



Minutes of the Bradford on Avon Town Council
Town Development Committee
Held at St. Margaret's Hall, Bradford on Avon
on 21st August 2018 at 7.00p.m.

Present:

Cllr S McNeill-Ritchie (Chairman)

Cllr L Brown (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr D Garwood

Cllr D Newton (Leader of the Council)

Cllr J Lynch

Cllr M Roberts

Cllr D Taylor

Cllr E Franklin

Cllr A Kay

Ian Brown – Operations Manager

Val Baker (Administrator)

Non-Councillor Members: Jim Oribine – Visit Bath

Members of the Public. Rob Broad, Glenys Lunt, Jacqui Allen, Gerald Milward-Oliver, Sybil Mumford, Stephanie Edwards, John Baker Wiltshire Times reporter, Feona Baker and 11 other members of public.

Apologies: Simon Staddon

16. Declarations of interest – none received.

17. Non-councillor appointment

To consider electing Jim Oribine (Visit Bath) as a non-councillor representative to the Town Development Committee - It was proposed by Cllr Roberts seconded by Cllr Kay and with all in favour **RESOLVED** to elect Jim Oribine as a Non-Councillor representative on the Town Management Committee.

18. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Newton, seconded by Cllr Garwood and with all in favour it was **RESOLVED:** that the minutes from the last meeting held on the 19th June 2018 be accepted as a true record.

19. Matters arising

(i) Minute 9 – It was noted that the lowering of the wall at Greenland view was awaiting a methodology report from the contractor to be agreed with Selwood Homes and the Town Council before work commences.

(ii) Minute 11 – it was noted that the McKeever Bridge railings had now be painted.

20. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's Report had been circulated with the agenda papers and was noted. He reported that Ian Brown had been appointed as Operations Manager by the Town Council. An agreement had been reached with Wiltshire Council for Bradford on Avon Town Council to take back Culver Close; legalities were still in progress with a completion date at the end of October.

Cllr Franklin reported that she had met with the South West in Bloom judges on the 5th July and together they had visited several places in the town including the Colonel Llewellyn allotments, the top of

Whitehill and finally Wiltshire Heights where the judges lunched with the residents. She reported that the results of the winners of the South West in Bloom would be known in October. The feedback from the judges had been very encouraging saying the town had vastly improved since their last visit 12 months ago.

21. Introduction of new Operations Manager

The Chairman reported that Ian Brown had been appointed into a new post as Operations Manager. Ian gave a brief resume of his past employment where he had worked in Local Government for the past 30 years most recently for Kennet District Council and at Wiltshire Council on the Service delivery side. During this time, he was responsible for Rights of Way, Markets and public land. He hopes his vast experience and expertise will benefit the Town Council.

22. Community Asset Transfer

The Chair reported that the Town Council Community Asset Transfer Strategy's aim was to secure assets that they wish to take back from Wiltshire Council over the next 2 – 3 years. Culver Close transfer had already been agreed. Cllr McNeill-Ritchie and the Operations Manager had met with the main users to discuss what additional services would need to be 'picked up' and would report the findings at the next meeting.

Wiltshire Council had informed Bradford on Avon Town Council that St Aldhelm's Play area would be closed. The interest of children's well-being BOATC had agreed to pay 50% of the repairs with the Area Board paying the remaining 50%. They are currently in progress to meet safety regulations to allow this site to be re-opened. Cllr Mc Neill Ritchie expressed a wish for a more selflessness relationship from WC from now onwards.

23. Enforcement

There was a considerable discussion about alleged anti-social behaviour, dog fouling and drunken behaviour in the centre of town. Several comments had been reported about incidents occurring in Westbury Gardens suggesting that problems here had escalated since the PCSO presence had been reduced and that the behaviour in this area was not conducive for tourism and visitors to the town.

Cllr Newton explained that a Police Surveillance Operation – known as 'Albatross' had been set up to increase the presence of PCSO's and to monitor incidents relating to anti-social behaviour within the town. In conclusion he reported that the Town Council were actively engaging with PCSO's and Policing about this matter and encouraging the public to report incidents via 101.

He further suggested that the committee revisits the idea of installing CCTV in St Margaret's Car park. Cllr L Brown reported that since Calne Town Council had installed their CCTV behaviour patterns had changed overnight as a result.

Cllr Newton reported that the Youth Service were engaging with St Laurence, Mighty Girls and the local church and the Area Board will meet to discuss Youth opportunities in more detail.

Cllr Roberts reported that he had attended a meeting with Mike Davidson, the Chairman of Wiltshire 'Neighbourhood Watch' on the 11th July who wished to give a presentation in St Margaret's Hall for members of public to attend. The Chairman explained that Cllr Roberts would need to submit a Part 1 proposal form and to contact the office with a proposed date.

24. Update on Tourism Strategy

Councillor Garwood reported that it was unfortunate that the Strategy report had been delayed but was now nearing the final stage of production and the Draft report would be circulated in early September for consultation. He further reported that a comprehensive website was also being produced that would link in with existing tourism sites such as Visit Bath and the 'Great West Way' venture planned for next year.

25. Grant Proposal for the Food of Love Festival

Cllr Lynch reported that he wished to co-ordinate a combined music, food and community festival from the 7th – 17th March 2019 in Bradford on Avon and surrounding villages and was seeking support of the Town Council and the Tourism Officer with this event. There would be a series of events taking place in various pubs and restaurants with a series of highlights in the Wiltshire Music Centre the United Reformed Church and St Margaret's Hall. He requested a grant of £2,000 (to be match funded by the

Area Board). On the 4th October Wiltshire Council Forum would be held in St Margaret' Hall between 10 -00 – 1.00 where he would use this to launch the funding of this event. It was proposed by Cllr Lynch seconded by Cllr Newton and with all in favour **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £2000. Cllr Lynch further requested an additional £3000 for a provisional insurance policy. Cllrs **agreed** to discuss this at a later date.

Cllr Lynch further reported that he wished to resurrect BOACAN at a meeting on the 13th September at the Hub. He stated that members of the original group had a 10 year track record of funding and expertise in organisational skills which would benefit the organising of this event.

26. Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be on Tuesday 23rd October.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

Appendix 1

Members of the public who attend the Town Development Committee meeting on the 28th August 2018

1. Rob Broad asked when his members (www.boa.co.uk) of the Accommodation Vacancy guide would receive the letter from the Tourism Officer. Cllr Garwood replied that the letter was on its way.
2. Jacqui Allen asked if a date had been decided on the 'Christmas Switch on'. She reported that the next Bradford on Avon Business meeting will be held on 19th September at 6.00 and would like to extend the invite to the Tourism Officer. She said that anti-social behaviour seemed to be getting worse due to the lack of PCSO presence and this had a direct effect on Tourism and business.
3. Feona Baker commented that she did not find the Police Helpline 101 very helpful. She asked if the coloured map displayed by the Town Bridge could be replaced with a more informative map and knew of an artist that could design this. Cllr Garwood replied by saying that maps had been as identified under the Tourism Strategy report and would be assessed accordingly.
4. Stephanie Edwards expressed her concerns about the homeless person who sits near the Town Bridge. She further reported concerns about the location and state of the waste bins near the entrance to Lamb Yard saying that this was not conducive when tourists enter this area of town.
5. Glenys Lunt asked if the accommodation vacancies could be displayed in the TIC window like it used to be. She also commented that finger posts were needed to direct public to the TIC from the station as tourists were finding it difficult to find.