunt, Mr Burton and Mr Venn left the meeting at 9.05 pm.

## 10. PLANNING

### 10.1 Minutes of the meetings held on 5 November 2016 and 7 January 2017

The minutes, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as correct. The proposer for 5 November was Mrs Cape, seconded by Mr Haines and for 7 January 2017 Mr Haines and Mr Dinsdale respectively.

### 10.2 Applications

10.2.1 07/16/0015 – erection of single storey and two storey extensions, replacement garage building and construction of tennis court at Hele Mount, Hele Road, Bradford on Tone. Parish Council met on site 5 November 2016 - no objections.

10.2.2 07/16/0018 – conversion of outbuildings to annex at Boulderwood, Bradford on Tone. Parish Council met on site 7 January 2016 – objections on grounds of over-development and also reduction of car parking spaces.

### 10.3 Decisions

10.3.1 07/16/0016/T – management works to oak tree (TPO) at Three Ways, Bradford on Tone – conditional approval 22 December 2016

The Council's attention had been drawn to the enclosure by short post and chainlink fence of a piece of grass verge adjoining this property. It was understood that this might be publicly maintainable highway belonging to the County Council. The Parish Council would apply to the Land Registry to identify the boundary ownership of Three Ways.

## 11. FINANCE

11.1	To consider the approval of the following accounts for payment	£
11.1.1	Clerk's salary December/January	606.32
11.1.2	Clerk's expenses December/January	42.84
11.1.3	AR Computing – printer cartridges (50% of total cost)	109.00 (inc VAT 18.17)
11.1.4	Society of Local Council Clerks – membership for 2017	108.00
11.1.5	Association of Local Council Clerks – membership 2017	10.00
11.1.6	James Matthews – updating website 1.7.16 to 31.12.16	50.00

On the proposal of Mr Dinsdale, seconded by Mr Pearse, it was unanimously agreed to approve these accounts for payment.

### 11.2 Income

11.2.1 Interest

0.15

11.3 Bank Balance and Reconciliation Statement

After the above transactions had been taken into account the Parish Council's bank account totalled £7826.63.

12. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED SINCE THE LAST MEETING

12.1 Proposed 40 mph and 50 mph speed limits A38 Taunton to Wellington – comments by Parish Council

12.2 Speed Indicator Device (SID) reports – October/November 2016

12.3 Proposed Speed Indicator Device (SID) installation – dates for 2017 Bradford on Tone – weeks commencing 15 May and 20 November 2017.

Mr Haines had raised the possibility of having a speed indicator fixed device triggered by vehicles travelling in excess of 30 mph which simply showed in lights the speed limit and the words 'SLOW DOWN.' However, Somerset County Council had indicated that the installation of a permanent vehicle activated sign would only be considered as part of a wider safety scheme for which Bradford on Tone does not comply with the criteria.

13. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED SINCE CIRCULATION OF AGENDA

None.

14. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Mr Underhill raised problems with the section of public footpath that ran from behind The White Horse Inn down across a paddock and towards the bridge. The issues were a large bush obstructing the footpath and the danger of the steps and risers where users climbed down into the paddock. The Clerk would ask Mrs Sidhu to contact Mr Underhill.

There was also the question of having the hedge cut back from Worlds End towards the village. The Clerk would obtain some prices for this work. Mrs Cape reminded Councilors of the need for landowners to cut growth across the definitive public footpaths. Mrs Sidhu would be asked to contact Mr Mitchell.

The next meeting of the Parish Council, to include the Annual Parish Meeting, will be held on **WEDNESDAY 8 MARCH 2017 AT 7.30 PM** in the Village Hall.  
(NB Note change of date)

**THE PUBLIC AND PRESS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THIS MEETING.**

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