



**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 11th January 2022 at 7p.m in St. Margaret's Hall

Attendance – Town Council

Cllr K Bessant
Cllr S Blackwell
Cllr S Gibson (Chairman)
Cllr A Kay
Cllr A Potter
Cllr T Trimble
Cllr K Vigar (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr J Vittles
Mrs S Bartlett (Town Clerk)
Mr I Brown (Director of Operations)

Apologies: Cllr E Franklin, Cllr D Garwood, Cllr S McNeill-Ritchie and Cllr J Parker
Members of the public: Lisa Otterbarry and 2 others.

56. Declarations of interest – none

57. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Vigar seconded by Cllr Trimble and with 6 in favour and 2 abstentions it was **RESOLVED:** To accept the minutes of the last meeting held on the 9th November 2021 as a true record.

58. Matters arising - none

59. Chairman's Report & Deputy Mayor's report on the response to the Residents Panel

Chairman's Report was noted. Events and subjects included:-

- (i) Remembrance Sunday, Chairman said the event went off very smoothly.
- (ii) Meeting with Leader and Chairman of Wiltshire Council discussing Asset Transfer. Chairman said that following the cabinet member decision paper in January the assets should be transferred by Easter. Director of Operations will be meeting with Wiltshire Council Officers in early February.
- (iii) Chairman switched on the Christmas lights in Westbury Gardens and had a great evening
- (iv) Attended *as did* Cllr McNeill-Ritchie the Friends of Palestine film show in St. Margaret's Hall.
- (v) Skate Park Lottery application – Chairman said that the Steering Group needed reforming by mid-February to plan the landscaping of Poulton Park with the Forestry Commission's grant award for planting trees.
- (vi) Traffic Consultation – Cllr Trimble advised that this had finished on the 9th January 2022. He said the date for this had been extended due to significant delivery problems. He said that the level of engagement was high with 2,700 replies to the questionnaire. The consultants said it was unprecedented, as they had carried out national consultations and received less response. He said the results were being collated at the moment and he hoped to receive the results by March 2022.

(vii) Residents Panel – Cllr Vigar said that this will provide an additional communication channel for input and feedback to the town council. No decisions will be made based on surveys [results without an agreement of an appropriate committee](#). An application form was drawn up by Cognisant and applications invited between November 12th and December 10th 2021. Applications were sought via the Town Council's website and Facebook page, an article in the winter edition of the Town Council newsletter and distribution of 500 flyers. At the end of the application period 131 applications had been received from within the parish boundary. 100 were selected by the Contractor of people broadly representative of the town as indicated by census information. 16-25 year olds were the hardest group to recruit from so the next age group up was used. All the Town Council will receive is the name and contact details of the panellists, not the other information they supplied on the form. The next step is that all applicants will receive a communication to advise whether they are on the panel or the waiting list. A first survey will be prepared with the input of a small working group of councillors. The draft survey will be considered by the Community and Wellbeing Committee on the 8th February and then issued. A report of the survey results will be prepared and published on the website. The Full Council meeting on March 8th will review the pilot process and survey results and consider the future of the panel.

60. Budget 2022-23

Recommendation from Resources Committee was discussed. After discussion, it was proposed by the Chairman seconded by Cllr Blackwell and with all in favour it was **RESOLVED**: That the budget totalling £1,187,900 and set the precept at £973,400. A Band 'D' property will pay £236.42 per annum

61. Minutes of Committees

Cllr Kay said that the Environment and Green Spaces Committee meetings were not often enough. The following meetings were noted:- 16.11.21 Environment & Green Spaces Committee, 23.11.21 Town Development Committee, 30.11.21 Community & Wellbeing Committee and 14.12.21 Resources Committee.

62. Calendar of meeting dates

Calendar of meeting dates list from April 2022 to March 2023 circulated with the agenda was noted.

63. Grants Panel

Cllr Vittles wanted monthly grants meetings. Cllr Kay thought this would result in the budget running out quicker. Cllr Vigar did not mind bi-monthly meetings. Town Clerk said that the amount of applications had decreased during the pandemic. After discussion, it was decided to leave things as they are.

64. Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting will take place on the 8th March 2022.

The meeting closed at 8pm.

[Items in blue changed when the minutes were accepted on the 8th March 2022.](#)

Members of the public who attended the meeting

1. Lisa Otterbarry asked what is the Town Council's understanding of their obligations to the Friends of Becky Addy Wood (FROBAW) as per the MOU Memorandum agreed with FROBAW in April 2020 – especially in relation to decision making and information sharing? For example, FROBAW requests to be kept informed about licence applications and response with regard to the proposed felling in Becky Addy Wood.

2. Does the Town Council have an actual or draft Woodland Management Plan for Becky Addy Wood? FROBAW has not seen such a plan, yet the MOU agreement states that FROBAW will (and I quote) be a partner in the production of the Becky Addy management plan, which will guide all important management decisions affecting the wood, such as the management of trees that should become infected with Ash Dieback/

3a. What is the Town Council's response to James Crawford's report on the Becky Addy Wood Tree Survey, shared with the Town Council 14th December 2021, which calls for a clear Risk of Harm assessment of each tree and concludes that far fewer trees need to be felled for reasons of public safety than scheduled in the October Tree Survey? It is vital that no tree is felled unnecessarily in this highly protected habitat.

3b. Is the Town Council aware of the import of James Crawford's report with regard to the council's statutory duty to carry out the tree works in a way which complies with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, as amended 2019 – and specifically that the project meets the three European Protected Species Derogation Tests, since Becky Addy lies in the Impact Zone of a European Conservation Site and hosts Bechstein's bat, a very rare species whose habitat is at risk from in-combination effects from felling and development across the region.

Please could we have written answers to the above.

We also received an enquiry from a local resident today:-

Q1 What will the council do to inform the public on its website about the forthcoming changes to the First Bus D1 and D1x services due to change on 30th January 2022?

Q2 In a post-COVID world, but still in a state of climatic emergency, what will the council be doing to influence Wiltshire Council regarding future provision of bus services operating through Bradford on Avon.

Q1 Unitary Councillors Sarah Gibson and Tim Trimble replied

Despite their best efforts the service from Warminster to Salisbury will be withdrawn on the 30th January 2022. A new bus company is being sought for that route. They will continue to encourage and monitor the situation closely. There has also been a shortage of bus drivers. The D1x is also being cut on the 30th January 2022 as this was an experimental service.