



**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 8th March 2022 at 7p.m in St. Margaret's Hall

Attendance – Town Council

Cllr K Bessant
Cllr S Blackwell
Cllr E Franklin
Cllr D Garwood
Cllr S Gibson (Chairman)
Cllr A Kay
Cllr S McNeill-Ritchie
Cllr J Parker
Cllr T Trimble
Cllr K Vigar (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr J Vittles
Mrs S Bartlett (Town Clerk)
Mr I Brown (Director of Operations)
Mr M McLaughlin (Communications Officer)
Ms S Hawkins (Accountant)

Apologies: Cllr A Potter
Members of the public: Jeremy Wire, Joyce Shaw and 3 others

Chairman started the meeting by offering support for Ukraine. She said that the front of St. Margaret's Hall is lit up blue at night. She also mentioned that it was International Women's Day and that it was good to have many strong-minded women around the table.

65. Declarations of interest – none

66. Minutes

After a couple of alterations were made, it was proposed by Cllr Trimble seconded by Cllr Parker and with all in favour it was **RESOLVED:** To accept the minutes of the last meeting held on the 11th January 2022 as a true record.

67. Matters arising – none

68. Chairman's Report

Chairman's report including the following subjects:-

Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Great West Way, New Church Street paving with Preservation Trust and Wiltshire Council, Parking Charge increases by Wiltshire Council and Pancake Race.

Forthcoming events:-

15.03.22 Resources Committee – update on assets being transferred from Wiltshire Council.

17.03.22 at 7pm - Fuel Poverty and Carbon Reduction Project in St. Margaret's Hall.

22.03.22 Town Development Committee -update on the new pavilion in Culver Close and the work on the Station carpark area called the One Public Estate.

29.03.22 Sustainable Travel Committee will have the report from the Traffic Consultation

The Chairman's Report was noted.

69. Minutes of Committees

The following committee meetings were noted:-

18.01.22 Sustainable Travel Committee, 25.01.22 Town Development Committee 01.02.22 Environment and Green Spaces Committee and 08.02.22 Community & Wellbeing Committee.

70. Humanitarian Aid To Ukraine

Cllr Blackwell gave a heart rendering speech about what has happened in Ukraine.

Cllr Blackwell proposed that the Town Council ratify the decision to send a van load of humanitarian aid to South-East Poland on the Ukrainian border on Monday 7th March 2022 in support to help the desperate situation in Ukraine with a number of refugees, internally-displaced people and injured civilians and military personnel rising rapidly. This was seconded by the Chairman and with all in favour it was **RESOLVED:** To agree to pay the transportation costs of the van of £1,200 and to send more supplies, once it was established that the humanitarian aid had arrived and was received by the Ukrainian people.

Cllr Vittles said that he appreciated all Cllr Blackwell's efforts and speed he went to send aid. He said it was commendable. Jeremy Wire said he appreciated the speed and advocacy the aid was carried out.

71. Environment & Green Spaces Committee 1st February 2022

(i) Arrangements were discussed for the Fuel poverty event on the 17th March 2022. Director of Operations explained that 4 companies had been approached and that 2 companies had been chosen, one for thermal imaging called C.H.E.S.E. and As Built for heat loss testing. Chairman explained the technical details for these types of testing. Cllr Kay said that when the weather was cold it was better to focus on better insulation to reduce costs and improve their homes and reduce fuel waste.

(ii) Westbury Town Council's legal costs were discussed on the new incinerator. Cllr Kay said that the council had been writing letters against this for a long time. She said their air quality would be at risk with the increase in heavy lorries delivering their waste in Westbury. She said that making a facility to burn plastic is the wrong strategy. Chairman advised that Wiltshire Council had refused the application twice and then it was approved. After discussion it was proposed by Chairman seconded by Cllr Kay and with all in favour it was **RESOLVED:** If the Secretary of State does not 'call-in' this application, to earmark £1,000 towards Westbury Town Council's legal fees.

72. Skateboard Park

New Working Group for Skateboard Park

Membership - Councillors, Gibson, Bessant, McNeill-Ritchie, Kay, Garwood and Franklin agreed to be on the Working Group.

Town Council's contractor Maverick be asked to come and join.

Chairman said that she had spoken to a professional firm but did not know how much of a percentage they would charge for obtaining grant funding.

Cllr Bessant said that we need to get a word out to the community to assist us.

Cllr Bessant said that we have received a swell of support from the community and that young people will be suffering with their mental health following the on-going pandemic. She said that the local community had raised a significant amount and we need to get the rest of the funding in to start, so will have to go back to the lottery again. She feels this must be community led with help from Carl Jones and Marsha Mars. Cllr McNeill-Ritchie said he was more available on a Monday to Wednesday to attend any meetings.

73. Residents' Panel

The Communications Officer gave a PowerPoint presentation of the result of the recent residents panel.

Joyce Shaw said that she did not think that the councillors were visible in the town. She said that U3A produce a valuable newsletter every month. Cllr Kay said she was out and about around the town talking to residents and reported any issues if she saw broken gates etc. Cllr Vittles said that he had a full-time job and an unpaid role as a Town Councillor.

Cllr McNeill-Ritchie said that we had made a reasonable first start but that the jury was out on what we did learn. He said when presenting results, it would be better to have how many people wanted different things rather than confuse it with percentages.

Cllr Vigar thanked the Communications Officer for his presentation. She said the results of the first survey were valuable and the Town Council could improve on ways of communicating.

After discussion, it was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Parker and with all in favour it was **RESOLVED**:

- To note the results of the pilot survey
- That a regular email newsletter be created by the Communications Officer
- That the plans for more noticeboards under consideration by the Community and Wellbeing Committee be progressed
- That the Residents Panel project continues with 3 surveys a year for the remainder of the council administration
- To run further surveys on specific topics which are not catered for by current or upcoming surveys, if the need arises
- That a report of the results of each survey and a summary be published on the Town Council website
- That the regular work of the panel be reviewed by the Community & Wellbeing Committee

74. Elblag Polish Twinning Association

It was noted that Cllr Blackwell will be chairing the AGM of the Elblag Twinning on the 23rd March 2022 at 2pm in St. Margaret's Hall. All Councillors welcome to attend with light refreshments. Cllr Kay advised that she had carried out this role.

75. Date of next meeting

The next Annual Council meeting has been arranged for 3rd May 2022.

76. Confidential business

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