



Full Council meeting

Minutes

From the meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 4 July 2023

At St. Margaret's Hall, Bradford on Avon

Decision making

The **decisions** made by the Full Council at this meeting are at minutes [16](#), [20](#), [21](#) & [23](#).

Present

Councillors:

- Kate Bessant
- Dave Garwood
- Alex Kay
- Simon McNeil-Ritchie
- Jennie Parker
- Alison Potter
- Tim Trimble
- Katie Vigar (Chair)

Town Council Officers:

- Ian Brown - Chief Executive & Town Clerk
- Chris Stringer – Deputy Town Clerk
- Matthew McLaughlin – Communications Officer
- Chris Hogg – Green Spaces Officer
- Tim Yeomans – Facilities Manager

Meeting clerk:

- Sarah Howe – Committee Clerk
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Apologies

From Councillors unable to attend the meeting:

- Sam Blackwell
 - Emma Franklin
 - Sarah Gibson
 - Jack Vittles
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15. Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were made.

16. Minutes from the previous meeting of the full council

Proposed by Councillor Tim Trimble

Seconded by Councillor Alison Potter

And with all in favour it was **resolved**: that the Minutes of the last full council meeting held on 2 May 2023 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

17. Matters arising

None.

18. Agenda item 6 – Chair’s Update

The Chair summarised her update which was supplied with the agenda. She highlighted the suggestion which emerged from the Coronation weekend’s ‘Big Help Out’ to organise an annual volunteers’ event in town ideally during nation volunteer week. Other events mentioned included the Running Out of Time Relay taking place in town on the 5 July 2023 between 12.30pm and 1.30pm in Barton Country Park and the Business Forum taking place on the 18 July 2023 between 4pm and 7.30pm with all councillors, businesses, the self-employed and business owners invited to share views and concerns. Finally, Tim Trimble advised that Wiltshire’s Local Plan Review has been updated and published recently which, amongst other things, identifies sites for future housing development. Bradford on Avon has no specific sites listed or earmarked and the golf course site which has been listed in the past has now been demoted to the reserve list thanks in large part to 700 objections during a public consultation. Consequently, it will most likely be some years before being considered again although the Plan does still state around 80 extra homes do need to be built around town ‘and that will only happen if we look like failing to meet the target of 80 extra homes the plan requires us to build before 2038.’

19. Agenda item 7 – Tubas group visit to Bradford on Avon

The Chair introduced the item stating that Tubas in Palestine has had a friendship link with Bradford on Avon (BoA) since March 2020.



Two members of the BoA Friends of Palestine group, Judith and Penny, came to speak to members about a planned visit by individuals from Tubas in October 2023 in response to a visit by Penny and Judith to Palestine in September 2022. Those visiting this autumn include the Mayor, a sports coach, a civil engineer for a playground project the Friends Group are supporting, a farmer and for part of the visit the Ambassador to Palestine. The Friends group are looking for contacts for the following areas of Interest: farming, schools, and any other activities that might be of interest to the visiting group. They are also seeking accommodation for the week's visit or part thereof and transport as the visitors will likely be taken to see different projects, businesses and activities so private cars seem the most flexible option. Please email boafriendsofpalestine@gmail.com with any offers of support or invites.

20. Agenda item 8 – St Margaret's Hall Refurbishment

The facilities manager introduced the item. There are around 100 broken tiles on the north side of the roof creating gaps in the roof, puddles on the floor of the hall and other cracks in the hall structure. There are a few broken tiles on the south side but largely protected by the solar panels. The proposed work is therefore only covering the northside to replace tiles with new instead of reclaimed tiles laid during previous refurbishment works.

It was proposed by Councillor Alex Kay and seconded by Councillor Dave Garwood and with all in favour it was **resolved:** to accept the recommendation in the report and appoint Contractor 1 to carry out necessary roof repairs.

21. Agenda item 9 – Play Areas in Bradford on Avon Phase 1

The Deputy Town Clerk introduced the item referring to his report and slides presented to members. The proposal is phase 1 of a major project over the next 15 years to spend around £370,000 on the town's play areas tackling those in greatest need of renovation first. Phase 1 renovations will take place during 2023/24 and include Poulton and St Aldhelm with £60,000 and £20,000 to be spent or thereabouts. Consultations with the public may vary the budgets a little. The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the selection process had involved both Council Officers and Councillors and Company B had offered the best responses



to questions including environmental credentials, passion for working with the community, ethics, sourcing supplies appropriately etc. He finished by adding that Phase 2 was already underway with conversations with the public about Spencer's Orchard play area.

