



Minutes of the Virtual Town Council meeting of
BRADFORD ON AVON TOWN COUNCIL
Held on Tuesday 7th July 2020 at 7p.m.

Attendance – Town Council

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 L Brown*
 Cllr M Roberts
 Cllr D Taylor**
 Cllr J Parker
 Mr I Brown (Director of Operations)
 Ms L Booth (Communications Manager)
 * Joined meeting 7.10pm (Technical issue) ** Joined the meeting 7.25pm *** left the meeting 8.39pm
 **** left the meeting 9.25pm

Members of the Public: Alicia Sharp, Anisha Clark, Eunice Youngs, Dr. Gabrielle Malcolm and 16 others

19. Declarations of Interest

Cllr S McNeill-Ritchie – West Wilts Radio
 Cllr D Garwood – West Wilts Radio

20. Minutes

Cllr L Brown requested a note to confirm he was unable to attend the meeting (2nd June 20) due to technical difficulties. Cllr M Roberts requested his comment be added into minute 12; What would the council do to manage knotweed. With these amendments, it was proposed by Cllr Newton and seconded by Cllr Kay, with all in favour it was **RESOLVED**: to accept the minutes from the Full Council meeting held on the 2nd June 2020.

21. Matters Arising - none.

22. Minutes of Committees

It was noted that the Environment & Planning Committee took place taken under delegated powers on the 17.06.20.

23. Chairman's Report

The chairman read out an amendment to the last lines of the Dementia Friendly Status section. The report was noted.

24. Annual Report

The presented 'bullet' point annual report was noted, with a request from Cllr Newton for members to review and request further information on any items.

25. Kingston Play Area

The Director of Operations presented the report to appoint a contractor to supply and install the new play equipment to replace the damaged caused by the arson attack on 31st May 2020.

It was proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Roberts, with all in favour it was **RESOLVED**: To appoint supplier 1 to supply and install the new play area equipment at Kingston Farm Play Area. Supplier 1 is SJ Aplin Playground Ltd.

26. Request for a Bradford on Avon Diversity Forum

Cllr Newton apologised for the lateness of distribution of the supporting papers and introduced the item.

Cllr Lynch requested that the discussion be postponed due to the lateness of the papers and has not been able to read them. Members discussed the issue and agreed to proceed, due to the importance of the aspirations it is important to get started.

Alicia Sharp spoke to share her experiences and to explain the reasons for the setting up of a Bradford on Avon Diversity Forum on behalf of non-white, non-British people living in the area, thinking about the lack of diversity and inclusivity. The forum has been discussing issues. Such as Quiet Prejudice in our daily lives which causes people to fear speaking out. Develop initiatives to put forward in the future to concentrate on three areas, Challenging, Educating and Changing. We hope to bring together different backgrounds to create an inclusive community.

Anisha Clark, who initially contacted Cllr Newton, felt there wasn't enough representation of ethnic minorities within the council and could see that everyone was white, which she found very shocking and intimidating. There is a need to have greater representation to go forward, to access and ask the community what their needs and wants are, that representation will be needed.

There are lots of areas in the community where diversity is lacking, this community has a high Windrush community and there is no representation going into schools and talking. Highlighted the gap in community events with no representation of ethnic minorities. Asking as a minorities group, asking for help, to be seen and represented, not forgotten, within the Council and community. Can't expect the council to understand what they go through, as we haven't gone through it and have to face this on a daily basis.

The forum will try to bring together many people in the community, not just black and Asian, to be heard, to discuss matters and put forward to the council, to do something to deal with the issues and problems.

Eunice Youngs explained that she was invited to take part in this group, and her understanding is that they can come up with ideas on tackling some of the issues. Firstly, acknowledging what the issues are and then make proposals. If we tackle education and challenge behaviours and then benefit from the changes, this would be the main focus.

It was proposed by Cllr Newton and seconded by Cllr Gibson, with all in favour it was **RESOLVED**: The Town Council will facilitate a Bradford on Avon Diversity Forum, with Terms of Reference to be brought to the next Town Council meeting. It will have autonomy to review and advise on all aspects of Town Council working and engagement with our community, through education and events, with a commitment from councillors to a further binding resolution on the Forum's recommendations by October 2020.

