

BRADFORD ON TONE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12TH JANUARY 2021 THE MEETING WAS HELD REMOTELY USING ZOOM CONFERENCING.

PRESENT

Cllr Venn (Chairman), Cllr Ellis, Cllr Brodie (temporary Vice-Chair), Cllr Smith
Cllr Sidhu, Cllr Herdman

4 members of the public

1. Apologies

Cllr Haines (Vice-Chair) – long term illness

2. Interests

None declared

3. To receive minutes from meeting held on 10th November 2020

Having already been circulated to the Chairman and shared with the rest of the Council, the minutes were taken as read and signed as correct by Cllr Venn. The minutes were proposed by Cllr Brodie and seconded by Cllr Ellis.

4. To receive report from the Police for November and December 2020.

The Clerk read out the reports received from PCSO Henderson for November and December 2020.

There were 181 calls into 101 and 999 for the Wellington Rural Beat for the month of November 2020. None of these calls involved the Nynehead, Oake, Bradford on Tone and Langford Budville area.

There were 188 calls into 101 and 999 for the Wellington Rural Beat for the month of December 2020. 1 call involved the Nynehead, Oake, Bradford on Tone and Langford Budville area. This involved a service engineer being bitten inside a house by a dog. No risk to the wider public.

The Clerk then read a recently received email from PCSO Henderson advising that due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, Beat Surgeries were being cancelled until further notice.

5. To receive update on items in minutes.

5.1 Recreational facilities in Bradford on Tone

Cllr Brodie shared an aerial photograph of the site at Heatherton Grange and talked through the area where 1,000 trees had been planted to commemorate the end of the World War One. Cllr Brodie also shared photographs of the type of play equipment that was hoped to be installed and updated Councillors that he was waiting for two quotes in respect of the new equipment (these were from Darren's Den and Earthwrights).

Councillors discussed the current state of the footpath that leads to the proposed site of the new entrance and that this would need clearing if the Play Area goes ahead; they also discussed the possibility that a barrier would need to be placed at the site to ensure children were not able to run straight out onto the road when leaving the site.

5.2 Public Footpaths

Cllr Sidhu updated Councillors that the footbridge for footpath WG3/3 has now been fixed. It was also mentioned that the steps to the bridge were also looking dangerous and Cllr Sidhu confirmed that she had already chased this with Somerset County Council but as at the date of the meeting, she had not received a response.

Cllr Sidhu then gave an update on Dalgrens Bridge, she mentioned that Rachel Pearce had been in touch from SCC and had confirmed that she had received several comments from Parishioners that they did not agree with the proposal although no formal updates had been received by Cllr Sidhu.

Both Nynhead and West Buckland Parish Councils were aware of the proposal, but nothing had been received from either Council in respect of this.

It was confirmed that the decision in respect of the next steps was with SCC although Cllr Venn confirmed that he had been in contact with a couple of local landowners whose land the footpath crossed, and they were in favour of the proposal.

Cllr Sidhu stated that in her view if the Council did not push to open the proposed route, the discussions could potentially still be ongoing for many more years. Cllr Brodie agreed that something needed to be done as the current footpath had been closed for 13 years and would remain closed forever if nothing was achieved at this point. All Councillors agreed that we should continue with the proposal.

Cllr Sidhu agreed to report that both footpath styles on the path running from White Steading at Hele Hill towards Rumwell need attention.

5.3 Feedback on Climate Emergency Online event

Cllr Smith provided an update on the online Climate Emergency event that he had attended on 24th October (this item having been carried forward from the previous Council Meeting). He noted that Green issues should become a permanent item on the Agenda for all Parish Council Meetings going forward and the Clerk noted this. Cllr Smith confirmed that as a Council we should be able to track our carbon footprint and that grants were available to Councils who wished to introduce any green initiatives. Cllr Smith will investigate this and whether anything could apply to Bradford on Tone; he will then report back at the next Parish Council Meeting in March.

5.4 'Daylands' and potential footpath outside of property

The property has been sold subject to contract and it was agreed that once the new owners were in situ and settled that perhaps Dave Richards could approach them and ascertain if they would be interested in a new part of the footpath being installed at the front of the property.

Cllr Ellis asked whether this should be linked to the Play Area project, as the footpath would enable Parishioners to walk almost the entire route from the centre of the village to the new Play Area without the need for them to be on the road.

6. Finance

6.1	Clerks Salary December / January	£ 528.32
6.2	St Giles Churchyard Maintenance contribution (including VAT of £ 63.00)	£ 378.00

On the proposal of Cllr Brodie, seconded by Cllr Herdman it was agreed to approve all the above for payment.

7. Items / correspondence received since last meeting

7.1 Training offer from Somerset Association for Local Councils (SALC)

The Clerk read out the most recent training offer from Somerset Association for Local Councils and advised that if any Councilors were interested that they should let her know and she would register their details.

7.2 Stronger Somerset letter

The Clerk read a summary of the letter and agreed to send it to all Councilors with the minutes due to the length of the document.

7.3 Citizens Advice Bureau appeal

The Clerk read out a speculative email that had been received from the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) asking for donations. Cllr Ellis voiced concerns that if we

were to donate that we may not be representing all of Parishioners to which Cllr Brodie agreed. It was decided by all Councillors not to pursue this any further.

7.4 Census 2021

The Clerk has received and read out information on the upcoming 2021 Census. This will take place on 21st March and will be the first Census to be run predominantly online although participants will still be able to take part using paper questionnaires. Households should start receiving letters with online codes to take part from early March.

8. Planning

8.1 Applications

07/20/0024 Ford Nursery

Cllr Ellis and Cllr Brodie have both looked at the proposed site from Broom Lane. It was noted that there is a property named 'The Willows' in Broom Lane which is currently a tied property and it was also noted that Ford Mill (the property next to the site of the application) was not linked to Ford Nursery.

Cllr Ellis asked whether another tied property was required and whether it was necessary to live on the site of the Nursery. Cllr Smith questioned whether the business was able to fund the house. Cllr Venn agreed with Cllr Ellis' comments regarding the tied property. Cllrs also noted that the business had survived the last 10 years without the need for a property to be built at the site. It was proposed that the application should be rejected on the basis that the building was being proposed in open countryside; it was also noted that there was no mention on the application of the size of the building. The Clerk agreed to draft the response and to let Councillors view a copy prior to submission.

8.2 Decisions

None.

9. Members of the public

None

10. Items of concern

The Clerk agreed to chase up the following previously raised issues:

- The potential to list the marker stone outside of The White Horse Public House.
- White lining at all road junctions was due to be renewed recently – to be chased up with Kate Brown from the Traffic Management team.

Cllr Brodie mentioned that a vehicle had recently been driving past his property heading towards the running for Hele at considerable speed when it overturned and ended up in the entrance to Bradford Court, thankfully nobody was seriously injured but it did yet again, highlight the unacceptable speed of some vehicles in the village.

Cllrs also discussed the recent gas outage in the village and that it had been reported that this was as a result of another traffic incident which resulted in a vehicle hitting the Gas mains at the start of the village (on the road to Oake). It was noted that the communication by Wales and West Utilities had been second to none and that they ensured that every single property in the village was correctly connected back to the mains prior to them leaving the village – the Clerk will pass on the thanks of all Councillors to Wales & West Utilities as a result.

It was felt that taking both of these recent events into account, that the Clerk would contact PCSO Henderson asking for details of all traffic incidents in a five mile radius of the Parish within the last 5 years to enable Councillors to feed into the findings of the recent fatality in Oake and any recommendations arising as a result.

The Clerk agreed to contact Cllr Habgood in respect of the idea of placing planters in the road as vehicles approached the bridge to try and reduce the size of the vehicles using the bridge.

The meeting concluded at 8.45pm

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 9th March at 7.30pm and is currently planned to be held via Zoom conferencing facilities. This meeting will also incorporate the Annual Parish Meeting.