



Minutes of a Virtual meeting held by Bradford on Avon Town Council  
Environment & Planning Committee

On

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 at 7.00 p.m.

Present:

Cllr A Kay (Chairman)

Cllr D Newton

Cllr E Franklin

Chris Hogg – (Green Spaces Officer)

Val Baker (Admin Clerk)

Members of the Public:

Cllr S Gibson, Colin Johns (BOATC Planning Consultant), Jes Wire, Andrew Nicholson and 4 others.

Cllr Dom Newton read out the following statement as scribed by himself and Cllrs Gibson and McNeill-Ritchie in response to the latest directive for the Traffic Scheme in Bradford on Avon:

"This is a Wiltshire Council designed and implemented scheme, supported by the Town Council to facilitate social distancing in our town centre. Wiltshire Council have now notified us that in the interests of children returning to school this week, they are suspending the alternate one-way on the bridge for the immediate future.

We have been working daily with Wiltshire Council to improve the operation of the system for the benefit of the whole town.

We understand the reasons for WC's decision, but we have expressed our deep concerns that this aspect of the scheme has been withdrawn before other measures to protect pedestrians and calm traffic and have been installed in their stead.

We will continue to review and revise the system with Wiltshire Council."

Apologies: Cllr Jennie Parker & Cllr T Lomax

27. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Franklin seconded by Cllr Newton and with all in favour **RESOLVED:** to approve the E & P minutes for the virtual E & P meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July and the delegated minutes of meeting for 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> August.

28. Declarations of interests – There were none.

29. Planning applications

(i) It was proposed by Cllr Newton seconded by Cllr Franklin and with all in favour it was **RESOLVED:** to send the planning recommendations to Wiltshire Council.

(ii) There were no delegated decisions to be made.

30. Correspondence relating to planning applications to be considered at this meeting – there was none.

31. Chairman's Report & Environment update (Chairman's report attached to these minutes).

It was noted that the Asset Transfer was 'on going' but with no final date agreed as yet.

She reported that a design for the proposed Living Green wall had been received with funding pledges promised but not actually received. Colin Johns had agreed to assist with the planning application likely to be submitted within the next week. It was **agreed** to take this agenda item to Full Council for further discussion

She reported that the Weir at Avoncliff now 70% complete and was making good progress with the help of the charity ServeOn who had been exemplary, assisted by over 50 volunteers involved in the training, safety and work on this project. Cllr Franklin expressed her approval and commented on a job well done. Jes Wire had concerns about the use of plastic bags for the sandbags to which Cllr Kay explained that the use of plastic sandbags in this temporary, albeit long-term repair is regrettable but expedient.

The bags need to be manageable by the volunteers and the bags need to withstand the rushing water conditions. The bags will be anchored in place and they are interleaved and covered with UV-resistant webbing that would hopefully last for approximately ten years. When a permanent rebuild is done, much of the material may remain in the core and any removed will be disposed of or re-used responsibly. Cllr Kay reported that a joint letter signed by over 30 Parish/Town Council's had been sent to MP's and to our own local MP with concerns about the new Planning regulations and how this will impact on Neighbourhood Plans. This matter was previously minuted in E & P mins 190820. A response had been received from only two MPs and it was suggested a follow up communication may be required to our MP Michelle Donelan. There will be discussion at WC Full Council 20<sup>th</sup> October and Cllr Gibson agreed to represent the case for Neighbourhood Planning in Wiltshire.

She gave an update on progress made so far for the Neighbourhood Plan review, saying that she had met with WC's Neighbourhood/Local Plan liaison officer (Mark Henderson) for Bradford on Avon who was providing data and information to assist and proceed with the review. An informal meeting had already taken place with Colin Johns and previous members of the original Neighbourhood Plan team and with WC's help it would enable us to be in a good position to move forward with this mammoth task. She added that BOATC were committed in their own Plan and will review and change it accordingly as best we can.

The Westbury Incinerator planning application had now been submitted in full and BOATC had recommended refusal. Cllr Gibson informed members that this will come to a Strategic planning meeting in two weeks' time. Cllr Kay has lodged an objection to this application on WC Planning portal and will continue to liaise with Cllr Gibson for representation at the committee.

She had spoken from a community representative from the Co-op who had offered help with the Community Fridge, tree planting and other 'green' issues and was hoping to follow this up.

### 32. Naming of St Laurence School Science Laboratory

Ten names were suggested for the proposed naming of the St Laurence School Laboratory. It was proposed by Cllr Kay seconded by Cllr Dom Newton and with all in favour **RESOLVED**: to name the new

St Laurene Science Laboratory – Greta Thunberg.

### 33. Local Council Award Scheme

Two draft Statements had been circulated with the agenda for the following and a second draft subsequently presented to the committee prior the meeting for consideration.

- (i) Biodiversity Statement - It was proposed by Cllr Kay seconded by Cllr Franklin and with all in favour **RESOLVED**: to approve the final version of the Biodiversity statement (as attached) and refer this to Full Council for adoption.
- (ii) Leadership in Planning for the Future of the Community Statement – It was proposed by Cllr Kay seconded by Cllr Franklin and with all in favour **RESOLVED**: to approve a final version of the Leadership in Planning for the future of the Community Statement (as attached) and refer this to Full Council for adoption.

34. Correspondence for action – There was none.

### 35. Correspondence to note

(i) Correspondence was noted with regards to planning application W/19/08449/FUL - The Old Mill Annexe, 33c Market Street Bradford on Avon BA15 1LL was circulated prior to the meeting.

Colin Johns informed members that an appeal (reference APP/Y3940/W/20/3255747) had been made to the Planning Inspectorate in respect of the above site for the proposed insertion of 5 rooflights (replacement & enlargement of 3 existing windows) & new external flue (replacement of existing) & demolition of a single storey extension to create a garden. To note that BOATC Permitted this application (E&P meeting 011019 refers) subject to the omission of the rooflights to the rear slope to preserve the amenity of the neighbours in Coppice Hill and to preserve the significant feature of the conservation area.

(ii) Ash Die Back Information and Guidance note 2020 - (circulated by email to all Councillors prior to the meeting). Information concerning the spread of Ash Die Back Hymenoschyphus Fraxineus (formally Chalara) throughout the County as well as the UK was noted.

The meeting closed at 8.07 p.m.

## Appendix 1 - Members of Public comments

Andrew Nicolson referred to the Neighbourhood Plan where the objective was to improve the pedestrian environment in the town, encourage people to walk or cycle rather than use their cars thereby assisting in improvement of the overall environment and air quality. The policy of the plan to aim and discourage unnecessary traffic, to mitigate the impact of traffic generally and the make the town's road and public realm generally more pleasant for pedestrians and cyclists and thereby make walking and cycling more attractive.

Over 95% of the plan adopted referred to the traffic. He asked where this left our Neighbourhood Plan with Wiltshire Council?

Jes Wire said that the traffic scheme to him was always about issues for a one- way pedestrian bridge to allow pedestrian safety in line with Government guidelines, but there appeared to be a lack of data that was not able to support this system. It was at this point that Cllr Dom Newton read out the statement over leaf.