

BRADFORD ON TONE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2019

PRESENT

Mr D Venn (Chariman), Mr P Haines (Vice-Chair), Mr C Ellis, Mrs K Herdman, Mrs L Sidhu, Mr A Brodie, Mr D Smith
Mr D Bott (outgoing Parish Clerk)
Mr R Habgood (District COuncillor)
Seven members of the public

1. Introduction of new Clerk

Mr Venn introduced the new Clerk, Mrs Helen Trowbridge who would be taking over the position with effect form 1st December. He also made a short speech and presentation to the outgoing Clerk, Mr Derrick Bott and thanked him for 22 years of loyal service. Mr Venn presented Mr Bott with a small gift as a Thank You from the members of the council.

2. Apologies

Mr J Hunt (County Councilor)
PCSO Vicky Henderson

3. Interests

Mr D Venn – Minute 6.2 and 11.23

4. Police Report

Mr Bott read out the most recent report from PCSO Vicky Henderson and during the period in question there were no calls registered for Bradford on Tone. It was mentioned that the council had previously asked Vicky Henderson to include details of road accidents in her report and it was noted that this had not happened again. Mrs Trowbridge will take this away as an action point.

5. Minutes of the meting held on 18 September 2019.

Having already been circulated, the minutes were taken as read and signed as correct by Mr Venn.

6. Update on items in the minutes

6.1 Recreational facilities in Bradford on Tone

Mr Brodie summarised the current position and the kind offer from Mr Tim Everett who has made some land available near to Heatherton Park. The Council views the site as very favourable. A follow up meeting with several Councilors and a representative from Taunton Deane and Somerset West had not gone ahead as planned but Mrs Sidhu has agreed to organise a new meeting, planned for a Tuesday when most Councilors would be able to attend, and will advise of the new date accordingly. Mr R Habgood agreed to check if S106 funds could be used for items

other than play equipment and will report back. Mr Ellis raised concerns about the long term costs involved in the maintenance of any equipment provided at the site and it was agreed that this would be taken into account as or when the need arose.

6.2 Bradford Bridge

Mr Haines took the chair at this point as Mr Venn had declared an interest in this item.

The Councilors discussed at much length how the current restrictions should be addressed going forward. Both Mr Bott and Mr Haines had invested much time in researching options including raising the current weight limit, increasing the weight limit and approaching the current users who are allowed to do so by holding exemptions. It was decided that for the time being all current landowners using the bridge under exemptions should be approached and asked to update the council in respect of their current use – it was acknowledged that it would be a good time to do this as farmers are currently quieter than at other points in the year. Mrs Trowbridge will take this as an action and will then report back to Mr Haines and discuss next steps.

6.3 Public Footpaths WG 3 / 4 and 14 / 1

The current issue with the footpaths and the broken bridge has been ongoing since 2008 and since then Mr Bott has tried to involve Mr Hunt in the issue to try and resolve the matter without success.

Mrs Sidhu has spent much time contacting Taunton Deane and Somerset West Council for their help in resolving this matter but this too has proved to have little effect on progressing the issue.

Mrs Sidhu is currently looking into the issue and liaising with the appropriate team at Taunton and Somerset West Council but frustratingly is not getting far with them. Mr Bott suggested approaching the Ramblers Association to see if they knew of any way to move the issue forward. Mrs Sidhu will continue to approach Taunton Deane and Somerset West but will also try the Ramblers Association and will report back at the next meeting.

6.4 Various White Lining in Bradford on Tone

Members of the public had requested that the junction at the A38 / Worlds End public house be refurbished and Mr Bott was able to confirm that this was earmarked for some time in 2020.

7. Parking issue at Stoneycroft

Several members of the public had raised their concern over vehicles being parked outside Stoneycroft as you enter the village from the Worlds End junction with the A38. It was agreed that PCSO Vicky Henderson would be contacted and asked to approach the homeowners and speak to them about the effect of their parking. She would also be asked to approach the residents around the sharp bend on Regents

Street outside of Hayward's Water for the same reason. Mrs Trowbridge took this as an action point.

8. SCC Highways Winter Maintenance

Volunteers have been sought under the above program to become and act as Snow Wardens within the Parish. It was decided after discussion that villagers would self administer any grit required on road surfaces and therefore a Snow Warden would not be appointed.

9. SCC Improving Lives Grant Scheme

Members of the Council were asked if they wanted to suggest any worthy causes to receive funds from this grant. Mr Habgood intervened at this point and informed the council that the money was there to be used and if it wasn't used then it could potentially be lost. The deadline for submitting suggestions has been extended due to the upcoming General election and Mr Habgood agreed to look into this in more depth and report back to the council.

