

BRADFORD ON TONE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Joy Norris

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Minutes of a meeting of Bradford On Tone Parish Council held on 25th June 2024, commencing at 7.30pm in Bradford on Tone Village Hall, Bradford On Tone.

Present

Chair: D Smith

Councillors: L Sidhu and D Venn

In Attendance:

Miss J Norris (Clerk)

Somerset Councillor G Wrenn

2 Members of the public attended the meeting.

68/2024 Chair's Announcements

As Councillor Robarts was unable to attend the meeting, as Vice-Chairman Councillor Smith would be chairing the meeting.

69/2024 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Leaney and Robarts.

70/2024 Declarations of Interest/Dispensations

No declarations of interests were made at this stage of the meeting.

71/2024 Minutes

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11 June 2024

RESOLVED that subject to adding the words "within of the curtilage of the property" to the Resolution recorded in Minute 65/2024 the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11 June 2024 be confirmed as a correct record.

72/2024 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.

Speaker 1

The hedges between Heatherton Park and the main road are so overgrown that people with pushchairs can't get by on the tarmac path and have to use the grass verge.

Speaker 2

The footpath adjacent to the main road from Heatherton Park to 3 Bridges is very narrow and users are further hampered by the overgrown vegetation.

Chair's Initials

Speaker 3 – Somerset Councillor Gwil Wrenn

Firstly the Councillor gave his apologies for missing the last Parish Council meeting. The Councillor reported that Somerset Council is still in a very tricky financial situation and in order to lower the staffing costs are currently reviewing the staffing structure with a view to reducing the management layers, it is hoped to have new structure in place by November this year. Applications for voluntary redundancy have now closed and 200 requests have been agreed.

There is a systemic problem with local government finance and in Somerset 40% properties are in Band A or B which is one of the highest proportions in the country; this means that income from council tax is lower than in other areas.

The Local Community Network (LCN) had a slow start but it now has 2 working groups – highways and transport – and it is hoped that these working groups will be able to help prioritise road issues.

The removal of the hedge at the Hele turning seems to have been a miscommunication all round and there are lessons to be learnt about the interpretation and inclusion of consultee responses and the accuracy of planning conditions.

73/2024 Internal Audit Report

Consideration was given to the report of the Internal Auditor.

RESOLVED to accept the report of the internal auditor and implement the recommendations.

74/2024 2023/2024 Annual Governance Statement

Consideration was given to the Parish Council's response to the assertions on the 2023/2024 Annual Governance Statement.

RESOLVED that the response to all the assertions (boxes 1-8) on the Annual Governance Statement 2023/2024 is "yes" and that the Chair and Parish Clerk complete and sign the document accordingly.

The Annual Governance Statement was signed.

75/2024 2023/2024 Annual Accounting Statement

Consideration was given to the 2023/2024 Annual Accounting Statement.

RESOLVED

- (i) to approve the 2023/2024 accounting statement
- (ii) to approve the completion and submission of the Certificate of Exemption

The Accounting Statement was signed and the Exemption Certificate completed

76/2024 Notice of Elector Rights

Consideration was given to the timetable for the notice of elector rights.

Chair's Initials

RESOLVED The timetable for the Notice of Elector rights was considered.

RESOLVED that the timetable be as follows:

- Date of announcement: 27 June 2024
- Documents available commencing on Friday 28 June 2024 and ending on Thursday 8 August 2024

Note: for practical reasons the Notice was issued on 28 June with the dates of the documents being available for inspection given as commencing on Monday 1 July 2024 and ending on Friday 9 August 2024

The meeting closed at 20:30hrs

Chair's Signature & Date

Agreed