

**BRADFORD ON TONE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 NOVEMBER 2017**

PRESENT

Mr D Venn (Chairman), Mr C Ellis, Mr P Haines, Mrs K Herdman, Mr R Pearce, Mrs L Sidhu
Seven members of the public

1. APOLOGIES

Mr C Dinsdale OBE

2. INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Mr Haines – minute 3

Mr Ellis – minute 6.2

Mr Venn – minute 6.3

3. CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT

Mr Haines made reference to TDBC’s Monitoring Officer’s letter to him dated 30 October 2017 and his response. Both letters had been circulated to Councillors. Mr Haines then declared an interest and left the room.

The Clerk summarised the Monitoring Officer’s letter in which he apologised for the length of time it had taken to deal with this matter. He concluded that in all the circumstances there was no overriding public benefit in carrying out an investigation, and his decision was to take no further action in this matter. In doing so the Monitoring Officer acknowledged that the point of principle upon which the complaint was based was a sound one and that matters had now moved on.

Councillors noted these comments and asked Mr Haines to return to the meeting.

4. POLICE REPORT

The latest report stated there had been 18 police calls to incidents within the Bradford on Tone area, including one of antisocial behaviour and a drunk male in Bradford on Tone.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2017

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

6. UPDATE ON ITEMS IN MINUTES

6.1 Land outside Threeways, Bradford on Tone

Somerset Highways were in the process of dealing with the illegal erection of the low

level post and chain fence which had been erected around a piece of public highway outside this property.

6.2 Parish Magazine Costs

Further to minute 5.2 of the September meeting Mrs Ellis and Mrs Vaughan (editor of the Parish Magazine), presented a short report on the proposal to have free distribution of ‘News from the Villages’ to residents of Bradford on Tone.

Councillors discussed the matter and it was agreed to look at the relevant accounts. Mr Pearce asked whether the magazine’s costs would be reduced if it were reduced in size. Mrs Herdman said she would like to see the quality of the magazine remain as it is, whether or not costs increased.

It was agreed to ask Mrs Ellis and Mrs Vaughan to produce further information on costs for the January 2018 meeting.

6.3 Bradford Bridge

Mr Haines said the repair work had almost been completed, although a few coping stones were still to be pointed. Councillors were concerned at the recurring damage to the bridge and wooden posts. There was discussion on the way forward to find out who was causing the damage.

On the proposal of Mrs Herdman, seconded by Mrs Sidhu, it was agreed that details of any known culprits would be passed to the police. In addition, the Clerk would look at the ‘Exemptions’ list to the Weight and Width Restriction Orders, so they could be updated. Mrs Herdman said those with exemptions should be reminded that they have a duty of care. Mr Haines suggested the Parish Council investigate the use of CCTV.

Mr Haines asked for the costs of the latest repairs, but it would be several months before this information was available.

6.4 Section 106 Contributions – play area and outdoor recreation

Following minute 8.1 of the September 2017 meeting the Clerk reminded Councillors of the Section 106 monetary contributions available to the Parish Council, and which needed to be spent by August 2022. He said that funds might be available from the Hinkley Point Community Fund or the Somerset Playing Fields Association and he would pursue these. Mrs Sidhu and Mrs Herdman offered to make enquiries about the possibility of an area of land in the village being available to purchase or lease.

6.5 Footpath behind the White Horse Inn/Dalgren Bridge

Mrs Sidhu was still waiting to hear the outcome of the County Council’s contact with Mr Dalgren’s son.

6.6 Pedestrian Safety – Tone Green to Bradford on Tone

Following minute 5.3.2 of the September 2017 meeting, a site meeting had taken place between Dennis Quick and Kevin Bridgwater from Somerset Highways, Dennis Venn, Peter Haines and the Clerk. It had been agreed to again ask Mr Johnson if his hedge could be cut back as hard as possible. Councillors would try and get the road widened particularly on the Nynehead side between the bridge and Tone Green junction.

At that meeting the Clerk had raised a complaint received from a resident in Tone Green asking about the drainage system and flooding which still affected this area. Mr Quick reported that the water drainage system from the Oake road along Tone Green had been upgraded three years ago. The old clay 150 mm pipes had all been replaced with modern 225 mm plastic pipes and road gullies had been updated. Nearby drainage works had almost been completed.

7. HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

7.1 WG 3/17 Hele Bridge, Bradford on Tone

Mrs Sidhu confirmed that the stile would be replaced by a kissing gate as soon as funds were available.

8. HEATHERTON GRANGE CROSSROADS

Following an article in the Somerset County Gazette the Clerk had emailed the editor asking him to remind readers that Bradford on Tone Parish Council had for many years been urging Somerset County Council to carry out safety measures at this dangerous five-way junction.

9. PLANNING

9.1 Applications

9.1.1 07/17/0020 – Variation of Condition 2 (Drawings) of application

07/16/0018 for the conversion of outbuildings to annexe at Boulderwood, Bradford on Tone. No site meeting necessary and no objection.

9.1.2 Decisions

None

10. FINANCE

10.1	To consider approval of the following accounts for payment	£
10.1.1	Clerk's salary October/November	606.32
10.1.2	Clerk's expenses October/November	43.40

DRAFT – SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

10.1.3 Repayment to Mr Richards Church lighting time switch - and butterfly screws (all on behalf of Parish Council)	159.72 (inc VAT 26.04)
10.1.4 Bradford on Tone Village Hall – hire of Chant Room 19 July and 20 September 2017	32.00
10.1.5 AR Computing – 50% toner costs	105.61 (inc VAT 17.60)
10.1.6 Anthony Smith – Clerk’s payroll services 2015 – 2017	120.00 (inc VAT 20.00)

On the proposal of Mr Pearce, seconded by Mrs Herdman, it was unanimously agreed to approve these accounts for payment.

10.2 Income

10.2.1 Taunton Deane Borough Council – churchyard maintenance and public footpaths	520.00
10.2.2 Interest	0.02

10.3 Bank balance and annual reconciliation statement

After the above transactions had taken place the Parish Council’s bank account totalled £8673.05.

10.4 Half year internal audit results

The accounts had been successfully audited by Mr Dinsdale and Mr Pearce, who were thanked for their assistance.

10.5 To consider draft budget and precept for 2018/2019

The Clerk presented his draft report for consideration. On the proposal of Mrs Sidhu, seconded by Mr Ellis, it was unanimously agreed to approve the 2018/2019 budget, asking for a precept of £7000, the same as the current year. A copy of the 2018/2019 budget/precept is attached as Appendix 1.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

11.1 Somerset County Council – Highways Winter Service 2017/2018 – this had been circulated to Councillors.

12. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED SINCE CIRCULATION OF AGENDA

12.1 Request for donation from Citizens Advice Bureau

After discussion Councillors agreed to continue with their policy of not giving donations under the Section 137 legislation.

12.2 Hinkley Point Community Fund

Mr Haines had suggested the Parish Council apply to access funds for one of the potential local projects under consideration, eg playground, Berry's Corner or possible car parking or the rerouting of that part of the footpath behind the White Horse Inn which had been closed for eight years. Councillors agreed to pursue Mr Haines' suggestion.

13. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

13.1 Footway from Worlds End to village

Mr Richards offered to obtain two quotations for the sealing of surface cracks in the footway and report back to the January 2018 meeting.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 17 January 2018 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 8.55 pm.