10. Report of Village Hall Committee

Mr Smith read out the most recent report from the Village Hall Committee which included an update on the Asbestos Guttering removal, it was noted that the carpet is due to be replaced soon and that new curtains had already been fitted. It was noted that two members of the committee had recently resigned and also that the committee was looking into the potential purchase of a screen and projector.

11. Planning

11.1 Previously circulated minutes from meetings held on 17th and 30th October were read through and confirmed as accurate.

11.2 Applications

11.2.1 07/19/0010/T – fell a cherry tree – approved (no objections)

11.2.2 07/19/0012 – demolition of lean-to side structure and semi detached erection of single storey side extension at Wychwood, Heatherton Park – approved (no objections)

11.2.3 07/19/0011 – works at Mill House Equestrian Centre. Mr Haines took the Chair at this point due to a previously noted interest from Mr Venn. The Parish Council met on 31st October – objected (see previous minutes at 11.1 above). Mr Habgood requested detail in respect of the application, which Mr Haines went through. Mr Haines made it clear that the Council had objected to the application due to the anticipated increase in traffic and noise. It was also noted that there was a history of non-compliance at this site.

11.3 Decisions

11.3.1 07/19/006 – siting of two containers (retrospective) at Heatherton Park House. A question was raised over the original planning application as it had not mentioned the number of containers – Mr Habgood agreed to look into this matter and report back to the Council.

11.3.2 07/19/0010/T – see 11.21 above – approved

12. Finance

12.1 To consider the approval of the following items:

12.1.1 Clerks Salary October / November	858.48
12.1.2 Clerks expenses October / November (VAT 20.33)	142.49
12.1.3 Bradford on Tone Village Hall – hire of Chant Room on 18 th September 2019	16.00
12.1.4 Bradford on Tone PCC – Poppy Wreath for Remembrance Sunday	25.00
12.1.5 Wyatt Joinery – new Parish Council noticeboard (VAT 182.00)	1,092.00
12.1.6 Fox’s Farm Services – hedge trimming (VAT 7.60)	45.60
12.1.7 SALC – seminar 26 th Sept 2019	10.00
12.18 John Abraham – plaque for Oak Tree to commemorate WW1	3.00
12.1.9 Mr R Edwards – Magic Webs (VAT 5.25)	31.50

12.2 Income

12.2.1 Interest	0.66
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12.3 Bank balance and reconciliation

After the above transactions had taken place, the Parish Council’s bank account totaled £ 10,081.91

12.4 Half Year Audit

This has not yet been completed but will be actioned by Mrs Trowbridge and she will arrange sign off if required.

12.5 To agree draft budget and precept

This had previously been circulated but Mr Bott ran through the items to be included in the budget very briefly. There were no challenges to the draft budget.

On the proposal of Mr Brodie, seconded by Mrs Herdman it was agreed to approve these accounts for payment and for the budget / precept to be submitted (this will be actioned by Mr Bott).

13. Correspondence received since last meeting

13.1 A request for support from the Parish Council to the Love Musgrove campaign was discussed at length, during which Mr Ellis suggested that the Parish Council might like to consider its previous agreement that it would not support any request received of this nature. Mr Brodie made a counter suggestion that each request should be considered on its own merits and Mr Smith added that perhaps the Council would like to nominate a charity each year to support. Much discussion followed and Mr Brodie concluded that perhaps there should be no blanket ban on requests and that the Clerk should sift requests prior to any meetings and then present only those of merit at each meeting. Both Mrs Herdman and Mrs Sidhu seconded this suggestion.

13.2 It was noted that the school pick up point for one child in the village had been changed following a recent suggestion to the Parish Council to have this moved, it would mean that the child did not have to walk over Bradford Bridge first thing in the morning.

13.3 There were no comments to this point about the merger of Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust.

13.4 It was noted that signage needed to be added to one side of Bradford Bridge In respect of warning drivers that there was no footpath. There is a sign on one side of the bridge but not on the other so a request would be made to ensure that this was rectified.

14. Correspondence received since circulation of agenda

14.1 A request from Life Education had been received to part fund the provision of health, well-being and drug prevention education to children in the Parish. The Council funded this last year (at a cost of £85.00) along with donations from Oake and Nynehead Parish Councils. It was decided that Mrs Trowbridge would contact the other Parish Councils and find out if they had agreed to support this for another year.

15. Members of the Public

15.1 Nothing added

The next meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 15th January 2020 at 7.30pm.

Items for the agenda should be sent to the Clerk at least 14 days before the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm