

BRADFORD ON TONE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 8TH MARCH 2022 AT BRADFORD ON TONE VILLAGE HALL.

(in the format to be presented to the next meeting for approval)

PRESENT

Cllr Venn (Chairman), Cllr Ellis, Cllr Smith, Cllr Herdman, Cllr Brodie (Vice-Chair), Cllr Sidhu

5 members of the public

1. Apologies

Cllr Haines
SW&T Ward Cllr Habgood
PCSO Vicky Henderson

2. Interests

Cllr Venn Item 8.0

3. To approve minutes from meetings held on 12 January 2022

The draft minutes having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as correct by Cllr Venn. The proposer was Cllr Brodie, seconded by Cllr Sidhu.

4. To receive report from the Police for January and February 2022.

The Clerk read out the reports received from PCSO Henderson for January and February 2022.

There were a total of 9 calls into 101 and 999 for the Nynehead, Oake, Bradford on Tone and Langford Budville area, which included:

- 1 Public order
- 1 Violence against a person
- 1 Malicious communication
- 1 Sexual offence
- 1 Suspicious
- 2 Road related incidents
- 1 Assist ambulance
- 1 Concern for welfare

The clerk also read out a separate email from PCSO Henderson regarding the ongoing situation in Ukraine where PCSO Henderson noted that this may be causing uncertainty and distress. She asked anyone in the Russian and Ukrainian communities to reach out to the local Policing Team if they had concerns and needed support / reassurance.

5. To receive update on items in minutes.

The Clerk read out an email forwarded from Oake Parish Council in regard to the ongoing issues with speeding between Bradford on Tone and Oake. The email originated from Daniel Cox at Avon and Somerset Police. It confirmed that the investigation into the fatality in Oake had concluded that it did not centre around speed. He also recommended that Speed Indication Devices (SIDs) may be the answer for reducing the speed of vehicles between the two villages but to facilitate this the Parishes would need to submit an application for funding. He also noted that he will be looking at Bradford on Tone, the clerk confirmed that as at the date of the meeting, nothing had been received from Mr Cox in this regard.

Cllr Smith raised concerns again about the site of the gas regulator as you enter the village from the direction of Oake and how this has been subject to a number of collisions in recent years, the most recent ending in the village being left without a gas supply for several days.

Cllr Ellis noted his appreciation of the need for evidence and that Councillors should appreciate the advice given by Mr Cox.

Cllr Brodie and Cllr Smith both agreed that the council should continue to press the authorities in respect of a speed limit between the two villages and Cllr Venn agreed that the council should link up with Oake Parish Council in regard to any future suggestions.

6. Footpath Update (Cllr Sidhu)

Cllr Sidhu confirmed that Rachel Pearce had been in touch with regards to the diversion order for the footpath that crossed Mr Dalgrens land. She confirmed that the schedule of works had now been completed and the diversion order had been sent to local landowners. The next step once the diversion orders had been signed would be to open the consultation period.

Cllr Sidhu advised Councillors that following a planning application at Three Chimneys, SW&T had confirmed that their plans suggest that the site of the new shed would mean that the footpath would run straight through it. Cllr Sidhu has been to the property herself and noted that the current footpath (which has followed the current route for many years) is being very well maintained by the current landowners and that nobody using the footpath has objected to its current route, which would mean that it would not run through the proposed new building. Cllr Brodie suggested that we confirm that the current route of the path is wholeheartedly acceptable and that

we support the application. The question was raised whether the previous owner of the property would be happy to confirm that the current route had been in place when they owned the property and Cllr Sidhu committed to follow this up with the SW&T planning team.

8.14pm Cllr Herdman joined the meeting

Cllr Venn thanked Cllr Sidhu at this point for all her help and support on this issue and in respect of the recent recruitment of the new Parish Clerk.

7. Play Area Update

Cllr Brodie confirmed that funds were only available for play equipment.

Cllr Brodie confirmed that the equipment was now on site and noted how pleased the Council were with the quality of work carried out by Darren's Dens regarding the build. Cllr Brodie also noted his thanks again to Mr. Tim Everett for the use of the land.

SW&T had confirmed that there was approx. £5,000.00 left which needs to be spent before the end of March 2022 or these funds would be lost. Cllr Brodie had previously spoken to Mr. Everett and Mr. Abrahams in respect of this and what they feel could be done. SW&T have agreed that the remaining funds can be spent on the area surrounding the chickens on fencing, viewing platforms, viewing mats, viewing shelter and the enhancement of the pathways to the poultry area, the wildflower bank, the wildflower pond and the art installations. Councillors agreed that the remaining funds should be spent on these improvements.

Cllr Smith passed on his thanks to Cllr Brodie for his suggestion of using the funds in this manner and Cllr Herdman also mentioned how well thought out the whole area was and passed on her thanks to Cllr Brodie for his work on this project.

Concerns were raised again about the lack of joined up footpath through the village.

