



**Bradford on Avon
Town Council**



**LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
QUALITY GOLD**

Minutes of the Full Council meeting of
BRADFORD ON AVON TOWN COUNCIL held
on Tuesday 7th September 2021 at 7p.m in St. Margaret's Hall

Attendance – Town Council

Cllr K Bessant
Cllr S Blackwell
Cllr E Franklin
Cllr S Gibson
Cllr A Kay
Cllr S McNeill-Ritchie
Cllr J Parker
Cllr A Potter
Cllr T Trimble
Cllr J Vittles
Mrs S Bartlett (Town Clerk)
Ms S Draper (Accountant)

Apologies: Cllr D Garwood and Cllr K Vigar

Members of the public Tessa Edgecombe, Alan Roland Price and Louise Weissel and 12 others.

34. Declarations of interest - none

35. Minutes

Cllr Kay complained that the Media Policy was a whole re-write and not just minor edits to remove reference to the Leader of the Council. She said the re-write was not done in consultation with the Communications Manager. She said the new version contains errors, Chairman said that this policy had been to Resources Committee and Full Council and voted through both times. Chairman agreed to look at the Media Policy with her.

It was proposed by Cllr Trimble and seconded by Cllr Blackwell and with 8 in favour it was

RESOLVED: To accept the minutes of the last meeting held on the 6th July 2021.

It was proposed by Cllr Trimble and seconded by Cllr Vittles and with 6 in favour, 2 against and 1 abstention it was **RESOLVED:** to accept the minutes from the Extraordinary Full Council meeting held on the 21st July 2021.

36. Matters arising - none

37. Chairman's Report

Chairman said her report had been published with the minutes. The Chairman congratulated Cllr Bessant on the success with the auction for the Art Deco. Chairman reminded members that on 21st September there will be a briefing from our Planning Consultant at 6pm on updating the Neighbourhood Plan before Town Development Committee. Chairman had received a question from the public on the Afghan refugees. She said that she would know more tomorrow but there were 100 refugees in a hotel in Swindon, the responsibility of Wiltshire Council. She will find out what their requirements are and if we can help. Cllr Kay said that Limpley Stoke has a list of things they want, e.g. toiletries and prayer mats etc.

Lease has arrived today for Living Green Wall. As soon as it is signed off, the order can be placed.

38. Minutes of committees

(i) Environment & Planning Committee 16th June 2021 noted.

- (ii) Community & Recreation Committee 22nd June 2021 noted.
(iii) Resources Committee 29th June 2021 noted.

39. South West Railways service change

After discussion, it was decided to send a comment against the direct service from Bradford on Avon to Waterloo being cut. This was a much used service. Cllr Trimble said that passengers face a long wait at Salisbury and Westbury for a connecting train. Cllr McNeill-Ritchie said that he had already written on the subject. Cllr Blackwell said it was out of sync with the demographic and labour market changes taking place. Cllr Trimble agreed to action and circulate a letter to all members for their comments in time for their deadline of the 19th September 2021.

40. Residents Panel

After discussion, it was decided to defer this item to another meeting. Further clarification was needed on the purpose of the surveys, why meeting in the hall with tea and cake in person would not be appropriate as a substitute as suggested by Cllr. Bessant, and why the elected members were not sufficient. What status would the answers to the surveys be used for.

Chairman recommended that this matter be discussed again at a future committee meeting.

41. E.V. Charging Points

It was noted that 4 E.V. points were going live today at the Youth and Community Centre. It will cost 35p per kilowatt. A launch ceremony will be arranged in due course with Electric Blue. More communications on this to be put out.

42. Confidential business

It was proposed by Cllr Parker seconded by Cllr Vittles and with all in favour it was **RESOLVED**: To start confidential business.

Members of the public who spoke at the meeting on the 7th September 2021

1. Alan Roland Price had a question about governance and procedure. He said that a planning application was submitted for a permanent structure without the approval or recommendation of town councillors. He wanted to know who authorised it at the Town Council and what will the council do to ensure that this does not happen again. Chairman responded and said the Cricket Club lodged the application with the agreement of the Director of Operations. The Town Council subsequently asked them to withdraw it. Cllr Kay said it was the wrong process and wrong plan. The whole area will be discussed in detail. Cllr McNeill-Ritchie said this was a poor start and needed much more careful studying. Cllr Vittles said that he was a member of the Cricket Club and that the application had not been handled ideally and some processes had been gone through quickly. Alan said that nearby residents had been against the way the planning application had been handled and not improving their cricket facilities.

2. Tessa Edgecombe asked if the Town Council could do something about the low level of the river which was the worst it had been in 25 years due to the sluice being opened at North Mill. She had witnessed a dog cutting it's paw on the stones and hard ground. Cllr Kay noticed water coming in on the north side of the old sluice gates. She said that the repair last summer was holding up well, which was to stop imminent collapse. Cllr Gibson agreed to write a letter checked by Cllr Kay to Environment Agency with a copy to Wiltshire Council.

3. Louise Weissel asked will the council go ahead nominating the old golf course site as an asset of community value this evening? She said that she had 30 signatures already and this was a serious nomination. Chairman advised that this matter will be discussed at Town Development Committee on the 21st September 2021. Cllr Bessant said that she was disappointed that the item is not on the agenda, she submitted it in good time and did not think the Chairman's views on the matter had any merit.