

BRADFORD ON TONE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Joy Norris

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Minutes of a meeting of Bradford on Tone Parish Council held on 14th November 2023, commencing at 7.30pm, in the Chant Room, Bradford on Tone Village Hall

Present

Chair: Cllr D Venn

Councillors: C Ellis, G Robarts, L Sidhu¹ and D Smith

In Attendance:

Miss J Norris (Clerk)

Somerset Councillor D Marshall

5 Members of the public attended the meeting.

190 Chair's Announcements

The Chair reported that Mill House Equestrian Centre was willing to host a community event and ideas were welcome. The possibility of a vintage car rally had been mooted and details passed to relevant persons.

191 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

192 Declarations of Interest/Dispensations

No Declarations of Interest were made at this stage of the meeting.

193 Minutes

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2023.

RESOLVED to confirm the draft minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2023 as a correct record.

194 Public Participation

This agenda item enables members of the public present at the meeting to raise matters which are relevant to Bradford on Tone and / or the work of the Council.

Planning Application 05/23/0030, The Gables, Wellington Road, Bradford On Tone, Taunton, TA4 1EN

The Chair explained that the planning application site is on the border of Bishops Hull and Bradford On Tone. There has been a meeting with local residents and relevant Somerset Council Members for Bishops Hull where the main concern raised was road safety.

35-40 people were present at the meeting and the majority of those present objected to the application.

Chair's Initials

¹ Amended in accordance with Minute 4/2024 the meeting held on 9 January 2024

Speaker 1

The speaker showed the meeting an arial shot of the application location and explained she was speaking on behalf of a local businessman and resident who wished to be anonymous due to fear of reprisals.

The speaker then said that the person she was representing objected to the application and the reasons included:

- There would be noise and light pollution and would dominate the nearest settled community
- The site is in a rural area and should respect the nearest settled community not dominate the landscape in any way
- The site can be seen from the A38
- Concern about possible expansion
- Increased traffic movements on an already busy road

Speaker 2

Community information on the website needs updating.

195 Planning Application 05/23/0030, The Gables, Wellington Road, Bradford On Tone, Taunton, TA4 1EN

Change of use of land from agricultural to residential for siting of 4 No. gypsy pitches with associated hardstanding and the erection of 2 No. day room buildings and 4 No. bin & cycle stores

Matters raised during the Council's discussion included:

- Is it a commercial venture?
- How long will people stay on the site?
- People living close by were not aware of the application
- It will be dangerous for traffic manoeuvring on and off the site
- There are precedents of previous applications (the pub and chicken farm) being declined due to highway issues.
- Road safety – the site access is close to a blind bend
- The visibility of the access from the road is very restricted
- There is no mention of a power supply on the application documents – will it impact existing buildings?
- If gas is to be used is it already connected or will it be bottled and if the latter what are the storage arrangements?
- The classrooms look like bungalows - could they be residential use in the future?

RESOLVED to comment on the application expressing concern on highways grounds, speed and volume of traffic, existing road layout, access - visibility going into the site and leaving it – especially the size and length of vehicles, particularly from Taunton direction towards Wellington if going across the traffic flow.
Concerns about anything the increasing volume of traffic on A38.

Chair's Initials

106 Reports from Somerset Council Councillors

Cllr Dave Mansell said that the financial emergency has been well reported locally and reiterated that a funding gap of £100M needs to be closed. A S114 notice which says the Council is not able to meet its obligations will be issued if the Council cannot bridge the gap and have a balanced budget.

Councillors and officers are making every effort to find the savings but if a 114 notice is issued the Government will appoint advisors whose job is purely to balance the books regardless of service need. Also under scrutiny is the Council's structure and how it could be re-organised to save money and talks with the Department for Levelling Up and Communities are taking place regarding council tax levels and the Local Government settlement regime.

There is likely to be a draft budget in December probably providing an overview rather than any detail, followed by more detailed information in January and final decisions in February.

Parish councils should be prepared for grants for services such as footpath and churchyard maintenance to be withdrawn.

107 Financial Matters

The following matters and relevant documents were considered.

- (i) Bank Reconciliations
- (ii) To consider and approve items for payment.
- (iii) Budget Monitoring

RESOLVED

- (i) to agree the bank reconciliation
- (ii) to approve the items for payment as detailed in the list below:

Payee	Items	Invoice Date	Invoice No	Net	VAT	Total
Slashdotdash	Website updates	10.22.23	INV-0253	£3.90	0	£3.90
Bradford On Tone Village Hall	Hire of Chant Room Sept 12 & 28	11.10.2023	30/2324	£18.00	0	£18.00
B Barton	Hedge / plant trimming near war memorial					
	Poppy Wreath					
Miss J Norris	November & December Salary & associated costs	£559.60				
Clerk's expenses	Purchase of sorter files	£25.94				

- (iii) To note the financial monitoring information

Chair's Initials

108 Bus Stop Cleaning and Maintenance

Consideration was given to a complaint about the cleanliness of the bus stops opposite and adjacent to Heatherton Grange

RESOLVED to clean the bs shelter on the Heatherton Park side of the road which is the responsibility of the Parish Council.

109 Letter from Somerset Council re Asset and Service Devolution

Consideration was given to the Council’s response to the letter from Somerset Council. The Council list of services it considers to be important includes:

- Litter Bins
- Litter picking
- Dog Bins
- Hedging
- Drainage Grills
- Footpath maintenance
- Playing Fields
- Verges
- Road Sign cleaning
- Fingerposts - painting and maintenance
- Weed Killing (especially around the war memorial)
- Bus Shelter cleaning & maintenance

RESOLVED that the devolution team are advised the Parish Council would welcome discussion about the Parish Council involvement about the future provision of the above services in Bradford on Tone

110 Extending the meeting

21:27 hrs

RESOLVED to extend the meeting for 10 minutes beyond 21:30hrs

111 24/25 Budget

Suggestions for inclusion in the 24/25 budget were made and included:.

- Look at compiling one contract for general grounds maintenance and street furniture to include services that Somerset Council will not be able to provide.
- Churchyard ~~£5,000 budget for~~ maintenance ²
- Provision to buy land for playing field / car park
- Include £5,000 as an earmarked reserve to cover services previously provided by Somerset Council ³

The meeting closed at 21:45hrs

Chair’s Signature & date

^{2 2} Amended in accordance with Minute 4/2024 the meeting held on 9 January 2024

^{3 3} Amended in accordance with Minute 4/2024 the meeting held on 9 January 2024