

BRADFORD ON TONE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Joy Norris

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Minutes of a meeting of Bradford On Tone Parish Council held on 10th September 2024, commencing at 7.30pm in Bradford on Tone Village Hall, Bradford On Tone.

Present

Chair: Councillor G Robarts

Councillors: D Smith and Leigh Sidhu

In Attendance:

CLlr D Mansell -(Somerset Council)

Miss J Norris (Clerk)

6 Members of the public attended the meeting.

91/2024 Chair's Announcements

The Chair provided a general update including:

- The External Audit email logging the notification of exempt status
- The defibrillator has an updated electrical certificate
- Dr Herdman will check the defibrillator regularly. and he will let the Parish Council know when anything needs replacing
- The defibrillator was replaced 3 years ago
- On 21 September St Johns will be running a session how to do CPR and using defibrillators in Wellington
- The area around the War Memorial has been tidied and will be done again before Remembrance Sunday
- The new map of the parish has now been put up by the phone box
- The next Local Community Network meeting is on 23 September at Wellington Rugby Club starting at 6.30pm. Councillor Robarts had attended the AGM remotely but it was-not easy to hear some of the speakers.
- Since agenda was published a diversion notice has been advertised for footpath WG 4/1; representations must be made by 01.10.2024.

92/2024 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Venn and Leaney

93/2024 Declarations of Interest/Dispensations

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

94/2024 Minutes

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9 July 2024

RESOLVED to confirm the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9 July 2024 as a correct record.

95/2024 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 Insurers of the village hall are pursuing the felling of lime trees in church yard as a cause of subsidence; this will be discussed at the forthcoming village hall AGM; residents are asked to attend so the views of the community can be provided to the insurers.

96/2024 Co-Option

Consideration was given to an application from Mr Dean Smith to be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

Dean Smith introduced himself and gave information about his current volunteer roles in the village and also a little about his professional life as a chartered surveyor.

RESOLVED to co-opt Dean Smith onto the Parish Council.

Councillor Smith signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

97/2024 Reports from Somerset Council Councillors

Councillor Mansell provided an oral report about activities at Somerset Council which included:

- The financial crises is ongoing
- Reserves have been dropped to a minimum level
- Assets are being sold to keep the Council going – whilst this is not a long term solution it is helping in the short term
- The whole organisation is being re-structured starting at the top and working downwards with a target to cut staff by approx 1000 which is a quarter of the workforce
- An interim Chief Finance Officer has been appointed who will have a small finance team
- A lot of staff are leaving for other jobs
- The director levels have been restructured and the appointments made with the number of directors being reduced from 7 to 4
- There number of staff tiers will be reduced from 7 tiers to 6 tiers
- By end of the year the wage bill should be reduced by £40million

Discussion included

- Where will the public notice a change in service delivery?
- Planning is struggling to recruit and retain staff
- Social care and education are mandatory services but Somerset Council is looking at how services can be provided differently
- How many county farms may be sold?
- £20m assets owned by Somerset Council are likely to be sold

98/2024 Police Reports for July and August 2024

The police reports and blogs for July and August were noted with interest.

99/2024 Financial Matters

The following matters were considered:

- (i) Bank Reconciliations
- (ii) To consider and approve items for payment (that the Clerk has checked for accuracy).

and Hobbs

- (iii) Budget Monitoring

RESOLVED

- (i) To note the bank reconciliation to 30 April 2024
- (ii) To approve the payments detailed in the table below
- (iii) To note budget monitoring report

Payee	Items	Invoice Date	Invoice No	Net	VAT	Total
Mr D Richards	Utility key (for Heatherton Park noticeboard	25.01.2024	18802	£1.80	£0.36	£2.16
Bradford on Tone Village Hall	Hall Hire 09.07.2024	01.08.2024	17/2425	£9.00	0	£9.00
Mr N Richards	Cut back and clearance around war memorial and weed spray	06.08.2024		£290.00	0	£290.00
Miss J Norris	Salary and Associated costs July & August			£765.28		£765.28
Mr E Ryan, Slashdotdash	Website updates	06.08.2024	INV-0370	£62.40	0	£62.40
Parochial Church Council	Grant for grounds maintenance			£500.00		£500.00
Hobbs Electrical Contractors Ltd	Electrical Safety inspection – defibrillator	25.06.2024	3810142	63.60	12.72	76.32