The Town Council will take the following actions immediately:

Mandate Diversity training for all Town Council Employees, Volunteers and Councillors, to be delivered as a classroom training, if possible, and otherwise via Teams/Zoom or similar.

Revise the grant application process to ensure that applicants are asked how they will address diversity issues in their use of funds.

Revise the Community Resolution passed last year, so that the opening paragraphs read:

"This Town Council recognises the diverse needs and aspirations of our community. Regardless of age, gender, sexuality, **ethnicity**, race, religion, or economic status, we value and will support all who live, work, or otherwise contribute to our Town.

We recognise the different needs and aspirations of our community and believe that a cohesive and inclusive community is central to building a happy, vibrant, and successful town. **We will act to address, and challenge prejudice and discrimination experienced by those in our community, recognising that those whose rights and needs are threatened need more protection than those whose are not.**"

27. Avoncliff weir

Cllr Kay explained the urgent need to repair the Avoncliff weir, it holds back approximately 2 meters of river and it is highly likely to collapse if it had to go through another winter. The estimated costs of the repair are £20,000 and the Environment Agency are happy with the scheme.

Concerns were raised that the Town Council would be operating outside of its boundary and on a structure in private ownership. The issue of liability and insurance was discussed and confirmed the council has been in discussion with its insurers.

It was reported that if the weir was to fail, then the river could be dramatically reduced for much of the year and the impact this would have on the town, with the river being a major part of the town.

It was confirmed this would be a temporary repair, hopefully lasting 5 to 10 years.

It was proposed by Cllr Kay and seconded by Cllr Newton, with 9 in favour and 2 against, it was **RESOLVED**: To provide officer support and logistical support for the Avoncliff Weir temporary repair, this summer and offer up to £3,000 towards the costs of the project.

28. Bradford on Avon Literary Festival

Members considered the request from Dr Gabrielle Malcolm for financial support for a Literature Festival for Bradford on Avon. Dr Malcolm had presented a four-year plan for the festival, with a planned virtual festival in September 2020 moving to a physical festival from 2021 onwards.

It was proposed by Cllr McNeill-Ritchie and seconded by Cllr Franklin, with 11 in favour, it was

RESOLVED: The Town Council would donate £2,450 toward the set-up costs of providing a virtual Bradford on Avon literary festival in September 2020. To underwrite the costs, up to £3,000 to support an actual Bradford on Avon literary festival in the autumn 2021, with the hope of returning a profit.

This funding would be subject to meeting performance objectives (to be agreed) for the 2020 festival, to be reviewed at a future Community and Recreation committee.

29. Town Council Policies

At 9.20 pm, due to the lateness of the meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr Lynch and seconded by Cllr Gibson, with 7 in favour and 4 against, it was

RESOLVED: To postpone taking the policies item.

30. West Wilts Radio

9.23 pm Cllr Kay took the chair for this item.

Members considered the written request from, Steve Fountain Chairman, West Wilts requesting the Town Council to extend their rent-free use of the Music Room in the Youth & Community Centre for a further 12 months. It was proposed by Cllr Newton and seconded by Cllr Franklin, with 6 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention, it was **RESOLVED**: To extend West Wilts Radio's rent-free use of the Music Room in the Youth & Community Centre for 12 months.

9.39 pm Cllr McNeill-Ritchie returned to the chair.

31. Meeting Continuation

It was proposed by Cllr Garwood and seconded by Cllr Roberts, with all in favour it was **RESOLVED**:

To continue with the meeting, post 9.30pm as per standing order 4.3.5

32. Management Accounts Reports

It was proposed by Cllr Gibson and seconded by Cllr Newton, with all in favour it was **RESOLVED**: To accept the income and expenditure reports and balance sheets up to 31st May 2020.

33. Accounts for payment

Cllr Roberts queried two payments the Director of Operations explained the payments.

It was proposed by Cllr Newton seconded by Cllr Roberts, with all in favour it was **RESOLVED**:

To approve payroll and direct payments and invoices up to 31st May 2020.

The meeting closed at 9.44pm.

Public Questions at the Virtual Full Council meeting on the 7th July 2020

Rod Johnston –

1. Would you consider making a video with the Lockup Team of a visit to the Lockup and showing it during Historic Open days on your website?