

**BRADFORD ON TONE PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 MAY 2017**

PRESENT

Mr D Venn (Chairman), Mr C Ellis, Mr P Haines, Mr R Pearse, Mrs L Sidhu  
Mr R Habgood (District Councillor)  
Six members of the public

1. CONFIRMATION THAT A QUORUM WAS PRESENT

Confirmed

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Nominations were sought for Chairman. On the proposal of Mr Ellis, seconded by Mr Pearse, Mr Venn was nominated as Chairman. There being no other nominations Mr Venn was elected Chairman and he signed the Acceptance of Office form. He thanked Councillors for their support.

3(a) APOLOGIES

Mr C Dinsdale OBE

3(b) RESIGNATION OF MRS CAPE

Councillors were sorry to hear that Mrs Cape had resigned as a Parish Councillor. The Clerk would write and thank her for her interest and input during her time on the Parish Council.

The process to fill the vacancy was already in progress and would take place at the July meeting.

4. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Nominations were sought for Vice-Chairman. On the proposal of Mr Haines, seconded by Mr Pearse, Mrs Sidhu was nominated as Vice-Chairman. There being no other nominations Mrs Sidhu accepted and was elected as Vice-Chairman. Mrs Sidhu thanked Councillors for their support.

5. INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Mr Haines – minutes 9.3, 14.2.2 and 15.1.3.

Mr Ellis – minutes 9.2 and 14.2.2.

6. APPOINTMENT OF PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Mr Dinsdale had agreed to represent the Parish Council on the Village Hall Committee and Mrs Sidhu had agreed to continue as the Public Path Liaison Officer with the County Council.

7. CRIME UPDATE

PCSO Sharon Cridland's report for April indicated eleven calls to the police for the Bradford on Tone beat. It also noted that thefts from vehicles in isolated beauty spots were on the increase.

8. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 MARCH

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

9. UPDATE ON ITEMS IN MINUTES

9.1 Defibrillator, telephone box and noticeboards

Prior to this meeting an informal unveiling ceremony, conducted by Clinton Rogers, had taken place for the defibrillator in the telephone box adjacent to the White Horse Inn. The defibrillator had been installed thanks to a £500 grant from the Taunton Deane Borough Council's Mayors Fund and Somerset Community Trust, with the balance coming from the Parish Council. BT had supported the idea by selling the telephone box to the Parish Council for £1.

There had been a great deal of support from villagers, including Adrian Gaines and David Richards who had helped to refurbish the telephone box and install the defibrillator.

The noticeboards had been refurbished.

9.2 Land outside Threeways, Bradford on Tone

The Clerk was asked to remind Somerset Highways about the piece of public highway land which appeared to have been taken into private ownership.

9.3 Cedar Tree, Bradford on Tone – Freedom of Information

[Mr Haines declared an interest]

Further to previous correspondence, Councillors had received copies of all relevant paperwork and had now been asked to make a decision on some outstanding questions received from the owner of the cedar tree.

After discussion it was unanimously agreed by Councillors that they confirmed they did not accept that they had acted in any way improperly and that they did not wish the Clerk to enter into any further correspondence with the owner concerning this matter. Councillors also unanimously agreed that they would consider any further Freedom of Information requests to be vexatious and to which the Parish Council would not reply.

10. REPORT OF VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

In the absence of Mr Dinsdale no report was available.

11. HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

11.1 Open ditch between White Steading and The Haven, Hele

Following damage to an open ditch caused by an HGV lorry the edge of the carriageway had been totally destroyed, with the verge in the bottom of the ditch. Somerset Highways accepted responsibility on this occasion and safety work was carried out.

11.2 Pedestrian warning signs in Bradford on Tone

As there were several sections of highway through the village where there was no footway Councillors asked Somerset Highways if they could consider signing saying ‘Motorists please be aware of pedestrians in the road.’

Somerset Highways in their reply said that police records showed there had been no personal injury collisions in Bradford on Tone over the previous five year period. For that reason they could not justify allocating funds from a significantly reduced budget or resources for the erection of new pedestrian warning signs.

11.3 Bradford Bridge

The wooden bollards on either side of Bradford bridge had been damaged by passing vehicles over a period of time. The Clerk had arranged for County Bridges to carry out an inspection. Councillors suggested that they should at some time consider CCTV camera coverage and look again at the list of farmers who have dispensations to use Bradford bridge.

11.4 Oake to Bradford on Tone Road

There were a number of potholes requiring repairs and the Clerk would email Somerset Highways.

11.5 Footpath behind The White Horse Inn/Dalgren Bridge

Further complaints had been received that this public footpath, which included the bridge, had been closed for nearly eight years despite the efforts of Mrs Sidhu to have it reinstated.