Councillor McNeil-Ritchie asked if any play areas have been taken out of action due to a poor state of repair. The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that part of Poulton has been surveyed and closed off. Surveys of the rest have revealed a variable but serviceable situation. Councillor Bessant thanked the Deputy Town Clerk and all other Officers involved in the project and was pleased with the ambitious scope and detailed consideration. She was also pleased that inspiration was drawn from other local, successful play areas and that the climate question was being addressed with tree planting and other measures to improve diversity.

It was proposed by Councillor Alex Kay and seconded by Councillor Kate Bessant and with all in favour it was **resolved:** to accept the recommendations set out: 1) to work with play company B on phase 1 of our play project and 2) delegate responsibility to the Chief Exec/Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk to bring back final designs for Poulton Park and St Aldhelm play spaces.

22. Agenda item 10 – Confidential Business

It was proposed by Councillor Tim Trimble and seconded by Councillor Kate Bessant and with all in favour: **resolved:** to start confidential business.

24. Next meeting

The next Full Council meeting is arranged for Tuesday 5 September 2023.

End of the meeting

The meeting finished at 8.30 pm



Appendix A: Comments and questions from the public

There were various comments and questions from members of the public and Councillors at the meeting. There were 7 members of the public present in total.

Question regarding agenda item 9 - the climate and ecological impact of the play areas project.

(Q1) On Item 9, the Play Strategy, in general I welcome the "aims and aspirations for Play in Bradford" in Appendix A. But what does "Reflecting" the climate and ecological emergencies mean? With summer heatwaves becoming normal, can the play areas please be densely planted with shade trees and other vegetation, which are fun to play in and will also draw down CO₂?

Both this item and Item 8 on refurbishing the St Margarets Hall roof raise larger questions about procurement in a climate emergency.

[Q2] The Climate and Ecological Emergency strategy committed you to delivering specific new instructions to your suppliers. Has that happened? Where are they available to view please?

It also said that the 4% of the 2019-20 budget spent on environmental projects was not enough. I quote: "This level of spending does not equate to prioritising the Ecological and Climate Emergency. The Council will therefore look to allocate no less than 10% of its budget to items and projects directly addressing the joint Emergencies."

[Q3] Is that allocation of at least 10% happening now, in this year's budget? And what percentage of the Play Areas budget have you earmarked for climate mitigation and adaptation and biodiversity?

Q1: The Chair confirmed that the council considers the climate and ecological emergency in all decisions taken and projects undertaken often in consultation with the public and in this case the public have been involved with new features at Poulton Park in particular. The landscaper engaged to help with Poulton is taking a holistic approach which includes tree planting both as part of the town wide planting scheme and specifically for the landscaping of the play area.



Q2: The Chair and Councillor McNeil-Ritchie both confirmed that the procurement process when appointing suppliers and contractors varies from project to project so there is no written strategy per se however in the case of the play areas companies were asked for information on their environmental credentials, ethical standpoint, procurement procedures and whether the company are committed to environmental considerations such as wide use of recycled materials and whole life approaches to design.

Q3: The proportion of the play area budget used for environmental considerations and mitigations? The Chair confirmed that there is no precise figure from the council's £1.3million budget, however over the scope of all the council's activities £100,000 has been spent on tree planting, £30,000 on traffic modelling to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety and air quality, we have a living green wall, the Town Wardens use electric vehicles and equipment where possible. There are also biodiversity projects supported and two committees dedicated to environmental matters: Sustainable travel and Environment and Green Spaces. Also, expenditure is not always the best way to judge things as spending less is sometimes the key element such as fewer grass cuts to increase biodiversity. Councillor McNeil-Ritchie added that these expenses are out of the disposable element of the town council's budget, after costs such as salaries and pensions, so not the full £1.3 million.

Question from Councillor Garwood regarding Dog Waste

Councillor Garwood stated that there had been discussions on social media over the previous weekend regarding dogs on Victory Field and dog waste in general. Dogs are not allowed on Victory Field but challenging those members of the public who flout this rule has been tricky at times.

Councillors agreed that some areas with long standing rules banning dogs from the space should be maintained and that Victory Field should retain its 'No Dogs' status along with all play areas. Dog waste is the responsibility of owners and should remain so but without dog wardens is difficult to police.