

DRAFT – SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

BRADFORD ON TONE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 MARCH 2018

PRESENT

Mr D Venn (Chairman), Mr C Ellis, Mr P Haines, Mrs K Herdman, Mr R Pearse
Mr R Habgood (District Councillor)
Five members of the public

1. APOLOGIES

Mr C Dinsdale OBE, Mrs L Sidhu
PCSO Sharon Baker

2. INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Mr C Ellis – minute 5.1 and 5.2
Mr Venn – minute 5.3 and 5.5

3. POLICE REPORT

Crime in the village remained low. However, everyone should remain vigilant about keeping doors and windows locked and be on the lookout for suspicious persons or vehicles.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2018

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

5. UPDATE ON ITEMS IN MINUTES

5.1 Land outside Threeways, Bradford on Tone

No further information had been received from Somerset County Council. Councillors agreed to ask the County Solicitor to take the necessary action to have the low chain and metal posts removed as they enclose public highway verge.

5.2 Parish Magazine Costs

Further to previous minutes Mrs Ellis gave Councillors verbal revised figures on the costs of producing the magazine, quality of the presentation and circulation figures. After discussion it was agreed to ask Mrs Ellis to present a written report to the May Parish Council meeting.

5.3 Bradford Bridge

It appeared that the local authority would require compliance with rules and

regulations for the installation of CCTV at Bradford Bridge. Mr Haines was concerned that whilst more should be done to protect this listed structure, so long as the Highway Authority were prepared to honour their responsibility to carry out such repairs as should be necessary, then the installation of a CCTV system was difficult to justify. Mr Venn had produced a revised Exemptions list of landowners needing to access the bridge with farm machinery. The Clerk would look at the old Borough Council agreement so it could be updated.

5.4 Section 106 contributions – play area and outdoor recreation

Mrs Herdman said preliminary discussions had taken place with landowner Mr Mitchell regarding the possibility of obtaining a piece of land in the village approximately one quarter to one half of an acre for the purpose of creating a play area. She and Mrs Sidhu were awaiting the outcome of the meeting but in the meantime would keep looking at any other suitable sites.

Mrs Sidhu had had a useful meeting with Debbie Arscott of Taunton Deane Borough Council to talk about how the funding could be used.

5.5 Footpath behind White Horse Inn/Dalgren Bridge

Mrs Sidhu had made contact with David Edwards, the Diversions Officer for Taunton Deane Borough Council, who had been tasked with overseeing the effect the proposed Flood Alleviation Scheme adjacent to Bradford on Tone would have on public rights of way.

Mrs Sidhu had told Mr Edwards that the Parish Council had tried for years to get this important footpath reopened and had become increasingly frustrated at the lack of progress. However, the Parish Council was also keen to keep abreast of the proposed Flood Alleviation Scheme and what impact it would have on the local rights of way system.

5.6 Speed Indicator Device (SID)

Further to minute 6 of the January 2018 meeting Mr Haines had investigated the effectiveness of SIDs but only limited reports were available. He had circulated information to Councillors.

The Clerk briefly reported on his recent meeting with other Parish Councils about SIDs. There were several options. To have one SID installed by the County Council would cost around £100 and that would be for a period of two weeks. Alternatively, to purchase one would cost around £2500 plus the cost of training volunteers (£300 - £500) to obtain a suitable qualification.

Mr Haines felt there was concern about speeding through the village and that Councillors ought to continue to try and find a way around the problem. After discussion Councillors decided to take no further action after 31 March 2018 when Somerset County Council would terminate the SID programme.

6. REMOVAL OF HEDGE NEAR LANGS FARM, BRADFORD ON TONE

The Parish Council had received complaints about the extent of hedge removal alongside the Oake to Bradford on Tone road. Taunton Deane Borough Council's Tree Officer said that the hedgerow was protected by the Hedgerow Regulations 1997, so the landowner should have sought permission. The landowner had been asked why the hedge had been removed and why the Borough Council had received no notification of it.