100/2024 Planning Applications

Consideration was given to the Parish Council's response to planning applications :

- **Application 07/24/0006: Hawksbit Farm, Oake Road, Bradford on Tone Full Planning Permission**

Change of use and conversion of agricultural barn into 1 No. dwelling with associated works including demolition of adjacent barn and residential park home

A site visit had taken place immediately before the meeting and the Chair thanked the land owner for enabling the visit.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objections to the application but would like to see bat boxes and infrastructure for an electrical charging point included in the conditions.

- **27/24/0029 Oake View Farm, Oake Road, Oake**
Variation of Condition No. 02 (approved plans) of application 27/22/0012 for the addition of freestanding brise soleil, balcony and louvres required for solar shading (please note this is not in Bradford on Tone Parish Council area)

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no comments at this time.

- **07/24/0015 Stoford Manor, Stoford Lane, West Buckland**
Full Planning Permission
Proposal: Change of use of the first floor to an office, removal of stairs to the front and alterations to lean-to on the Coach House, construction of natural swimming pool within the walled garden, erection of garden store and replacement of former glass house with the erection of an annexe for ancillary accommodation
- **07/24/0016/LB: Stoford Manor, Stoford Lane, West Buckland**
Listed Building Consent
Change of use of the first floor to an office, removal of stairs to the front and alterations to lean-to on the Coach House, construction of natural swimming pool within the walled garden, erection of garden store and replacement of former glass house with the erection of an annexe for ancillary accommodation

Note: Application 07/24/0015 and 07/24/0016 were taken together

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no comments at this time.

- **07/24/0017/CQ Ford Farm, Oake Road, Bradford on Tone**
Prior approval (resubmission of 07/24/0001CQ)
Proposal: Application for Prior Approval for proposed change of use from agricultural building to 1 No. dwelling house (Class C3) and associated building operations

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objections to the application

101/2024 Review of Financial Regulations

To review the Parish Council's Financial Regulations in the light of the new model code published by the National Association of Local Councils.

RESOLVED to defer this agenda item to a future meeting.

102/2024 Dog and Litter Bins

- (i) To confirm locations for
 - Moving existing bin at Back Lane
 - Installation of a new bin at Back Lane
 - Replacement bin at Bradford Bridge
- (ii) To approve a budget for the purchase and installation of new and replacement dog / litter bins.

RESOLVED

- (i) To pay for the purchase and installation of a new bin at the South end of Back Lane
- (ii) That the bin should be of the type fixed to a post

- (iii) That initially the Parish Council pays for the bin to be emptied once a week
- (iv) That the other possibilities regarding bin type and location are kept under review - including initiating discussions with land owners,

103/2024 Road Safety

Following informal comments made to Councillors, the Council considered what information and evidence would need to be collected and collated in order to establish any need and feasibility of road safety measures such as 20mph zones and speed indicator devices.

Issues discussed included:

- Concern about the amount of vehicle movements particularly in the longer term and especially if there are more large residential developments at Cotford, Oake and Bishops Lydeard
- Any speed limit needs to be enforced
- Volume of traffic is as much a concern as traffic speed
- Speed Indicator Devices may be a useful deterrent – there was some investigation into this about 5 years ago
- Cameras either side of the bridge may help to prevent the recurring damage
- When the Comeytrove planning application was considered the traffic survey had to cover the Heatherton Park junction

21:28hrs **RESOLVED** to extend the duration of the meeting for 10 minutes until 21:40hrs

Council discussion then continued

- Could representation be made for a bypass to be put in the new Local Plan
- Need to identify what problem the Council is trying to solve – speeding or amount of traffic

RESOLVED that the Parish Council should try to establish the level of support within the village for support for road safety schemes including a 20mph zone.

The meeting closed at 21:40hrs