



Minutes of a Virtual meeting held by Bradford on Avon Town Council

Environment & Planning Committee
On
Tuesday 23rd March 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

Present:

Cllr A Kay (Chairman)
Cllr D Newton
Cllr J Parker
Ian Brown – Director of Operations (DO)
Lydia Booth – Communications Manager
Cllr Mike Roberts
Val Baker (Clerk)

Members of the Public:

John Pearce

A statement was read out by the Clerk to inform participants attending this virtual E & P meeting that it would be recorded and published on the Town Council's website via YouTube.

113. Apologies:

Received from Cllr Lomax.

114. Declarations of interests

There were none.

115. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Newton seconded by Cllr Parker and with all in favour **RESOLVED:** to approve the virtual E & P minutes for 9th March 2021.

116. Planning applications

- (i) It was proposed by Cllr Kay seconded by Cllr Parker 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.

117. Correspondence relating to planning applications to be considered at this meeting –

There were none.

118. Lighting Strategy Study

A project brief had been circulated with the agenda as attached.

A tender to deliver a draft lighting strategy for Bradford on Avon to help guide action towards the Town Council's Climate and Ecological Strategy. The survey will help identify light and dark areas while considering other needs related to lighting within the parish as indicated in the brief. Six companies were approached, but to date only two have responded. A minimum of three quotes is required and the DO will approach another company to comply with financial regulations.

It was proposed by Cllr Newton seconded by Cllr Jenny and with all in favour **RESOLVED:** to delegate to the DO, in consultation with the Chair of E & P, on the proviso that members will provide suitable comments to the officer before a decision is made and should there be any issues this matter will be referred to a future E& P meeting.

Cllr Roberts asked if the lighting survey project had been approved at Full Council - Cllr Newton confirmed that this had been adopted at the January 2021 Full Council meeting as part of the Climate and Ecological Strategy.

119. Electric Vehicle Charging Points (as circulated with the agenda)

DO presented the report on the procurement of EV Points. Explaining that a project had been agreed in the Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and a budget of £20,000 was identified in the 2021/22 budget. Following the procurement exercise, where three suppliers were approached, two companies responded but both exceeded the Council's budget, but further evaluation based on the tender documents and further discussions with the bidder to evaluate what could be achieved within its budget. A scheme has been devised for the provision of 2 no. twin fast chargers at the Youth and Community Centre. The process complied with financial regulations Section 9.3. and complies with 10.1 to achieve best value for money at all times.

It was proposed by Cllr Kay seconded by Cllr Newton and with all in favour **RESOLVED:** to

1. appoint Electric Blue as the preferred contractor for the supply and installation of electric vehicle charging points at the Youth & Community Centre and
2. Recommend the appointment of Electric Blue to Full Council on 13th April 2021.

120. Litter Management Strategy

A draft BOATC litter strategy was circulated with the agenda initialised by the Green Space Officer as a means to source funding for additional litter bins/recycling bins within the town. This would comply with the town's Emergency Declaration of Ecology initialised in July 2020 to become 'plastic free' and to raise awareness of the need to 'Refuse, Re-use and Re-cycle'. Projects already completed were noted. Under the Asset Transfer, BOATC will be taking over the roles of Litter Authority from Wiltshire Council and plan to replace a significant proportion of bins already in existence, as many are damaged or inadequate. Additional bins will be installed over the next three years through a replacement programme which will address this legacy.

It was proposed by Cllr Newton seconded by Cllr Kay and with all in favour **RESOLVED:** to approve the Draft Litter Management strategy (LMS) in principle subject to a further edit by the Communications Officer.

121. AONB (Area of outstanding Natural Beauty)

The Chair referred to an update provided by the Green Spaces Officer (attached). Chris Hogg had met with the Friends of Becky Addy Woods (FOBAW) who have agreed to contribute £500 towards the grant. The group are keen to get involved with physical projects to deliver the grant as and when Covid restrictions are eased.

122. Chairman's report & Environmental update (attached)

Chair reported that she had attended Climate Friendly's AGM meeting on the 1st March – the topic was about Carbon Counting.

The Asset Transfer was nearing completion, documents for the transfer have all been signed by BOATC and awaiting return from WC for their signing of the documents.

Marlborough Council had met up with Cllr Kay to get help and exchange ideas about their Climate and Emergency project.

Hedge planting is on-going, and planting will begin at Sladesbrook allotments in the next couple of weeks. Cllr Newton asked if we had written to the Chairman of the allotments and

to ensure that we send written notification to him and his brother so that they are aware of this.

Cllr Kay had spoken to Chris Jones from the Beaver Trust who has a colleague that lives nearby who has offered his help with producing a feasibility study to introduce beavers into the neighbourhood as beavers have proven to help with flood control. This is a very preliminary stage of the project and will be reviewed at a later date.

A request from a member of the public has been received for a market stall to promote information and advice on climate projects. Cllr Newton said that this was an exciting project and while in its infancy this was a short-term arrangement with the long-term aim of taking over one of the retail units to inform people about climate emergency and address some of the gaps in the UK and the town. John Pearce explained that Climate Friendly were conscious of costs required to run a market stall or later the possibility of renting a shop as financial support would be needed. Meanwhile Climate Friendly would be trailing a stall in the market on 8th April.

