



Community and Wellbeing committee minutes

Minutes

From the committee meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 19 September 2023

At St. Margaret's Hall, Bradford on Avon

Decision making

The **decisions** made by the committee at this meeting are at minutes 23 & 29.

Present

Councillors:

- Kate Bessant
- Tim Trimble
- Katie Vigar
- Jack Vittles

Town Council Officers:

- Ian Brown - Chief Executive & Town Clerk
- George Tomlinson – Engagement Officer

Meeting clerk:

- Sarah Howe – Committee Clerk
-

Apologies

From Councillors unable to attend the meeting:

- Sam Blackwell
 - Jennie Parker
 - Alison Potter
-



22. Declarations of interest

Councillor Vittles declared his interest in the Cricket Club.

23. Minutes from the previous meeting of the committee

Proposed by Councillor Katie Vigar

Seconded by Councillor Kate Bessant

And with all in favour it was **resolved**: that the Minutes of the last committee meeting held on 27 June 2023 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

24. Matters arising

None.

25. Agenda item 6 – Cricket Club presentation

The Chair introduced Mike Smith from Bradford on Avon Cricket Club who gave a presentation on the work of the Club involving younger members.

The Cricket Club was founded in 1962 and quickly grew enough to support 3 teams. 12 years ago, Mike and two other coaches developed the youth programme which currently supports around 200 youngsters.

The soft ball teams include Allstars (5-7 year olds) and Dynamos (7-9 year olds) in conjunction with the English Cricket Board (ECB) and run during May and June and are usually fully subscribed. Parents and volunteers assist the coaches and all adults are DNB checked.

From the age of 9 years old the teams play hard ball cricket and are entered into the Bath Youth League.

The Under11's has 3 mixed teams and a girls team called the Swans. They were coached by Australian player/coach Aidan Gunning during this last season. There are also Under 13 and Under 15 teams with one of the Under 11 teams, the Sharks, winning the league this season. The Club is very inclusive with around 85% of youngsters attending local state schools. Parents have been very supportive with some signing up for coaching courses this year.

Mike thanked the town council for their support with grants for equipment to assist with flattening the playing surface. Finally, the Club is hoping to raise the necessary funds to erect nets near the tennis courts with a grant from the ECB and a fund raising effort.

Mike offered to answer any questions. Councillor Vittles thanked Mike and remarked how impressive the youth programme is and a credit to the town as well as the Club. Councillor Vigar was very pleased to hear



that the Club was providing opportunities for lots of kids over the summer in an egalitarian fashion. She also asked how many adults teams play and currently there are 2 on a Saturday possibly rising to 3 which will need extra facilities which might be available at Stonar School. There is also a Wednesday league team. Councillor Trimble calculated that there are 12/13 teams playing of all ages which is very impressive.

26. Agenda item 7 – Volunteer Days 2023-24

Councillor Vigar introduced the item as there had been a thought, following on from the ‘Big Help Out’ volunteer day as part of the Coronation Weekend back in May, to hold an annual volunteering event to celebrate current volunteers and recruit new ones. The idea had developed further to holding such an event in June as part of National Volunteer Week. Councillor Vigar went on to say that the event and recruitment process needed to be appealing in the right way to maximise the chances of enticing new recruits. She asked all councillors to give the matter some thought and research how this is addressed elsewhere. Finally, she was cheered by the fact that despite poor weather the 2023 event was well supported and there was an encouraging swell of local interest.

Various suggestions were put forward such as making sure the event occurred at a weekend, combining it with Sports Open Days eg, cricket, rugby, archery clubs, asking existing volunteer groups to run a session demonstrating their activities and perhaps organising the event along the lines of the ‘I am/We can’ event which occurred a few years ago.

27. Agenda item 8 – Residents’ Panel

The councillors considered the results from the latest survey as supplied with the agenda.

28. Agenda item 9 – BoA Youth Update

The quarterly update from BoA Youth was still outstanding but the Engagement Officer indicated that feedback surveys were being prepared for those parents who made use of the Summer Holiday Club. Councillor Vigar added that she had attended a session of the Summer Holiday Club and had been pleased to see a choice of formal and informal activities on offer and the youngsters enjoying themselves.



29. Agenda item 10 – Women’s Institute Country Market

The Vice-Chair introduced the item that the WI Country Market which meet twice a month in the Swan Hotel would be homeless shortly as the Swan Hotel is closing.

The proposal is that the event will continue in St Margaret’s Hall 9-11.30am 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month with the organisers making a donation for use of the space. Councillor Vigar was keen that the event could continue as it is well supported locally.

It was proposed by Councillor Jack Vittles and seconded by Councillor Kate Bessant and with all in favour it was **resolved:** that the WI Country Market can use St Margaret’s Hall twice a month with a donation paid for each use of the space.

30. Next meeting

The next committee meeting is arranged for Tuesday 14 November 2023.

End of the meeting

The meeting finished at 7.35 pm



Appendix A: Comments and questions from the public

There was 1 question from a member of the public at the meeting. There were 2 members of the public present in total.

Question regarding homeless sleepers in the town centre

A resident highlighted there seems to be several rough sleepers in the town centre sleeping in underground car parks and the bus shelter, she asked what could be done.

Councillor Trimble and the Town Clerk both stated that Wiltshire Council Rough Sleepers team would be contacted to come out and speak to the individuals concerned. Provision for rough sleepers is available in Trowbridge. Councillor Bessant added some rough sleepers however are not keen to be offered accommodation and the responsibility which goes with it, so not all accept any help offered.

The Town Clerk confirmed the council would contact Wiltshire Council Rough Sleepers team as soon as possible.