



Minutes of the Bradford on Avon Town Council
Town Development Committee
Held at St. Margaret's Hall, Bradford on Avon
on 23rd October 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 E Franklin

Ian Brown – Operations Manager

Sandra Bartlett – Town Clerk

Steph Shearing – Tourism & Events Officer

*=left at 8.30p.m.

Non-Councillor Members:

Members of the Public. John Potter, Paige Balas, Beryl Turner, Joyce Shaw, John Box, Mrs Box, Glenys Lunt, Sybil Mumford, Rob Broad, Annette Seekings and 5 others.

Apologies: Cllr Kay, Cllr Lomax and Simon Staddon.

27. Declarations of interest – none received.

28. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Garwood seconded by Cllr Franklin and with all in favour it was **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the last meeting held on the 21st August 2018 be accepted as a true record.

29. Matters arising

(i) Minute number 9 – Lowering the wall at Greenland View – Cllr Lynch reported that Peter Dunford had been helping with this. Although the work order had been placed in June, the contractor was very busy at the moment.

(ii) Street Watch – Cllr Roberts reported that a meeting had been arranged for the 30th October 2018 at 1pm in the Town Council offices to discuss this initiative. He said that all councillors were welcome to attend. He said he was trying to cut down the amount of anti-social behaviour in the town. Cllr Newton reported that he had attended the Youth Club's launch this evening and that they would be doing sessional work in the town with the youth. Steve Retford reported that most types of drugs could easily be purchased in the town, which was worrying. Cllr Lynch reported that the Area Board would work together with the Police to collect intelligence. Chairman pointed out the importance of engaging with the police to keep reporting crimes, so that they are aware of the situation.

30. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's Report was noted. He thanked Cllr Franklin for her assistance with the South West in Bloom Competition. He also reported that he would have a Culver Close Working Group meeting to manage the area before the next Town Development Committee meeting in January 2019.

31. Play Areas gift

Cllr McNeill-Ritchie reported that AB Dynamics had donated a gift of £10,000 to be spent over the next 12 months on the restoration and maintenance of the play areas in Victory Field and Culver Close. He said that no sponsorship or service level agreements were required.

Cllr Brown moved that we accept the gift, this was seconded by Cllr Newton and with all in favour it was **RESOLVED:** That the £10,000 gift be accepted. Members asked that a letter of thanks be sent to AB Dynamics.

32. Bradford on Avon Food Festival Presentation

Lottie Duncan and Jon Hackett addressed the committee about a proposal for Bradford on Avon Food Festival based on the Thane Food Festival. Lottie explained that in Thane they started with 6 stalls by the town hall and built it up over 13 years. They had 18,000 visitors over the 2 days and it was a family event which was gated. She advised that she was fully experienced in Event Management Plans, Health and Safety and road closure. Financial endorsement required from the Bradford on Avon Town Council of a new food festival for Bradford on Avon in Victory Field in May or June 2019 and help with promoting the event on social media. Annette Seekings advised that Secret Gardens takes place the last Sunday of May and June and had done so for the last 40 years. Steve Retford offered Sally Boats to bring the visitors to the event from parking their cars. Cllr Lynch reported that he was uncomfortable about talking about this at this meeting, as he was planning the Food of Love Festival from the 7th to the 17th March 2019. He requested a separate meeting with Lottie and Jon to discuss this. This was agreed.

33. Tourism Economy, Branding, Website, Great West Way and Tourism Strategy

(i) Steph Shearing brought the committee up to date about the Tourism Economy. She reported that Visit Britain has said that in bound visits are up 4% this year. Long haul spend up 19%. England domestic overnight tourism up 3%. Day trippers spend -5%. The indications for 2018 +22% for attractions and 27% for accommodation.

(ii) Steph showed the new town logo for branding called explore BoA.

(iii) Steph explained that the new community and tourism website would launch at the end of November 2018.

(iv) Steph reported that the Tourism Strategy had gone out for the first round of consultation to councillors and destination management organisations. Once all comments were received and a new draft written it will enter round 2 of consultation to interested tourism businesses.

34. Bradford on Avon Presentation Trust

Mr John Potter, Chairman of Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust explained that they would like to join forces with the Town Council and fund street repairs with appropriate materials, i.e. pennant stone instead of black tarmac. They had £3,000 budget for this. He asked if a place could be found to store the stone. Chairman said that this seemed a constructive idea and asked Ian Brown to identify a suitable storage place.

35. Hanging baskets quotes

A quote was considered and there were no others quotes to consider as the local nursery can only supply baskets and not maintain them. Glenys Lunt reported that Tony Archer will be supplying plants outside the railway station. It was proposed by the Chairman seconded by Cllr Newton and with all in favour it was agreed to accept the quote for the hanging baskets next year from the 1st June 2019 until 30th September 2019 at a cost of £6,361.50 from Superior Plants.

36. Tree Reports on Westbury Gardens, Tory and Victory Fields

The tree reports for the above areas were noted. Ian Brown reported that all the grade 1 works had been acted upon and he was awaiting quotes. Grade 2 and 3 works will be monitored. Members asked him about the recent works in The Strips. He advised that Wiltshire Council had ordered the work for dead, dying and dangerous trees. Cllr Roberts reported that healthy specimens had been removed.

37. Date of next meeting

The next meeting has been scheduled for the 22nd January 2019.

The meeting closed at 8.30p.m.

Appendix 1

Members of the Public who attended the Town Development Committee on the 23rd October 2018

1. Joyce Shaw asked what was happening with the flood defences in Bradford on Avon because more public consultation on the scheme was due from the Environment Agency in summer of this year. She also noticed that the vegetation needed cutting back in the river. Clerk advised that some vegetation had been cut back opposite Abbey Mill. She was advised by Cllr Brown that the North Wilts Flood Working Group had met recently and that he was disappointed to find out that Dr Vicky Farwig had left the Environment Agency and that the finances for the Bradford on Avon project were two-thirds of the way there. Cllr Brown said that he had been involved with the scheme for 5 years now. The Environment Agency had appointed a Project Manager for the scheme and the next meeting was scheduled for next month.

2. Beryl Turner said that she disagreed with Cllr Lynch and his letter in the Wiltshire Times about the boat people and how they were living at the canal. Cllr Lynch said that he stood by every point in his letter. He advised that the Canal and River Trust would be visiting for the day to inspect the canal and meet Travellers and Boaters Group. He would make sure that Beryl was invited and that everyone's opinions were included.