

BRADFORD ON TONE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15TH JANUARY 2020

PRESENT

Mr D Venn (Chariman), Mr P Haines (Vice-Chair), Mr C Ellis, Mrs L Sidhu, Mr A Brodie,
Mr D Smith

1 member of the public

1. Apologies

Mr R Habgood (District Councillor)

Mr J Hunt (County Councilor)

K Herdman

PCSO Vicky Henderson

2. Interests

Mr D Venn – Items 5.2, 8.1.2 and 8.2.1

3. Police Report for November and December 2019

There were 6 calls to the Police for Antisocial Behaviour across the beat for November. None were reported for the Nynehead, Oake, Bradford on Tone and Langford Budville area.

PCSO Henderson has advised that there have been a number of vehicles being broken into at local beauty spots. Drivers are reminded to keep valuables out of sight and ideally locked in the boot of your vehicle.

4. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 27th November 2019

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

5. To receive updates on items in the minutes

5.1 Recreational facilities in Bradford on Tone

Cllr Sidhu confirmed that she had been in contact with an “Enablement Officer” at Somerset West and Taunton Deane. This officer liaises with small communities in rural areas. The officer will meet with Councillors in due course to offer more advice with this project. Cllr Brodie has been in touch with the lead architect as there were some concerns regarding parking at the new site. Both Councillors confirmed that they are keen to push this project forward.

5.2 Bradford Bridge update

Mrs Trowbridge confirmed that all local landowners known to be using the bridge had been contacted asking them to confirm the make, model and registration number of any vehicle that they wish to take over the bridge. Once all responses have been received Mrs Trowbridge will meet with Cllr Haines to discuss next steps. Much discussion was then had over whether the 7.5 tonne limit was sufficient as the bridge could probably take a higher weight. Cllr Venn summarised that a long discussion was held at the previous meeting in November and that the real question was if the Council and villagers wanted lorries in excess of the current weight limit driving through the village.

5.3 Dalgren Bridge

The options for this bridge have been discussed in length over the course of a number of years and many Councillors were frustrated at the lack of support from Somerset West and Taunton. Cllr Venn mentioned that he had spoken to Mr Dalgren himself and that he had suggested a better option would be to move railway crossing south (this would involve a small part of Ash Farm, owned by Mr R Bryant). Mr Dalgren also stated that the railway authority agreed with him and that this would improve the public safety aspect.

Cllr Sidhu and Cllr Smith will meet with Martin Cooper (Somerset West & Taunton Deane Footpath Liaison Officer) on Monday 20th January to discuss the matter further and to convey everyone's frustrations and will again attempt to gain a response from Somerset West & Taunton Deane to progress the matter forward.

5.4 Various Road Signage works

Mrs Trowbridge confirmed that the chevrons at Stoford Bends have now been replaced, as had the 30 mph speed limit sign upon entering the village from the direction of Oake. The 'No footpath' sign near to Bradford Bridge has still not been addressed and Mrs Trowbridge took this away from the meeting as an action point.

At this point a member of the public mentioned that the glass in the bus shelter on the A38 was broken and they were concerned that someone may injure themselves. Mrs Trowbridge took this as an action point and will report to Somerset West and Taunton Deane as a matter of urgency.

6. **Parking Issue on the road leading into the village from Worlds End**

This issue has been raised with PCSO Vicky Henderson who has been to look at the issue and reported that there isn't much that can be done about it unless the Council wished to look into having yellow lines painted in the village – concerns were raised by several Councillors that they believed yellow lines were not permitted without street lighting. All agreed that the issue had improved somewhat recently and that the matter would be addressed in the future if it worsened.

7. Village Hall Report

Discussion of Action: Quotes available for new carpets. As the cost seemed prohibitive discussion focussed on having existing deep cleaned as an alternative strategy. Still awaiting action on LED lighting. Flooring in main hall has been sanded and varnished.

A set of generic risk assessments pertaining to hall activities has been drawn up. Letting organisations must ensure that specific risks associated with their activities have been risk assessed by themselves. A final document was issued to committee members.

Replacements for committee members who have resigned being sought. New cleaners have been engaged on the retirement of the previous employees. Also a new auditor is required, as the current accountant has stood down.

Renewal of broadband contract to include fibre optic installation has now happened. Much faster speeds are now available to hall users. Comprehensive music permissions certificate still being processed. Projector and electronic screen with accompanying equipment has now been purchased. Scaffold training has been sourced for a committee member to become the designated person when the scaffold is required for Hall Committee activities. Training still needs to be undertaken.

Bookings were reported to be running at approximately 50% of all available slots, which was considered quite satisfactory. Concerns about some organisations forgetting to turn off heating and lighting or ensuring that the hall was left secure at the end of lettings is still an issue.

