

DRAFT – SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

**BRADFORD ON TONE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2019**

PRESENT

Mr D Venn (Chairman), Mr A Brodie, Mr C Ellis, Mrs K Herdman, Mr D Smith
Four members of the public

1. APPOINTMENT OF NEW CLERK

The Clerk confirmed that after 22 years he would be retiring on 30 November 2019, with his last meeting being on 13 November. A timetable was in place for his replacement to be appointed. The closing date for the receipt of applications was 26 September. A short list would then be drawn up and interviews held on 10 October 2019.

Mr Venn read out Mr Bott's letter of resignation, together with his response on behalf of the Parish Council.

2. APOLOGIES

Mr P Haines, Mrs L Sidhu, Mr J Hunt (County Councillor)

3. INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Mr Venn – minutes 6.3 and 9.4.2.

4. POLICE REPORT

PCSO Vicky Henderson's latest report covering July and August indicated one offence of theft and handling stolen goods in Bradford on Tone and one road traffic accident near Sheppys on the A38.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 JULY 2019

The minutes, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as correct. The proposer was Mr Brodie, seconded by Mr Smith.

6. UPDATE ON ITEMS IN MINUTES

6.1 Recreational Facilities in Bradford on Tone

Mr Brodie said the working group would visit a possible site at Heatherton Park. This was currently the only site on offer. Mr Smith had looked at various sites in and around Wellington to see what facilities were available and what might be required in Bradford on Tone. Councillors discussed a number of matters including terms of reference, grants and how the CIL funds could be best spent.

6.2 Public Footpaths WG 3/4 and 14/1 Bradford on Tone to Nynehead

In her absence Mrs Sidhu had said she was disappointed that there had been no response to her article in News from the Villages regarding 'Adopt a Path.' Mr Smith suggested placing an article on how to report a problem with a Right of Way in Somerset online. This was agreed.

[Mrs Herdman arrived at 8.00 pm.]

6.3 Bradford Bridge

[Mr Venn declared an interest for the next item and Mr Ellis took the chair]

The Clerk outlined the history of the Orders affecting the bridge and the options available to stop further damage to this listed structure. With two Councillors absent it was agreed to ask Mr Haines to prepare a report for the November meeting, which would set out clearly the options on which Councillors could vote, ie to allow restricted dispensations or none at all.

6.4 Speeding through Bradford on Tone

Councillors had agreed prior to this meeting not to be involved in Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs). Regarding the '20 is plenty' signs, the County Council's Traffic Management team had responded to the Parish Council that they were unsure who would have removed signs from private property. Any speed limit regulatory signage was unauthorised unless erected by the County Council with a Traffic Regulations Order to enable police enforcement. So signs on private land were not permitted to advise drivers at what speed they should be driving.

7. HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

7.1 Hedge cutting from A38 Heatherton Park to Village

Fox's Farm Services had been asked to cut back hedge growth alongside the footway and clear away the trimmings.

7.2 Safety Signage at bend between Broom Lane and turning to Ford Farm

There continued to be traffic incidents around this bend and the Highways Authority would be asked to improve the signage. Mr Venn also requested that chevrons be repaired at Stoford bends.

7.3 Proposed road closure in Bradford on Tone on Armistice Sunday

A member of the public had asked if the road between the church and war memorial could be closed from 10.55 am to 11.05 am on Armistice Sunday as a matter of respect for the Remembrance Service. The Clerk would ask Somerset Highways for their agreement.

8. REPORT OF VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Mr Smith gave a resume of the latest meeting held on 11 September 2019. Items discussed included new carpets and curtains, LED lighting, floor repairs and asbestos removal. Bookings were reported to be picking up as the summer ended. There was a healthy bank balance due to recent very successful fund raising events, and no further organised fund raising was envisaged until the New Year. Mr Smith was thanked for his report.

9. PLANNING

9.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 13 August 2019

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

9.2 Applications

9.2.1 07/19/0006 – change of use from agricultural land to Class B8 (storage) on land at Heatherton Park House, Heatherton Park, Bradford on Tone. Parish Council met 13 August 2019 – no objection, but see minutes.

9.3 Decisions

None

9.4 Other Planning Matters

9.4.1 Electronic working of application papers

Somerset West and Taunton Council had been asked if a planning applicant or their agent could supply a set of plans direct to the Parish Council for ease of reference. The response was ‘the local authority cannot ask for copies of plans on your behalf as a matter of course.’

Mr Ellis had asked the Planning Authority “Is there any reason why we cannot be supplied with the website link to the specific application instead of just the ‘application search page?’” The response was “For technical reasons we cannot currently link direct into an application ...”

9.4.2 Mill House Equestrian Centre, Bradford on Tone – change of use – update

[Mr Venn declared an interest for this item]

The owners/occupiers of Hele Equestrian Centre attended this meeting to put forward their proposal for change of use of the barn. They had submitted a planning application to the local authority (no 07/19/0011) for up to fifteen licensed events per year. On receipt of the application councillors could carry out a site visit.

10. FINANCE

10.1	<u>To consider approval of the following accounts for payment</u>	£
10.1.1	Clerk's salary August/September	858.48
10.1.2	Clerk's expenses August/September	17.46
10.1.3	Somerset County Gazette – advert for clerk's post – 4 editions (paid by Clerk)	312.00 (inc VAT 52.00)
10.1.4	Wellington Weekly News – advert for Clerk's post	150.96 (inc VAT 25.16)
10.1.5	Bradford on Tone Village Hall – hire of Chant Room 24.7.19	16.00
10.1.6	John Abraham – sponsor a tree at the Woodlands Trust, Heatherton Park – commemorating the centenary of the End of World War I (approved minute 5.4 of 24.7.19 meeting)	25.00

On the proposal of Mr Brodie, seconded by Mrs Herdman, it was unanimously agreed to approve these accounts for payment.

10.2 Income

10.2.1	Somerset West and Taunton Council – annual churchyard maintenance (£420) and footpath maintenance (£100)	520.00
10.2.2	VAT repayment	232.83
10.2.3	Interest	0.59

10.3 Bank balance and reconciliation statement

After the above transactions had been taken into account the Parish Council's bank balance totalled £13058.08.

10.4 Half year internal audit of Parish Council's accounts 2019/20

Mr Brodie offered to carry out an internal audit after 30 September 2019.

11. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED SINCE LAST MEETING

- 11.1 Electric Vehicle Community Charge Point Fund – call for applications from Town and Parish Councils. After discussion Councillors agreed by a majority not to pursue the call for applications.

12. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED SINCE CIRCULATION OF AGENDA

12.1 Hele Drainage

Mr Venn asked the Clerk to thank Somerset Highways for a job well done at Hele.

13. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

13.1 Road Markings

It was agreed the Clerk would ask Somerset Highways if the road markings at Heatherton Park could be repainted, together with the white lines at the junction by the White Horse.

14. ITEMS OF CONCERN

None

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 13 November 2019 starting at 7.30 pm in the Chant Room, Bradford on Tone Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

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