

BRADFORD ON TONE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2020 THE MEETING WAS HELD REMOTELY USING ZOOM CONFERENCING.

PRESENT

Cllr Venn (Chairman), Cllr Ellis, Cllr Brodie (temporary Vice-Chair), Cllr Smith
Cllr Sidhu, Cllr Kerdman, Cllr Habgood
3 members of the public

1. Apologies

Cllr Haines (Vice-Chair) – long term illness

2. Interests

Cllr Venn – Item 4.2

Cllr Smith – Item 8.4

3. To receive minutes from meetings held on 7th October 2020 and 3rd November 2020

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

4. To receive report from the Police for October 2020.

There were 153 calls into 101 and 999 for the Wellington Rural Beat for the month of October 2020. This does not include calls involving Wellington Town. 3 calls involved the Nynehead, Oake, Bradford on Tone and Langford Budville area. They were for malicious communications and threat of violence.

Cllr Venn stated that he had been in contact with the Wellington Station regarding the Act of Remembrance which had taken place the previous weekend. It was noted that he had been very impressed with their response and that they had confirmed that the Act of remembrance could go ahead as planned with all current social distancing rules being observed.

5. To receive update on items in minutes.

5.1 Recreational facilities in Bradford on Tone (Cllr Brodie)

Cllr Brodie informed the Council that the Play Area Committee had already met via Zoom and that Expression of Wish forms had been submitted. Christine Gale had been in contact with Cllr Brodie and was keen on the proposals so far. The next step will be to request quotes in respect of the installation of the equipment, Christine had advised Cllr Brodie that SW&T had confirmed that they would recommend the S106 funds be used for the cheapest quote given. Cllr Brodie advised that various 'rustic' equipment was being considered in keeping with the feel of the current area which already includes a pond, some chickens and allotments. West Buckland School have already used the facilities and it is hoped that many other schools will be encouraged to use the site going forward.

After the Expression of Wish submission, the next step will be to go through the planning process, and it is hoped that at this point local children could be encouraged to submit ideas of what they would like to see at the site.

Cllr Ellis asked that when preparing quotations; it be made clear what the S106 funds would be used for and what the Parish Council would be expected to pay for once the site is open such as insurance costs.

Cllr Smith thanked Cllr Brodie for all he had done on this project so far.

5.2 Bradford Bridge and CBB Update (Parish Clerk)

Having provided an update that the proposed repair works were no further forward from when the damage was reported back in July, it was felt by all Councillors that a formal letter of complaint should be submitted.

Cllr Habgood joined the conversation at this stage and asked if James Hunt has been involved in the process yet. He also confirmed that he was happy to escalate this point on behalf of the Council and the Clerk agreed to provide him with a timeline of events so that he could speak to the Traffic Management Team and progress this further.

Cllr Ellis commented that he felt that the Parish Council had complicated the matter by holding an on-site meeting. Cllr Smith stated that the repair of the posts was the most important matter and Cllr Herdman added that the key point is that the Parish Council had been given the run around and that someone from SW&T needed to take ownership of this matter and move it forward.

Cllr Habgood agreed to focus purely on the length of time it was taking to secure a date for the repair works to be carried out.

The Clerk informed the Councilors that she was still waiting to hear back from the Heritage Team regarding the process for listing the County Bridge Boundary stone.

5.3 Public Footpath Update (Cllr Sidhu)

Cllr Sidhu had received an email from Rachel Pearce at SW&T that day stating that SW&T were proposing to move the position of Dalgrens Bridge and if we would support this. Cllr Sidhu will circulate this email to the rest of the Councillors for review. Some of the proposal would go into Nynehard Parish Council land and it was also noted that the new bridge would become the responsibility of SW&T from a maintenance point of view. It was felt that this was a very positive step forward and Cllr Venn suggested a meeting to be held outside to move this on at a quick pace.

The Clerk mentioned that she had received a phone call from Andrew Puckett who had been walking on the footpath to Dalgren's Bridge when he had been approached by a man who told him in no uncertain terms that the footpath was closed, had been for some time and that he should get off of the land. Cllr Brodie also mentioned that he too had been confronted by someone when out walking and had been informed of the same thing.

5.4 Feedback on Climate Emergency Online Event (Cllr Smith)

Unfortunately, at this point Cllr Smith experienced some issues with internet connection and was unable to provide the update – this item will be carried forward to the next meeting.

6. Play Area

6.1 Update from Cllr Brodie

This was covered in point 5.1, no further update was required.

