

BRADFORD ON TONE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 JULY 2017

PRESENT

Mr D Venn (Chairman, Mr C Ellis, Mr D Dinsdale OBE, Mr R Pearse, Mrs L Sidhu
Mr R Habgood (District Councillor)
Five members of the public

1. APOLOGIES

Mr P Haines

2. CASUAL VACANCY

Six expressions of interest had been received to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mrs Cape, but only three completed application forms were received.

Councillors voted unanimously to elect Mrs Kate Herdman. Therefore it was proposed by Mr Dinsdale, seconded by Mr Ellis and resolved that Mrs Herdman be co-opted as a Parish Councillor to fill the vacancy with immediate effect.

3. INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

None

4. CRIME UPDATE

PCSO SHARON Baker's report for June indicated only one non-dwelling burglary in Hele.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 MAY 2017

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

6. UPDATE ON ITEMS IN MINUTES

6.1 Land outside Threeways, Bradford on Tone

Somerset Highways had written to the property owners requesting they remove their low level post and chain fence as the verge was shown on Highway records as being part of the public highway. They awaited a response from the owners.

6.2 Pedestrian warning signs in Bradford on Tone

Further to minute 11.2 of the May meeting Somerset County Council could not help with the provision of road warning signs. In fact it was their current policy to reduce sign clutter throughout Somerset, retaining only the absolutely necessary signs.

Unfortunately this policy meant that Parish Councils were unable to offer funding to pay for road signs or road markings.

6.3 Bradford Bridge

Councillors were concerned that the continuing replacement/realignment of the wooden bollards could only be a temporary solution and a continuing expense.

Mr Haines had suggested further restrictions on the use of the bridge by farm vehicles and/or enforcement of the current weight limits. He favoured, even on a temporary basis, some sort of CCTV. He said that monitoring did not need to be constant and the recording need only be viewed when damage had occurred.

Another suggestion was the repositioning of the posts, ie further away from the bridge but not increasing the width between the posts. The Clerk would email County Bridges to seek their comments.

6.4 Parish Magazine Costs

Mr Hardy had suggested that the Parish Council might like to fund the cost of delivering the local parish magazine “News from the Villages.” He had put forward a proposal for the free distribution of the magazine. He said he would submit a more detailed report to the September meeting. Mr Hardy thought a provisional cost to the Parish Council could be in the region of £150 to £180 per month for ten months. There would need to be a print of 400 to include Bradford on Tone, Oake, Hillfarrance and Heathfield

7. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Mr Dinsdale reported that he had resigned from the Village Hall Committee. He had acted as liaison between the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee. He said that there were few and infrequent issues that either group needed to deal with through that link which could not just as easily be dealt with informally.

8. HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

8.1 Footpath behind the White Horse Inn/Dalgren bridge

Everyone was seriously concerned at the length of time Dalgren bridge had been closed (nine years) therefore preventing the use of the public right of way between Bradford on Tone and Nynehead.

District Councillor Roger Habgood had taken this matter up with SCC. The main reason that no works had been undertaken was because the bridge had private vehicular rights and SCC were not responsible for installing a bridge suitable for vehicular use. Over the years SCC had offered a number of options to the landowner but without any successful outcome.

Mr Habgood said there had been consultation with the Environment Agency regarding a possible flood defence scheme which would involve this location. He saw

this as a positive opportunity to resolve this issue as any such works would require negotiation and resolution with the landowner. It would, of course, be in the landowner's interest to settle on any flood alleviation scheme. This would therefore link the two issues together. Mr Habgood said, however, it was not acceptable to have to wait another four or five years for this footpath to be reopened and he had asked SCC to suggest a way forward to present to the September Parish Council meeting.

A member of the public attending this meeting through the Freedom of Information Act 2000 had provided the Parish Council with a copy of the health and safety report/structural report/condition report on this footbridge linking public footpaths WG 14/1 (part) and WG 8/13 (part).

8.2 Public Footpaths - Bradford on Tone

A site visit had taken place with Mr Venn, Mrs Sidhu and County Councillor Hunt regarding the importance of keeping the public rights of way system open and usable, particularly the footpaths crossing Mr Mitchell's land. However, there were still access issues and Mrs Sidhu would take the matter up with Somerset County Council.

8.3 Public Footpath WG 3/17 at Hele

A member of the public had complained about the difficulty of negotiating the stile at the roadside edge by Hele bridge, and suggested it should be replaced by a kissing gate. Mrs Sidhu said she would contact the complainant and ask Somerset County Council if the stile could be replaced by a kissing gate.

