



**Bradford on Avon
Town Council**



Minutes of the Virtual Full Town Council meeting of
BRADFORD ON AVON TOWN COUNCIL held virtually
on Tuesday 21st April 2020 at 7p.m.

Attendance – Town Council

Cllr L Brown
Cllr E Franklin
Cllr D Garwood
Cllr S Gibson
Cllr A Kay
Cllr T Lomax
Cllr J Lynch
Cllr S McNeill-Ritchie (Chairman)
Cllr D Newton (Leader of the Council)
Cllr J Parker
Cllr M Roberts
Cllr D Taylor
Mrs S Bartlett (Town Clerk)
Mr I Brown (Director of Operations)
Ms L Booth (Communications Manager)
Mr C Hogg (Green Spaces Officer)

Members of the public: Rachel Wood, John Packer, HP connected at 8.15p.m.

111. Declarations of interest – none

112. Becky Addy Wood

Item from the Environment and Planning Committee on the 8th April 2020.

Cllr Brown reported that he had received some correspondence from Mr Gillespie from Southleigh who lives near Becky Addy Wood. Cllr Brown read out his letter:

“I have seen that there will be an Extraordinary Council meeting called at short notice and have seen that it will be conducted on Zoom and he would like to join in this conversation. His ‘phone will not connect to Zoom at this time, he is therefore asking his council representative to ask his questions on his behalf. Since this Town Council is about to take on the financial responsibility of a number of assets from Wiltshire Council, why are we about to take on another asset outside of our boundary, i.e. Becky Addy Wood, at what cost and at what risk to the tax payer with on-going maintenance. Has this cost/risk been established formerly, how much money are we discussing, why are we proposing to do it, surely in this time of real crisis to our economy we should be more careful in our expenditure and budgeting. the crisis is here and now and we should not be risking money that could be used in the current climate for social aid not a future perceived event. I am concerned that this national shutdown which stops public gatherings could be used to push through decisions under the radar.”

Cllr Roberts reported that he had a **conversation with** Mr and Mrs Harvey who lived close to him asking why **we are concentrating on this, rather than doing** the golf course which was within our boundary and was not being developed.

Cllr Kay explained that 59 people had donated money and a large amount had been raised. She said that 65% of the residents were from Bradford on Avon.

A detailed discussion took place on whether the Town Council should purchase Becky Addy Wood with the help of substantial donations from local residents. Future maintenance costs were discussed.

113. PRIVATE BUSINESS

It was proposed by Cllr Kay, seconded by Cllr Franklin and with all in favour it was **RESOLVED:**
To start private business to discuss the financial details of this purchase.