Cllr Venn mentioned that Dave Richards had spoken to the owner of Daylands and Cllr Smith noted that the footpath would be the main route for villagers to access the Play Area and therefore the footpath had to be fit for purpose.

8. Bridge Update (Cllr Ellis)

Cllr Ellis confirmed that thankfully there had not been any recent damage to the bridge.

He noted that there continues to be difficulty in obtaining a copy of the original Width Restriction Order document. He confirmed that Somerset Heritage had been unable to locate a copy. Somerset County Council would be approached next.

Drawings of the proposal had now been formalised by Andy Hayes and payment of this invoice was to be approved later in the meeting. Cllr Ellis presented all Councillors with a copy of the proposal for their records.

Discussion then followed in respect of who the proposal should be sent to. Councillors agreed that someone senior to Paul Tucker should receive the proposal as they had been disappointed at his support previously. Cllr Venn suggested Cllr Fothergill at Somerset County Council. Councillors discussed the reasons for submitting the proposal and confirmed that it should clearly state their concerns that insufficient care was being given to the bridge itself as an ancient monument, that there had been a lack of consultation regarding the proposed installation of a removeable post and their concern at the governance of how decisions were being made. It was noted that it was not the Parish Councils intention to formalise a complaint at this point but to ensure the continued preservation of the ancient monument. The new Clerk, Claire Morrison-Jones, suggested at this point that it was not prudent to submit a proposal until after the upcoming County elections which Councillors agreed with.

9. Footpaths in the village

The Clerk advised that Cllr Haines had requested a permanent item on the Agenda going forward in respect of the creation of a pavement through the entire village enabling pedestraians safe access to the new Play Area. This was noted by the Clerk and the agenda will be amended to reflect this.

10. Finance

10.1	Magic Webs (includes £20.00 VAT) Invoice 5234 – Website annual renewal	£120.00
10.2	Court Design & Conservation (includes £40.00 VAT) Invoice 22/3097/2139 – Plan drawings	£240.00
10.2	Darrens Den (includes £2,326.52 VAT) Invoice 537 – payment for Play Area	£13,959.10

On the proposal of Cllr Brodie and being seconded by Cllr Herdman and Cllr Ellis it was agreed to pay the above items.

Cllr Venn also mentioned that the work proposed on the War Memorial would be delayed to June due to prior work arrangements.

Cllr Venn will also contact Nigel Richards in regard to establishing an annual contract to maintain the bus shelter.

11. Items / correspondence received since the last meeting

- 11.1** The Queens Platinum Jubilee – nothing has been suggested yet at Mill House Equestrain Centre, The White Horse, The Worlds End or Rumwell Farm Shop. Cllr Smith also confirmed that there were no specific plans from the Village Hall Committee. Councillors noted their disappointment at this.
- 11.2** The Clerk read out an email from a local resident regarding the collection times of post from the village and how the collection time had recently changed to 9.00am meaning that if post was placed in the box during the day it would not be collected until the following working day which, given the price of first class post, seems inadequate, especially with so many people working from home at the current time. Councillors agreed and a letter of complaint would be submitted to Royal Mail in this regard.
- 11.3** The Clerk read out a road closure notification in regard to the Taunton Marathon. This is taking place on Sunday 3rd April 2022 and will mean the bridge will be closed from 10.00am until 1.00pm.
- 11.4** Cllr Venn then introduced Claire Morrison-Jones, the newly appointed Clerk who would be taking over from Helen Trowbridge.

12. Planning Applications

12.1 Applications

07/21/0013	Lutleys, Stoford Lane (No decision made at present time)
07/21/0024	Parkfield House / Heatherton Park Studio
07/21/0025	Three Chimneys, Lambing Shed
07/21/0026	Three Chimneys, Storage Building
07/22/0001	Willow Cottage – Cllrs would like to visit the site and as a result the agent has been contacted to request a convenient date.
07/22/0002	Fernworthy, Tree Preservation
07/22/0003	Norden, Silver Street, West Buckland

12.2 Decisions None

13. Introduction of new Parish Clerk

See item 11.4.

14. Members of the Public

Several issues were raised in respect to footpaths which Cllr Sidhu agreed to persue:

- WG 3/3 no gate or sign in place
- WG 14/2 missing a gate and sign
- WG 3/2 rotted footpath sign which needs replacing.

A parishioner mentioned that there was a list in St Giles Church of items that could be donated in respect of the situation in Ukraine but stressed the need for items to be new and unused and only specific items on the list were required.

Posters will soon be put up in the village shop and noticeboard advising of the list as well.

Cllr Venn also questioned whether a donation could be made on behalf of the Parish Council to the DEC in relation to the situation in Ukraine but the new Clerk advised that the Parish Council did not hold the power to make such a donation.

15.0 Items of Concern

Cllr Brodie confirmed that he would not be standing for re-election at the next elections in May 2022. All Councillors thanked Cllr Brodie for his hard work especially in regard to the new Play Area.

Cllr Herdman also confirmed that she was considering not standing for re-election at the next election.

The meeting concluded at 9.39pm