7. Finance

7.1	7.1.1 Clerks Salary August / September	£ 528.32
	7.1.2 Clerks Salary October / November	£ 528.32
	TOTAL	£1,056.64
7.2	Clerks Expenses for items already paid	
	7.2.1 Internal Audit fee	£ 60.00
	7.2.2 Andrew Deptford – defibrillator battery	£ 114.00
	7.2.3 SALC & ALC Affiliation Fees	£ 182.65
	7.2.4 Somerset Playing fields Association Subscription	£ 15.00
	7.2.5 Zoom Conferencing annual licence	£ 143.88
	TOTAL	£ 515.53

7.3	7.3.1	SALC – Essential Clerk Training Part 1	£ 30.00
	7.3.2	SALC – Essential Clerk Training Part 2	£ 30.00
	7.3.3	SALC – Essential Clerk Training Part 3	£ 30.00
	7.3.4	Home & Garden Maintenance (cleaning of road signage & repair to bus shelter)	£ 335.00

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

7.4 To agree draft budget and Precept for 2020 / 21

Cllr Venn suggested that the precept for 2020/21 be kept at the same level as in the previous year, that being £10,000.00. This was unanimously agreed by all members of the Council.

8. Items / correspondence received since the last meeting

8.1 NALC – promoting Local Councils

The Clerk read out an email received from NALC regarding a campaign to help local councils promote the elections due in May 2021 and to encourage more people to put themselves forward for election. The full detail will be circulated to all Councillors.

8.2 Electric Vehicle Charging

An email has been received from a local company who install a range of low carbon electrical items such as Solar paneling, heat pumps and electric charging points. This led to a discussion regarding whether it was appropriate to have a central charging point in the village, but it was not felt that it was a practical idea for the Parish at the current time.

8.3 Wellington Area Network

The Acting Town Clerk for Wellington Town Council has been in touch regarding the upcoming transition to the new Unitary Authority and how this would potentially affect Parishes neighbouring Wellington Town Council. Wellington Town Council are seeking a list of current facilities available in each of its neighbouring Parishes and Bradford on Tone Parish Council have been requested to complete a form and return it to the Acting Town Clerk.

Cllr Habgood advised at this stage that it would be wise to respond with caution.

8.4 Haywards Water – damage to footbridge

Cllr Smith gave an update regarding the dredging work that had recently been carried out in the field behind Haywards Water. The Environmental Agency has been contacted and Enforcement Officers have visited the site. Rubble has been dumped in the river itself which must be removed and the waste on the riverbank must be

moved back at least 6 feet from the edge of the river. It was felt that the action taken was inappropriate and has increased two or three-fold compared to the normal size. Mud has been dumped on the riverbank and permits should have been sought prior to the works being carried out. Statutory Agencies have been informed and are dealing with both issues.

Cllr Habgood offered to case this up with SW&T on the Councils behalf and the Clerk will forward details to him to enable this to happen.

9. Planning

9.1 Applications – None

9.2 Decisions – None

10. Members of the public

Claire Wyatt and Frances Ashmore thanked both Cllr Smith and Cllr Habgood for their help and support regarding the dredging work behind Haywards Water and all Councillors were thanked for their continuing work regarding the Parish footpaths.

Cllr Brodie thanked Cllr Venn for the Act of Remembrance held on 8th November 2020, saying that he felt it was very well attended and had gone extremely well in the current COVID-19 social distancing situation.

The Clerk added that the collection had raised £132.25 and that this would be forwarded to the Royal British Legion, Wellington Branch.

11. Items of Concern

Cllr Haines has requested a six-month sabbatical which was agreed by all Councilors. Cllr Ellis added that Cllr Haines had asked him to raise the issue of the footpath outside of 'Daylands' as it was currently up for sale. It was decided that no further action would be taken at this time but would be discussed again once the property had sold and new owners were in situ.

Cllr Ellis raised the subject of whether it was felt appropriate to install planters at the bridge to encourage drivers to slow down and to discourage drivers of wider vehicles from attempting to cross the bridge. He suggested that these planters could be placed just after the County Bridge Boundary stone outside of the White Horse Inn on the approach to the bridge, giving drivers plenty of time and space to turn their vehicles around.

Cllr Habgood kindly offered to look into this on behalf of the Council to ascertain whose land the planters would be placed on and as a result whose responsibility it

would be to ensure that the planters were placed in the correct position and marked accordingly.

The meeting concluded at 8.50pm

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 12th January 2021 at 7.30pm and is currently planned to be held via Zoom conferencing facilities.