Mr Habgood said he would contact County Councillor James Hunt and between them they could apply pressure on the County Council to address the problems that have prevented the popular route being reopened.

12. PROPOSED DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR 2018

Subject to a change from 19 to 12 September 2018 the dates as shown in attached Appendix 1

were approved.

13. RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT 2017/2018

On the proposal of Mrs Sidhu, seconded by Mr Pearse, the above paper was approved. A copy is attached as Appendix 2.

14. PLANNING

14.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2017

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

14.2 Applications

14.2.1 07/17/0005 Variation on Condition 2 (approved plans) of application 07/15/0013 at Sheppys Cider, Three Bridges, Wellington Road, Bradford on Tone – no requirement for site meeting and no objection

14.2.2 07/17/0006/T – notification to fell one cypress tree within Bradford on Tone Conservation Area at Largo, Back Lane, Bradford on Tone. Parish Council met 22.4.17 – no objection.

14.3 Decisions

14.3.1 07/16/0013 – construction of a gas fired energy reserve facility and ancillary infrastructure on land adjacent to Hele Manor, Hele. Permission granted 29.11.16.

14.3.2 07/17/0004/t – fell one oak within Bradford on Tone Conservation Area at Threeways, Bradford on Tone. Approved 2.3.17.

14.3.3 See 14.2.2 – approved 11 May 2017.

15. FINANCE

15.1	To consider the approval of the following accounts for payment	£
15.1.1	Clerk's salary April/May	606.32
15.1.2	Clerk's expenses April/May	55.82
15.1.3	Overtime – correspondence with Mr Webb – 11 hours @ £11.66	128.26
15.1.4	Hire of Village main Hall 8.3.17	16.00
15.1.5	AR Computing – printer cartridges	54.00 (inc VAT 9.00)
15.1.6	Zurich – Parish Council insurance 1.6.17 to 31.5.18	284.35
15.1.7	Mr B Howe – internal audit of Parish Council accounts 2016/2017	121.50
15.1.8	Mr A Gaines – works to telephone box and noticeboards	468.00 (inc VAT £78.00)
15.1.9	Hobbs Electrical – wiring and install defibrillator box	227.40 (inc VAT

37.90)

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

15.2 Income

15.2.1 Precept 2017/2018 7000.00

15.2.2 Taunton Deane Borough Council – tax support grant 65.00

15.3 Bank Balance and Reconciliation Statement

After the above transactions have been taken into account the Parish Council's bank account totalled £11502.75.

15.4 Annual Governance Statement 2016/2017

As part of the external examination of the Parish Council's accounts this completed Statement had been circulated to Councillors. On the proposal of Mr Haines, seconded by Mrs Sidhu, it was unanimously agreed to approve the Statement as attached at Appendix 3.

15.5 Annual Accounting Statement 2016/2017

As part of the external examination of the Parish Council's accounts this completed Statement had been circulated to Councillors. On the proposal of Mr Haines, seconded by Mrs Sidhu, it was unanimously agreed to approve the Statement as attached as Appendix 4. The internal auditor's report was referred to.

15.6 Update on purchase of computer

With reference to minute 13.1 of the September 2016 meeting, the Clerk reminded Councillors of their agreement for him to purchase a new computer. The cost would be split between the Clerk and his two Parish Councils. He would obtain three comparable quotes in due course and report back to the Parish Council.

15.7 Reconciliation Statement – Summary 2016/2017

Attached as Appendix 5 is a copy of the summary of the Parish Council's accounts for 2016/2017 which was approved. The proposer was Mr Haines, seconded by Mrs Sidhu.

16. AN INFORMAL FUTURE STRATEGY (The original document was discussed in June 2013)

Councillors discussed whether or not to prepare a Parish Plan. Reference was made to the Parish Council's Informal Future Strategy – June 2013. Councillors agreed that it would be preferable to concentrate on achieving the more important objectives of the Parish Council, ie

to reopen the public footpath and bridge between Bradford on Tone and Nynehead and press the County Council to carry out safety measures through the village.

17. CORRESPONDENCE

None

18. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED SINCE CIRCULATION OF AGENDA

18.1 Centenary of end of World War I 2018

The Lord Lieutenant of Somerset was holding a County Commemorative Event in Wells on Tuesday evening 6 November 2018 to mark the enormous contribution of the people of Somerset at home and abroad. It was hoped to send a representative from the Parish Council.

19. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None

20. ITEMS OF CONCERN

20.1 Parish Magazine costs

Mr Hardy put forward a suggestion that the Parish Council might like to consider making a contribution towards the costs of printing and distribution of the magazine to each household. Mr Hardy was asked to present a short report and costings at the July meeting.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 19 July 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Chant Room, Village Hall, Bradford on Tone. Items for the agenda should be sent to the Clerk at least 14 days before the meeting.

The meeting finished at 8.55 pm.

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