9. PLANNING

9.1 Minutes of the meetings held on 7 and 27 May, 4 and 5 July 2017

The minutes, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as correct. The proposers for the meetings, in date order, were Mr Dinsdale, Mr Pearse, Mr Ellis and Mrs Sidhu. The seconders were Mr Ellis, Mrs Sidhu, Mr Dinsdale and Mr Pearse.

9.2 Applications

9.2.1 07/17/0011 – conversion of living accommodation to garage and erection of single storey extension to rear of 1 Gardeners Close, Bradford on Tone. Parish Council met 7 May 2017 – no objection.

9.2.2 07/17/0012 – erection of two storey and single storey extensions with porch to the rear of Vallespie, Regent Street, Bradford on Tone (resubmission of application 07/17/0003). Parish Council met 27 May 2017 – no objection but few comments.

9.2.3 07/17/0013 – erection of first floor extension to side and replacement single storey extension to rear of 1 Stonehouse Cottages, Hele, Bradford on Tone. Parish Council met 4 July 2017 – no objection.

9.2.4 07/17/0007 – erection of single storey extension to the front and rear and south elevations of Kingslea, Heatherton Park, Bradford on Tone. Amendments to original application not seen by Parish Council. Parish Council met 5 July 2017 – no objection.

9.2.5 07/17/0014 – extension to lower ground floor and replacement roof structure at Hele Mount, Hele, Bradford on Tone. Due to administrative error this was not advertised by Clerk, but the Chairman made a site visit and had no objection to the proposals.

9.3 Decisions

9.3.1 Reference 9.2.2 – conditional approval 6 July 2017

9.3.2 Reference 9.2.1 – conditional approval 13 July 2017

10. Finance

10.1	<u>To consider approval of the following accounts for payment</u>	£
10.1.1	Clerk's salary June/July	606.32
10.1.2	Clerk's expenses June/July	38.10
10.1.3	Clerk's working from home allowance	200.00
10.1.4	AR Computing – black print cartridges	85.00 (inc VAT 14.17)
10.1.5	Magic Webs Ltd – renewal of website domain name for 2 years	16.80 (inc VAT 2.80)
10.1.6	Viking – 3 boxes photocopying paper	64.85 (inc VAT 10.81)
10.1.7	Somerset Playing Fields Association membership	15.00
10.1.8	Active Signs – signs for defibrillator/noticeboard	23.64 (inc VAT 3.94)
10.1.9	Adrian Gaines – additional work to noticeboard	60.00 (inc VAT 10.00)
10.1.10	Edward Martin Computers – purchase of HP285G2 computer Tower (one third cost) – already paid by Clerk	158.00 (inc VAT 26.33)

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

10.2 Income

10.2.1 VAT repayment 2016/2017 295.44

10.3 Bank balance and annual reconciliation statement

After the above transactions had taken place the Parish Council's bank account totalled £10530.38.

11. Correspondence

- 11.1 Paediatric defibrillator pads for children under eight – no further action.
- 11.2 Request for Community Infrastructure Levy funding for Oake, Bradford and Nynehead School – unable to help as Parish Council has no CIL funding.
- 11.3 Temporary road closure, Oake Road, Nynehead 14 – 19 August
- 11.4 Growing a Rural Community Survey for Taunton Deane
- 11.5.1 Invitation for free NHS health checks for the parish - noted
- 11.5.2 Merchant Navy Day – 3 September 2017

12. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED SINCE CIRCULATION OF AGENDA

- 12.1 SCC Chairman’s Award for services to the community

13. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

13.1 Hedge and Footway from Heatherton crossroads into village

A resident who lives near the Heatherton crossroads was concerned about the state of the hedge and footway through to the village. The hedge had been hand cut in February but it was becoming impassable and now required a hard cut. Weeds were growing up in the footway and these needed spraying. A machine cut did take place on 17 July but had not been very effective.

The Clerk was asked to contact Fox’s Farm Services at Nynehead to cut both the side and top, subject to a limit of £250. He would also arrange for the footway to be sprayed to stop weed growth.

13.2 Bradford on Tone War Memorial

Mr Dinsdale commented on how clean and tidy the war memorial looked. This was due to a small working party of David Richards, Peter Hardy, John Curtis and John Underhill. On the proposal of Mr Pearse, seconded by Mrs Sidhu, it was agreed to make a donation of £40 to the local Children’s Hospice in recognition of their hard work.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 20 September 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 closed at 9.10 pm.

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