

DRAFT – SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

BRADFORD ON TONE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2017

PRESENT

Mr D Venn (Chairman), Mr C Dinsdale OBE, Mr C Ellis, Mrs K Herdman, Mr R Pearce
Mr J Hunt (County Councillor)
PCSO Sharon Baker
Four members of the public

Mr Venn introduced Mrs Kate Herdman, the new Parish Councillor to replace Mrs Cape. He hoped she would enjoy her time on the Parish Council.

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs L Sidhu, Mr P Haines

2. INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

None

3. POLICE REPORT

PCSO Sharon Baker's report for August 2017 indicated 16 calls to the police for the Bradford on Tone area which included an accident in Bradford on Tone.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 JULY 2017

The minutes, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as correct. The proposer was Mr Pearce, seconded by Mr Ellis.

5. UPDATE ON ITEMS IN MINUTES

5.1 Land outside Threeways, Bradford on Tone

Somerset Highways had still not received a response from the property owners regarding the low level post and chain fence they had erected around a piece of grass outside their property. This is recorded on Highway records as being part of the public highway. Somerset Highways would be asked to pursue the matter.

5.2 Parish Magazine Costs

Further to minute 6.4 of the September meeting Mr Hardy hoped to submit a detailed report to the November meeting.

5.3.1 Bradford Bridge

In answer to questions put to Paul Tucker, the County Council's Senior Bridge Engineer, he said that:

- (a) If the bollards were located further away from the structure this could increase the risk of damage to the walling between the bollards.
- (b) The current timber bollards were chosen to be sacrificial and cheap to replace, being old telegraph poles. Steel bollards would not only be not so forgiving in the event of impact but would be significantly more expensive to replace.
- (c) Whilst cameras could help identify the culprits they would be costly not only to install but would need to be monitored and SCC had no budget for this. There would be nothing to stop the Parish Council providing and paying for this, but it was possible that approval would be needed from the Highway Authority, depending where the cameras were sited.

Mr Tucker said that SCC contractors had been instructed to replace the existing damaged and loose bollards and repoint the damaged masonry, for which the road would need to be closed from 0930 to 1530 for safety.

5.3.2 Pedestrian Safety – Tone Green to Bradford on Tone

A resident of Tone Green had expressed concerns for the safety of her son when walking to and from home to catch a school bus in the village. There was little that could be done about the bridge but the Clerk would write to the owners of the hedges abutting the road from Tone Green to the bridge and ask if they would have them cut back hard so that it would be safer for pedestrians. There was already a continuous white line on either side of the road at this location.

County Councillor James Hunt suggested this issue and a number of other matters should be reported to the County Council's Highways Department with a view to meeting at the various sites.

6. HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

6.1 Footpath behind White Horse Inn/Dalgren Bridge WG3/4

There had been further complaints that this long term closure had not been resolved. Councillors agreed to send a letter to Rebecca Pow, MP, seeking her help. Mr Hunt suggested a meeting be held between Parish Council representatives and the County Council's Rights of Way staff to see if any action could be taken to re-open this important link between Bradford on Tone and Nynehead. Dennis Venn, Leigh Sidhu and Kate Herdman would attend with Mr Hunt. The Parish Council would arrange the meeting.

6.2 WG 3/17 Hele Bridge, Bradford on Tone

Mrs Sidhu was awaiting a reply from the County Council's Rights of Way staff in connection with the replacement of a stile with a kissing gate.

6.3 Footway from Worlds End into village, Bradford on Tone

Fox's Farm Services had cut the side and top of the hedge to make the footway more accessible. David Richards had organized several working parties to widen the footway further by removing the back edge of the verge. Mr Richards suggested a site meeting with Somerset Highways to discuss filling in the cracks in the tarmac. The weeds would be sprayed off.

Councillors wished to record their thanks to Mr Richards and the working parties for their time and effort in making the footway much more accessible. Eleven villagers had between them attended 36 times over a period of six days.

