



**Bradford on Avon
Town Council**

Minutes of the Virtual Extraordinary Town Council meeting of
BRADFORD ON AVON TOWN COUNCIL
Held on Tuesday 13th April 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

Attendance – Town Council

Cllr L Brown**

Cllr E Franklin

Cllr D Garwood

Cllr S Gibson

Cllr A Kay (Vice-Chairman)

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)

Ms L Booth (Communications Manager)

Mr I Brown (Director of Operations)

*left the meeting 8.44pm

** left the meeting at 9.18pm.

Members of the Public: John Wigham and 16 others

Clerk advised those present that the meeting was being recorded and will be on YouTube.

She also advised how to register to vote and ask for a postal vote for the forthcoming elections.

Cllr Brown asked whether this meeting should go ahead so close to an election. Clerk advised that in the past 22 years council meetings have been conducted in April.

He thought discussing a new youth service contract for four years at a cost of £160,000 should be for the next administration to decide.

106. Declarations of interest - none

Cllr Gibson questioned the Leader of the Council about his previous working relationships in regard to renewing the youth contract. Leader of the Council explained that he had no pecuniary interest or relationship with the existing contractor but had spent ten years in that field of work.

107. Minutes

(i) After an amendment was made it was proposed by Cllr Newton seconded by Cllr Kay and with ten in favour and 2 against it was **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the last meeting held on the 2nd March 2021 were accepted as a true record. Cllr Roberts agreed to view the YouTube meeting of the last meeting with the Town Clerk as he thought he had some more changes to the minutes. (This was carried out on the 14th April 2021 and no further changes were requested)

(ii) Leader of the Council requested that Mr Weston's changes to the accepted minutes from the 2nd February 2021 also be noted:- 1. Confirmation from the Town Council that nobody is conducting their own traffic monitoring with data which are not publicly available. Leader of the Council confirmed that the Town Council was not conducting their own traffic monitoring And 2. Cllr Roberts's request for the notes from my surgery with Michelle Donelan and that these would be provided by the Town Council office. Clerk confirmed that these notes were sent to Cllr Roberts.

108. Matters arising – none

109. Minutes of Committees

The Environment and Planning Committee minutes from the meetings held on the 24th February, 9th March and 23rd March 2021 were noted.

110. Chairman's Report

Subjects covered under the Chairman's Report included:- CEV's; BoA Youth Services Easter Events; Judith Hammond, Friends of Palestine; Market Day Toilets; Bradford on Avon Unlocked; Skatepark Book Sale; Cricket Pavilion, Culver Close; and Road Traffic Accident, Canal Bridge. The Chairman noted that Cllr Gibson had arranged a meeting for the Director of Operations with Steve Boocock, Chief Executive, Wiltshire and Swindon Sport (WASP) who can identify possible sources of funding for both the pavilion and the skatepark.

111. Youth Service Contract

Director of Operations report was considered. He admitted in response to a question from Cllr Lynch that a six-month extension would suffice until the incoming Town Council could consider the four-year contract for the new service. After discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Newton, seconded by Cllr Garwood and with 10 for and 2 abstentions it was **RESOLVED**: To ask for a six-month extension to the existing contract subject to agreement with the service provider.

112. Electric Truck

Director of Operations report was considered. After discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Newton, seconded by Cllr Franklin and with all in favour it was **RESOLVED**: To (i) Agree the procurement of an electric vehicle, (ii) Select Vehicle 'D' a Melex vehicle (iii) Agree to lease the vehicle for four years at a cost of £461 per month. It was noted that any decision on the vehicle in four years' time should avoid the period of purdah ahead of the next elections.

113. EV Points – Youth and Community Centre

After discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Newton, seconded by Cllr Garwood and with 10 in favour and 1 against it was **RESOLVED**: To appoint Electric Blue as the contractor to supply and install electric vehicle charging points at the Youth and Community Centre. For 2 no. twin fast chargers. The cost being £19,446.61 with three-year operating costs (excluding electricity).

114. Natural Theatre Company – BoA Unlocked

Motion proposed by the Leader of the Council, seconded by the Chairman. Following successful online sessions to further develop this work by having four performers for the weekend of 22nd/23rd May 2021. This includes rehearsal time and additional workshops. After discussion, proposed by Cllr Newton and seconded by Cllr McNeill-Ritchie and with ten in favour it was **RESOLVED**: That an extra £2,500 be awarded.

115. Calendar of meeting dates

Chairman said that usually no Full Council meeting is held in December but noted that these dates were for the next council to consider.

116. Accounts for payment

It was proposed by Cllr Newton, seconded by Cllr Gibson and with ten in favour it was **RESOLVED**: To accept the invoices and payroll for February 2021 amounting to £73,044.04.

117. Management Accounts Reports

Detailed management reports up to 28th February 2021 were noted. These included detailed balance sheets and income and expenditure by committee.

118. Thanks to Councillors and officers

(i) Chairman thanked Councillors for their 4 years' service. He said if they were standing down to enjoy their free time and if they were standing again, he wished them good luck. He said that his two years as Chair had been a mixed blessing.

(ii) Leader of the Council thanked the Town Council Team, especially the Town Clerk, Director of Operations and Communications Manager for dealing with very different circumstances. He said they worked hard and had stepped up. He said it was a privilege serving with them. He hoped he could speak for all councillors in that.

(iii) Cllr Kay said it had been a roller coaster. She advised that there will be one more Environment and Planning meeting in this administration, to compile recommendations for planning applications. She hoped that the new administration would not have so many applications to deal with as when she started in 2017. Cllr Kay said that at the time she found it quite daunting for a first meeting.

119. Item not listed on Agenda – Social Distancing Highways Scheme

Cllr Gibson reported that a traffic calming system, involving additional parking to slow traffic and help pedestrians cross is being studied for New Road and Springfield. Cllr Gibson reported Wiltshire Council felt that this should be done in the light of the work on Cleveland Bridge and the Bath Clean Air Zone pushing more traffic through town, as well as mitigation for the current temporary system. Implementation can be under the Temporary Traffic Order. Cllr Gibson reported that this work will be carried out. Before step 4, after 21st June the government has indicated that social distancing measures should be reviewed. Cllr Gibson advised that the new Town Council can then decide what they want to do. She reported that she had contacted the Wiltshire Council Community Engagement team asking for their support and forward planning on community engagement. She said that she had received a positive response from the Wiltshire Council Engagement Team Manager. She has funding for this pencilled in.

Cllr Newton advised that any decision on this should be based on data and both new councils should be engaged on it. He said that any data collected during the last few months will be based on reduced traffic and the data will look different when we get back to normal. He said that New Road has been seriously affected. He thought that good data was vital.

Cllr Garwood said that any decision should be based on data. He said that community engagement was vital. Town Council will need enough time to access the data. He thought the scheme should continue for 6 or 9 months. He said that public opinion was key. Cllr Gibson said that it was a decision for the new council to make.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Members of the public who spoke at the Extraordinary Full Council meeting on the 13th April 2021

1. John Wigham asked about the proposed skatepark in Poulton. He had read the Maverick report from 25th February 2021. He wanted to know if Maverick had topographical and geo-technical surveys had been completed yet. He thought that the land was instable there and that flooding would be an issue. Director of Operations said that a skateboard park concept design was being worked on at the moment for the Poulton site and that drainage and technical surveys would follow but that we were not there yet.