

BRADFORD ON TONE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Joy Norris

Email: hello@bradfordontone-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of a meeting of Bradford On Tone Parish Council held on 12th November 2024, commencing at 7.30pm in Bradford on Tone Village Hall, Bradford On Tone.

Present

Chair: Councillor Georgina Robarts

Councillors: Jim Leaney, David Smith, Dean Smith and Dennis Venn

In Attendance:

Cllr G Wren -(Somerset Council)

Miss J Norris (Parish Clerk)

6 Members of the public attended the meeting.

104/2024 Chair's Announcements

The Chair gave a round up of recent activities and matters impacting upon the parish which included:

- The questionnaires about road safety in the village are now available
- Somerset Council leader, Bill Revans, has written to all local councils saying that the Government is expected to publish details of the 25/26 finance settlement in late December; Somerset Council are intending to continue working with local councils and devolve some services so the advice is to build contingency sums for devolution into local budgets
- All the parish council paperwork is up to date and where appropriate has been passed to the website manager for publication.
- Leigh Sidhu has decided to resign from the Parish Council. The Chair said that Mrs Sidhu has worked hard for the Council and highlighted the patient and persistent way she undertook the footpath liaison role. Councillors wished their thanks to be recorded.
- Footpath liaison work will be shared between all the Councillors for the time being – if anyone sees a problem please let a Councillor know.
- Airband have withdrawn from the Connecting Devon and Somerset project.

105/2024 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence as all Councillors were present.

106/2024 Declarations of Interest/Dispensations

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

107/2024 Minutes

To approve the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10 September 2024

Chair's initials

RESOLVED to approve the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10 September 2024 as a correct record.

108/2024 Public Participation

This agenda item allows 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 speaker asked if there was any progress on resolving the footpath - the response was given that the Parish Council has not had any correspondence or message on any footpath matters from Somerset Council.

Speaker 2

The speaker said they were attending in order to get an update regarding the dog bin which was an item on the agenda for the meeting.

109/2024 Reports from Somerset Council Councillors

Councillor Wren's report included:

- The staffing re-structure continues but the impact on particular services is not yet known e.g. on footpaths
- The Council is currently at the consultation stage of the redundancy process
- Contact with the Council through on-line reporting is being encouraged as the most effective way of communication
- Connecting Devon and Somerset project. There is a lot of concern about Airband withdrawing from the project. Councillor Dave Mansell is leading some work on this but at the moment there is no clear indication Of how the void left by Airband will be filled.
- The Enhanced Highways Pilot information includes the cost of purchasing services.

110/2024 Police Reports for September and October 2024

The police reports were noted. It was reported that the Bradford on Tone Neighbourhood Watch scheme is continuing and their records are currently being updated.

111/2024 Financial Matters

(i) Bank Reconciliations

RESOLVED

- (ii) To note the bank reconciliations as at 30 October 2024
- (iii) To approve the payments detailed in the table below
- (iv) To implement the 2024 pay award backdated to 1 April 2024
- (v) To note the budget monitoring report
- (vi) To request Nigel Richards to tidy up the former telephone kiosk which is home to the defibrillator
- (vii) To agree the recommended electrical work for the supply to the defibrillator
- (viii) Adrian Gaines to be asked to paint the former telephone kiosk which is home to the defibrillator.

Chair's initials

Payee	Items	Invoice Date	Invoice No	Net	VAT	Total
Bradford On Tone Village Hall	Hall Hire 10.09.2024	14.10.2024	27/2425	£19.00	0	£19.00
Somerset Association of Local Councils	Affiliation Fee	07.08.2024	1012	£188.67	0	£188.67
*Somerset Association of Local Councils	Councillor Training – Councillor Essentials Part 2	03.02.2023	Inv-1996	£15.00	0	£15.00
*Somerset Association of Local Councils	Councillor Training – Councillor Essentials Part 1	03.02.2023	INV-1970	£25.00	0	£25.00
Mr N Richards, Home and Garden Maintenance	Tidy up and weedkiller around war memorial	30.10.2024		£60.00	0	£60.00
Society of Local Council Clerks	Membership	12.11.2024	MEM252203-2	£37.70	0	£37.70
	Salary and associated costs September & October			£895.77		

112/2024 Review of Financial Regulations

The Parish Council's Financial Regulations were reviewed in the light of the new model published by the National Association of Local Councils.

Matters discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- Clause 4.3 – budget cycle should refer to setting the budget and precept in January
- There are no proposed material change in values e.g. expenditure levels that are delegated to the Clerk for decision
- Values for decision making / delegation levels should be proportional to the precept
- Clause 7.1 – insert “2”

RESOLVED that subject to the changes to clauses 4.3 and 7.1 referred to above that the Financial Regulations be approved and implemented.

113/2024 Update Report

- Details of the Enhanced Highways Maintenance Pilot includes work to drains and gullies, grass verges, footpaths and road signs
- Road Safety Survey – the questionnaire can be returned to the village shop, the Parish Clerk or the Parish Council Chair (note: return date needs to be amended from 2024 to 2025)
- Prices have been obtained for the purchase and installation of a dog waste bin at the southern end of Back Lane

Chair's initials

- The hedges which had been causing concern from The Worlds End to Three Elms have been cut; details of the registered land owners have been obtained from the land registry website for future reference.

RESOLVED that the Parish Clerk is given delegated authority to purchase a dog waste bin subject to a maximum cost of £300 (for the bin and fixing post) and to place an order with Somerset Council for the installation at the southern end of Back Lane.

114/2024 Draft 2025/2026 Budget

Councillors provided suggestions and guidance to the Parish Clerk on projects and work to be included in the 2025/2026 budget together with guiding principles for compiling the budget and thus calculating the level of the precept.

Matters discussed during consideration of this agenda item included

- There are some costs that are essential e.g. insurance, clerk's salary
- Keeping the bus shelter clean
- Grant to Council for churchyard
- Defibrillator maintenance
- Maintenance of the war memorial and the surrounding area
- Website
- Insurance - need to review carefully to make sure it covers everything that is needed
- Potential for future projects / earmarked reserves for car parking, memorial wood, land acquisition fund, provision of community facilities / buildings

The meeting closed at 21:30hrs

Chair's Signature & Date