

BRADFORD ON TONE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 24TH 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

1. Apologies

Cllr Haines (Vice-Chair) – long term illness
Cllr Herdman

2. The meeting had initially been called to discuss several issues regarding public footpaths in the Parish; a proposal from SW&T and recent events involving members of the public.

Cllr Sidhu gave a brief overview of the current state of affairs and informed Councillors that she had spoken to Rachel Pearce of Somerset County Council (SCC) that day regarding the proposal that had been received from Mr Dalgren – this was in respect of footpath WG 14/1 and the diversion of the existing footpath so that it crosses the river at a point where there is a weir and joins with footpath WG 14/2. SCC would then install a footbridge (at a cost to them, not the Parish Council) and would have responsibility for the new footbridge going forward. It was felt after some discussion that the proposal from Mr Dalgren was to be supported by the Council (this was a majority decision and not unanimous) and Cllr Sidhu agreed to contact Rachel Pearce to progress this further.

Councillors expressed that they did not support the removal of footpath WG 3/3 and that this needed further discussion with the landowners. The Councillors also discussed footpath WG 14/1 and agreed that this required further discussion also.

Footpaths WG 3/3 and 3/4 and the potential to join these two footpaths together providing a route for walkers from one side of the village to the other was also discussed – it was agreed that this would need further discussions with both the landowners and Parishioners as Cllr Sidhu had already received many suggestions from members of the Parish.

The Councillors decided that for the time being that they would support the proposal from Mr Dalgren for the diversion and new bridge but not the removal of footpath WG 3/3 and the footbridge, all other potential changes would be discussed once the new bridge was in situ.

3. Play Area Update.

Cllr Brodie provided a brief update on the Play Area following an email he had received from Mr Tim Everett. He wanted to apply for a grant in order to undertake some work on the pond that is already in situ at the new Play Area site but in order to apply for the grant, a bank account must be available to accept the grant and pay monies to third parties. Mr Everett wondered if the Parish Council would be willing to let them use the Councils own account. The Clerk will pick this up with SALC (Somerset Association for Local Councils) to see if this is possible but it was felt that this may cause issues going forward in respect of the payments required to be paid to third parties. Cllr Brodie agreed to update Mr Everett on behalf of the Council.

4. Oake to Bradford on Tone Road.

Cllr Habgood has recently sent an email to John Woodman following the very sad fatality on the road from Oake to Bradford on Tone. The email raised concerns (many of them had already been raised by members of the public directly to Cllr Habgood) about the way in which vehicles were being driven on the road and the speed of these vehicles. It was agreed by all Councillors that once a reply had been received to this email (Cllr Venn had been copied in to it) that the Council would discuss the findings of the crash investigation and look to discuss a united approach with Cllr Davies (Chair of Oake Parish Council)

5. Flood Defences

Cllr Smith asked if there were any plans regarding the proposed flood defence scheme and whether this had the potential to impact of the footpaths / rivers in the Parish. The Clerk volunteered to investigate this and forward on a map to the Councillors and also to put this item on the Agenda for the next meeting which is due to take place in January 2021.

The meeting concluded at 8.45pm

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.