Cllr Kay mentioned that there is a "WIGIT'ive CO2 widgit' on the Climate and Emergency Town Council website that shows how much carbon we are using on a daily basis. A graph is available to toggle between 20 – 1000 years for predicted levels of carbon emissions.

Cllr Newton referred to the West Sussex Local Plan reporting that Bradford on Avon are not alone in having an horrendous Local Plan, as their District Council were proposing the development of 3,500 houses right next to the Knepp Estate which is a major pioneering re-wilding area in England. Cllr Kay reported that only recently 4 more protected green sites in Wiltshire had been earmarked for development, made against Neighbourhood Plans.

Cllr Newton reported an invite had been received to attend a Climate Friendly event on Monday 29th March about the impact of Pharmaceuticals in both human and farming medication going into the land. Representatives from the Environmental agencies will be in attendance and all Councillors are invited to this.

Cllr Kay reported that a date 19th April at 10.00 had been set for a preliminary meeting to discuss a plan of how to proceed with the review of the Neighbourhood plan. All Councillors have been invited and the Planning Consultant will be there to give guidance and a structure for the review process. The meeting will enable us to discuss what we want to change and how the work will be distributed to various groups.

Cllr Newton referred to an update call on the Old Golf Course and asked the DO if either the Environmental Agency or Wiltshire Council had returned the call? Ian said that he had contacted Head of Waste who said they would contact the council later this week with an answer.

123. Correspondence for Action –

There was none.

124. Correspondence to note –

To note the letter sent to Spatial Planning from Michelle Donelan MP

The meeting ended at 7.58 p.m.

Appendix 1 – Members of public comments

John Pearce referred to page 11 of the Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy where signage has been included in the prebudget and what is the signage, where is it going to be deployed and what is the time scale?

Cllr Newton replied saying that there will be signage across various areas in existing areas and areas that will be taken on as part of the Asset Transfer. The Climate & Ecological part of it will be to make sure that these are marked up appropriately to reflect that, and this will be identified on the signs as you enter the town. This was subject to an existing project and was only part of the project.

Ian explained the currently there was an audit out for signage which would correspond with the long-awaited Asset Transfer when BOATC will be looking at existing signage acquired from Wiltshire Council. There was an expectancy of providing generic signs that are both, aesthetically pleasing and consistent across the whole of our estate which would include the Litter strategy.

Town Council reference	1
Ward	Bradford on Avon North
Planning Application Number	21/01695/FUL
Type of application	FUL
Date to comment	06.04,21
Town Council meeting date	23.03.21
Case Officer	Russell Brown
Applicant	Mr D Moss
Address	Belcombe Court BA15 1LZ
Description of work	Temporary permission for the erection of movable structures in the grounds and gardens of Belcome Court including pagodas, gazebos and portable toilets
Town Council recommendation	PERMIT - No objections

Town Council reference	2
Ward	Bradford on Avon South
Planning Application Number	21/00539/Ful
Type of application	FUL
Date to comment	09.04.21
Town Council meeting date	23.03.21
Case Officer	Verity Giles -Franklin
Applicant	Mr A Smyth
Address	15 Trowbridge Rd BA15 1EE
Description of work	New hardstanding in front of house and demolition of existing garage
Town Council recommendation	REFUSE - See additional comments below

Town Council reference	2
Ward	Bradford on Avon South
Planning Application Number	21/00539/Ful
Type of application	FUL
Date to comment	09.04.21
Town Council meeting date	23.03.21
Case Officer	Verity Giles -Franklin
Applicant	Mr A Smyth
Address	15 Trowbridge Rd BA15 1EE
Description of work	New hardstanding in front of house and demolition of existing garage

Recommendation - Refuse

The Bradford on Avon Conservation Area Appraisal identifies the front and side walls as significant boundary treatment. It highlights the importance of front walls and gardens to the setting of many of the houses in Trowbridge Road and indicates that boundary walls should be retained and car parking in front gardens resisted in these locations to protect the overall character of the street.

Guidance from Historic England on protecting conservation area character is relevant and needs to be taken into account:

“If you live in a town or city, even a small outside space may have historic features – boundary walls, gates and railings, paths, trees and hedges. There may be even older features that pre-date your house. The pattern of hedges and walls along the street can create a distinctive and often admired leafy linear feature.

Your garden is an important element of this landscape. The care and upkeep of period features, and even reinstatement, will strengthen the character of your home and even the choice of plants and planting style can help evoke the period. If you live in a conservation area, your local authority may have carried out a Conservation Area Appraisal, which could provide further information.”

Conservation of the historic environment is a high priority in the Bradford on Avon Neighbourhood Plan and in the NPPF.

The introduction of sections of timber sleepers to replace part of the existing garden wall and further along the drive to the side introduces an inappropriate material into the street scene which is detrimental to the required preservation and enhancement of the conservation area. Also, the tree shown to be retained to the south west corner of the garden is unlikely to survive the disturbance on the proposed works.

The existing dwelling has the benefit of a garage and parking space. Where any building or structure is demolished in a conservation area there need to be accompanying proposals for treatment of the space created to ensure protection of the character and amenity of the area.