

BRADFORD ON TONE PARISH COUNCIL

Acting Clerk: Joy Norris
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**Minutes of the meeting of Bradford on Tone Parish Council on Thursday 5th January 2023,
commencing at 7.30pm, in the Chant Room, Bradford on Tone Village Hall**

Present:

Chair: Cllr D Venn (Chair),

Councillors: C Ellis, G Robarts and D Smith

In Attendance

Somerset Councillor D Mansell

Miss J Norris (Acting Clerk)

10.members of the public attended the meeting

96 Public Participation

Speaker 1

This person spoke regarding planning application 07/22/0017, Bradford Mills, Hele Road, Braford On Tone saying that the proposed development was outside the development area and the application had not been published and advertised in the usual way which meant that even the adjacent landowner was not advised of the application.

Speaker 2

The speaker had tried to view the application on line during the afternoon (on the day of the meeting) bit the website was down.

97 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence

98 Declarations of Interests

The following Declarations of Interest was made at this stage of the meeting:

- Cllr Venn declared a personal interest in Agenda no 6 Planning Applications, planning application 07/22/0017, Bradford Mills, Hele Road, Braford On Tone as he is related to an adjacent landowner of the application site.

At the start of the discussion on Agenda 10, Bradford Bridge, Cllr Venn declared a personal interest in this agenda item at the start of the discussion as he owns land adjacent to the bridge

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99 Minutes

RESOLVED to defer consideration of the draft minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2022 so that draft Minute 85 which referred to Bradford Bridge could be amended.

100 Reports from County and District Councillors

Cllr Mansell gave a report from Somerset Council which included:

- There is no budget provision in 23/24 for small highway schemes but there is a small budget for highways works where there re serious safety issues
- Recruitment processes are underway for eh Director level appointments at the new Somerset Council
- There is a significant budget issue this year t the County Council with an estimated overspend over £20M – much of which is attributable to social care costs; the overspend will have to be met rom reserves.
- There is expected to be a minor overspend this year at district council level.
- At present the funding gap for 23/24 is estimated at £38M
- The Council Tax level is likely to be an increase of 5%
- Support Schemes including council tax premiums and discounts have been agreed for 23/24
- The logo for the new Somerset Council has been agreed
- The report suggesting the composition of Local Community networks and their terms of reference is due for discussion in mid February.

101 Planning Applications

Application number 07/22/0017, Bradford Mills, Hele Road, Braford On Tone , Erection of a specialist school(Use Class D1) with associated access, parking and landscaping.

RESOLVED

- (i) to object to the application on the following grounds
- a) that the application site is outside the Bradford On Tone development boundary and
 - b) highways safety in that at least 100 additional vehicle movements would take place each day on narrow, winding roads that are liable to flooding.
- (ii) That the response to the District Council includes the following comments:
- The proposed development is clearly outside the Bradford on Tone Parish development boundary and the reasons put forward in the application for the need for such an enterprise to be in the stated location are spurious
 - Bradford On Tone has already been adversely affected by traffic from developments accessing the M5; If approved the application would generate at least 100 additional vehicle movements a day
 - Should the application be approved it must be on a one-off basis and in no way set a precedent for other applications to be approved outside the development boundary.
 - the documentation submitted with the application is misleading - for example it refers to the proposed educational establishment as being a state school - in

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fact the children are state funded but the building would be owned by a PLC to make a commercial profit.

- There has been inadequate prior consultation with the Parish Council; the documentation state that the parish council have been involved in pre-application discussions and been provided with digital plans - the parish council have not had any meetings or communication on this matter before the application was submitted and it has not received any digital plans or information.
- (iii) That the following additional matters are raised:
- The usual practice of publishing notices that an application has been received and informing neighbours of the application does not appear to have been followed and the Parish Council would like to know a) why the usual practices have not been followed , b) is it a legal requirement to post site notices and advise neighbours of the receipt of an application and any consultation, c) as the usual practices have not been followed and the consultation period was over the Christmas holiday could the consultation period be extended to allow more local residents time to respond?
 - it appears a District Councillor was consulted in advance of the application but that information was not fed back to the Parish Council - why?