7. PLANNING

7.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2018

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

7.2 Applications

7.2.1 07/18/0001 – erection of two dwellings with associated works in the garden of Russets, Lower Stoford Lane, Bradford on Tone. Parish Council met on site 24 February 2018 – objected on grounds of (1) Conservation Area, (2) Over-development, (3) Access – see agenda 7.1

7.2.2 07/17/0023/T – works to one ash tree (TPO) at Rose Orchard, Bradford on Tone. No objection.

7.3 Decisions

None

8. FINANCE

8.1	To consider approval of the following accounts for payment	£
8.1.1	Clerk's salary February/March	606.32
8.1.2	Clerk's expenses February/March	39.60
8.1.3	Bradford on Tone Village Hall – hire of Chant Room 17.1.18	16.00
8.1.4	Bradford on Tone PCC – churchyard maintenance 2017	576.00 (inc VAT 96.00)
8.1.5	Somerset Association of Local Councils – affiliation fees 2018	167.37
8.1.6	Magic Webs Ltd – website update 2017	67.50 (inc VAT 11.25)
8.1.7	Association of Local Clerks – subscription 2018	30.00
8.1.8	AR Computing – black toner	50.95 (inc VAT 8.49)
8.1.9	Andrew Deptford – Adult electro pads for defibrillator	108.00 (inc VAT 18.00)

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

8.2 Income

Interest 0.05

8.3 Bank balance and reconciliation statement

After the above transactions had taken place the Parish Council's bank accounts totalled £6386.08.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 Somerset Libraries Service Consultation 2018 – emailed to Councillors but no responses yet.

9.2 Campaign for Sustainable Transport in the Taunton area – Clerk asked to respond to the action group set up to press for improvements to transport and travel in the Taunton area.

Councillors agreed that whilst CaSTTA was a commendable group they felt that the problem was of poorly planned transport infrastructure and inadequacy of the road network, and it seemed to be a national rather than a local issue.

10. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED SINCE CIRCULATION OF AGENDA

10.1 Road Closure Oake to Bradford on Tone road

Two complaints had been received from businesses along this road, which was closed recently for the second time in a week. The complaint was that it was unnecessary to close the whole length of the road and that the 'road closed' signing was inaccurate and left in position after the road had reopened. The complainants claimed the small works could have been controlled by lights or stop/go boards. They had lost business because of the closure of the whole road.

Councillors had every sympathy with the business owners and would seek answers from the County Council.

10.2 FLOODING AT TONE GREEN, BRADFORD ON TONE

The Parish Council had received a copy of an email from a resident at Tone Green formally complaining to Somerset County Council about the inadequacies of the drainage system in Tone Green which had recently left the road flooded for an unacceptable length of time.

In response Somerset Highways said that over the last four years they had replaced all the piped drainage along Tone Green from the ditch system. The Assistant Area Highway Manager was disappointed on inspection to find recycling bins and rubbish bins floating in flood water and their contents in inspection chambers or washed into the new piped system.

Residents did not agree that the recycling bins were the cause of the problem. Somerset Highways suggested a site meeting between them, residents and representatives of the Parish Council, which would be arranged shortly.

11. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

11.1 Clearance of Public Footpaths

Councillors were asked by a member of the public to contact landowners to ensure that the routes of all public rights of way should be kept open and useable and that crops should not be allowed to obstruct them.

11.2 Dog excrement on highway

A member of the public had complained about the amount of excrement left on the public highway in the villages.

Mr Venn suggested putting up notices similar to the ones that used to be positioned by Bradford bridge, but this was not supported by other Councillors. Mr Habgood said that another local council had used visible aerosols which naturally biodegraded over a very short time. Mr Venn offered to contact Taunton Deane Borough Council's dog warden for further information.

12. ITEMS OF CONCERN

None

The Annual Parish Council meeting (appointment of Chairman, Vice Chairman etc) will be held in the Chant Room, Village Hall, Bradford on Tone on Wednesday 23 May 2018 at 7.30 pm. Items for the agenda should be sent to the Clerk at least 14 days before the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

B732m