There is a healthy bank balance. Fundraising events for the forthcoming year was discussed. The Big breakfast event has been cancelled. A Quiz and a car show if a suitable venue can be located were suggested. It was also suggested that a film club using the new audio-visual equipment could be started. The Strawberry Fair in July will go ahead as usual at the Village Hall.

8. Planning

8.1 Applications

8.1.2 Bridgwater Tidal Barrier

Cllr Haines took the chair at this point – discussion was held over the application form Sedgemoor Council and The Environment Agency. The works will not affect the Parish too considerably but it was noted that the footpath that ran alongside the river (close to the weir) would be closed for a period of time whilst the works were carried out. This is part of the wider project to install a Tidal Barrier at Bridgwater, which should aid to improve flooding in that area.

Cllr Sidhu agreed to speak to Martin Cooper on 20th January regarding the options available once the footpath is temporarily closed.

8.2 Decisions

8.2.1 07/19/0011 – works at Mill House Equestrian Centre. Somerset West and Taunton have rejected this application. Cllr Haines mentioned that he had seen the applicant whilst out walking and that Mr Alex Venn had mentioned that they have instructed new agents to represent them and will be submitting another application. He mentioned that he would welcome the opportunity to discuss this at the next Parish Council Meeting, which Cllr Haines mentioned was on 15th January 2020 but he did not attend on this occasion.

9. Finance

9.1	To consider approval of the following payments:	£
9.1.1	Clerks Salary December / January	559.52
9.1.2	Clerks Expenses Nov / Dec / January Incl. VAT £4.68	187.90
9.1.3	Anthony Smith & Co Ltd Payroll Services – previous Parish Clerk Incl. VAT £8.00	48.00
9.1.4	Somerset Association for Local Councils Budget Setting Course (15/11/19)	75.00
9.1.5	John Stanworth Hedge cutting (Bradford Bridge) June / November 19	120.00
9.1.6	Bradford on Tone Village Hall Hire of Chant Room 27/11/19	16.00

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

9.2 Income

9.2.1	Interest	0.65
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9.3 Bank balance and reconciliation statement

After the above transactions had taken place the Parish Councils bank accounts totaled £ 9,075.48.

10. Correspondence received since last meeting

10.1 Mrs Trowbridge gave an update regarding the National Association of Local Councils in respect of repairs to property relating to affairs of the church. There seems to have been some confusion regarding the legal position of awarding grants for such purposes and NALC have clarified the position. It was noted that the Council has never offered a grant to the PCC of this nature.

10.2 Mrs Trowbridge confirmed that Oake Parish Council has agreed to support the request for a contribution towards the visit of the Life Education Bus to Oake, Bradford and Nynehead Primary School. The Councilors voted on this matter and it was agreed to support the initiative as well – at a cost of £ 85.00

The Councilors voted as follows:

For

Cllr Venn

Cllr Haines

Cllr Smith

Cllr Brodie

Cllr Sidhu

Against

Cllr Ellis

10.3 Mrs Trowbridge advised the Councillors that an email had been received in regards to the S106 funds available to the Parish and it was noted that as things progressed with the planned Recreational Area in the village that these funds would be used towards this project.

10.4 Mrs Trowbridge requested that the Councilors approved the annual membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks as she felt this would be beneficial to her role, particularly as she was new to the role and it was important to stay up to date with legislation and to grow her network of contacts. The cost would be £100.00.

Upon the proposal of Cllr Brodie, seconded by Cllr Haines it was agreed unanimously to support this request.

11. Correspondence received since circulation of agenda

11.1 A letter has been received from Somerset West and Taunton detailing that there had been a Council Tax Base Adjustment in November 2019 meaning that if the Councillors chose to accept the adjustment the previously submitted precept would need to be adjusted to £10,125.62. It was agreed that as the adjustment required was a relatively small amount that the precept would be left at £10,000.00 as previously submitted and Mrs Trowbridge would confirm this with Somerset West and Taunton Deane.

11.2 Confirmation has been received that two apple trees will soon be removed from the garden of Lydeard House. The trees are not covered by a Tree Preservation Order and so can be removed without any further need for the Councils involvement – it was noted however that the trees did need to be replaced by the homeowner although they did not need to be the same species.

12. Members of the Public

12.1 Mr Richards asked if the recent flooding issues across the Parish could be raised with Somerset West and Taunton, as there had been particularly bad spots at Stoford Bends, Broom Lane and Back Lane. Mrs Trowbridge agreed to raise this on the Councils behalf.

13. Items of Concern

13.1 Cllr Venn raised his concern at the state of a number of road signs within the Parish – many of them had algae on them. He suggested that perhaps a working party should be formed to tackle the signs and give them a clean – Mr Richards (member of the public) has agreed to obtain a quote for their cleaning and will report back to the Council.

The next meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 18th March 2020 at 7.30pm in the main hall. This will incorporate the Annual Parish Meeting and an Ordinary Meeting.

The Public and Press are invited to attend this meeting.

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

The meeting closed at 9.10pm