Note: Cllr Venn had declared a personal interest in this agenda item.

Planning Decisions Noted

- Application 07/22/0014 Broad Oak House, replacement of garage door with a partially glazed pair of French doors with glazed sidelights and replacement of office window with bi-fold doors
- Application 07/22/0008 Taunton substation, Fideoak, Installation of battery storage facility with substation, underground cabling, access track, landscaping, biodiversity enhancements and ancillary infrastructure with equipment to include security fence, CCTCV, and gates
- Application 7/22/0015 Greenlands, Hele Road. Erection of a single storey extension to the side

102 Financial Matters –

RESOLVED

(i) to pay the invoices detailed in the table below:

(ii) to note that as at 28 October 2022 the current account balance was £16, 902.17;
as at 30 November 2022 the Business Reserve Account balance was £8,166.78

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Payee	Items	Invoice Date	Invoice No	Net	VAT	Total
Bradford On Tone Village Hall	Chant Room Hire 11.10.22	08.11.22	37/2223	£8.00	0	£8.00
Bradford On Tone Village Hall	Chant Room Hire 08.11.2022	5.12.2022	42/2223	£8.00	0	£8.00
SlashDotDash (Mr E Ryan)	March 2023 hosting	29.12.2022	INV-0086	£10.00	0	£10.00
SlashDotDash (Mr E Ryan)	Website updates- documents upload	01.01.23	INV-0085	45.00	0	£45.00
SlashDotDash (Mr E Ryan)	January / Feb 2023 hosting , website updates 29.12.22 prep for new .gov domain	29.12.22	INv-0083	63.20	0	63.20
SlashDotDash (Mr E Ryan)	December web hosting	29.10.22	Inv-0060	£10.00	0	£10.00
SlashDotDash (Mr E Ryan)	November webhosting	29.10.2022	Inv -0059	£10	0	£10.00
The English Garden Company	Tidy shrub and gravel border either side of war memorial	6.12.2022	226788	£160	£32	£192.00
Former Employees	Salaries & associated costs backpay for current year pay award					

103 2023/24 Budget

Consideration was given to the 2023/24 budget.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the 2023/24 expenditure budget be £10,500 to be funded £10,250 from the precept and £250.00 from the general reserve
- (ii) that the following ear-marked reserves are agreed
 - £5,500 general contingency fund
 - £2,500 election contingency
 - £5,000 staffing contingency

104 2023/24 Precept

Consideration was given to the 2023/24 precept.

RESOLVED that a precept of £10,250 be requested from Somerset Council

105 Bradford Bridge

Note: Cllr Venn declared a personal interest in this agenda item at the start of the discussion as he owns land adjacent to the bridge

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Discussion included:

- The location and setting of the new posts
- The possibility of seeing the specification for the recent work
- Was the recent work inspected on completion to check it matched the specification
- Obtaining a copy of the Width Restriction Order
- Circulating the parish council's proposal for the bridge to as many people as possible
- Arranging a site visit with relevant Council Officers

106 Play Area

Issues discussed included:

- Insurance cover
- The landowner has requested that any signage with contact numbers etc is kept to the size of the current signs.
- It would be helpful to have more volunteers to cut the grass

107 Footpaths

As Cllr Sidhu was not in attendance there was no report nor discussion.

108 Schedule of Meetings

RESOLVED that the date for future parish council meetings be as follows:

14 March 2023

9 May 2023 – Annual Parish Council Meeting

13 June 2023 (AGAR)

11 July 2023

12 September 2023

14 November 2023

9 January 2024 (budget & precept)

12 March 2024

14 May 2024 Annual Parish Council Meeting

The meeting closed at 21:23 hrs

Chair's Signature & Date