7. PLANNING

7.1 Applications

None

7.2 Decisions

7.2.1 07/16/0017 – Siting of mobile home for use as an agricultural workers dwelling on land at Hawksbit Farm, Langs Farm, Oake Road, Bradford on Tone (retention of works already undertaken) – Refusal 20.7.17

7.2.2 07/17/0007 – Erection of single storey extensions to the front, rear and south elevations of Kingslea, Heatherton Park, Bradford on Tone. Conditional approval 20 July 2017

7.2.3 07/17/0014 – Erection of a single storey and two storey extensions, replacement garage building, replacement roof structure and construction of tennis court at Hele Mount, Hele Road, Bradford on Tone. Conditional approval 17 August 2017

7.2.4 07/17/0013 – Erection of first floor extension to side and replacement single storey extension to the rear of 1 Stonehouse Cottages, Hele Road, Bradford on Tone – conditional approval 31 August 2017.

8. RECREATIONAL AREAS IN BRADFORD ON TONE

8.1 Section 106 Contributions – land at Hele Manor, Bradford on Tone

Taunton Deane Borough Council had advised the Parish Council that contributions for children's play and outdoor active recreation, due under the Section 106 Agreement dated 20 April 2015, had been paid by the developer. The sums involved were – children's play £17,992.80 and outdoor recreation £10311.84.

The Parish Council had five years, which would terminate on 19 April 2020, within which to spend this money on the above. If they did not take up the offer of these monies the funding would go to a neighbouring parish with a play area. Mr Venn, Mrs Sidhu and Mrs Herdman would discuss all possibilities so that children's play and outdoor recreational facilities could be provided within the parish.

8.2 Lack of Play Area for Children

A resident of Tone Green was concerned at the lack of play and recreational facilities in the village. This matter would be addressed as part of minute 8.1 above.

9. FINANCE

9.1	To consider approval of the following accounts for payment	£
9.1.1	Clerk's salary August/September	606.32
9.1.2	Clerk's expenses August/September	30.00
9.1.3	Fox's Farm Services – hedge cutting A38 to village	114.00 (inc VAT 19.00)
9.1.4	Donation to Children's Hospice South West ref war memorial refurbishment working party	40.00

On the proposal of Mr Pearse, seconded by Mr Dinsdale, it was unanimously agreed to approve these accounts for payment.

9.2 Income

Interest	0.02
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9.3 Bank balance and annual reconciliation statement

After the above transactions had taken place the Parish Council's bank account totalled £9739.68.

9.4 External Audit of Parish Council's Accounts 2017/2018

The audit had been successfully concluded, with no problems.

9.5 Half Year Internal Audit of Parish Council's Accounts 2017/2018

Mr Dinsdale and Mr Pearse offered to carry out a half year internal audit.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 Code of Conduct Complaint

No further information was available on this matter.

11. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED SINCE CIRCULATION OF AGENDA

11.1 Repair of St Giles Church Roof

The Parish Council had written to June Best (Bradford on Tone PCC) saying they supported the PCC's application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant to repair the Church roof.

11.2 Church floodlights and clock

Councillors were told that the floodlighting at St Giles Church had failed. On the proposal of Mr Pearse, seconded by Mrs Herdman, it was agreed the Parish Council would cover the cost of the solar time switch/clock which controls the two floodlights on a grade two listed building. These were provided by Taunton Deane Borough Council and maintained for many years, but a few years ago the responsibility for all external lighting was passed to the owner of buildings.

The cost would be £130.24 + VAT of £26.04, making a total of £156.28. Mr Richards in the interim had kindly paid for this work, and with no labour costs the floodlights are again working. Mr Richards would be reimbursed at the November meeting.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 15 November 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Chant Room, Village Hall, Bradford on Tone. Items for the agenda should be sent to the Clerk at least 14 days before the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9 pm.

B715m