



Bradford on Avon
Town Council



LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
QUALITY GOLD

Minutes of the Environment & Green Spaces Committee meeting of
BRADFORD ON AVON TOWN COUNCIL held
on Tuesday 7th June 2022 at 7.00 p.m. in St. Margaret's Hall

Attendance – Town Council

Cllr K Bessant
Cllr A Kay (Chairman)
Cllr A Potter
Cllr J Vittles
Cllr T Trimble
Cllr K Vigar
Cllr E Franklin
I Brown (Director of Operations)
C Hogg (Green Spaces Officer)
S Hawkins (Accountant)

Members of the Public: 5

See Appendix 1 for public comments

Apologies- Cllr S Gibson

01. Declarations of interest- Cllr K Bessant Shareholder in her husband's company which has undertaken signage design work for the Council.

02. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Potter seconded by Cllr Trimble, with 5 in favour and 2 abstentions, it was **RESOLVED:** to accept the Environment & Planning committee minutes held on 5th April 2022.

03. Chairman's report (As attached)

The Chairman outlined the main points from her report which is attached to these minutes.

04. Election of Vice Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr Vigar, seconded by Cllr Trimble and with no further nomination, with all in favour it was **RESOLVED:** That Cllr Gibson be Vice-Chairman of this committee.

05. Projects Update (As attached)

The Chairman updated on current projects which have been drawn together and attached to these minutes.

The Chairman outlined her thoughts for The Great Big Green Week 24th Sept – 2nd Oct, putting on a series of events over the course of the week, outline schedule attached, members were requested to consider other events that could be added to the schedule. It was proposed by Cllr Franklin, seconded by Cllr Vigar and with all in favour it was **RESOLVED:** to hold the Great Big Green Week with a provisional budget of £500, plus use of St. Margaret's Hall, Youth Centre, Barton Country Park and/or Westbury House Gardens, to be confirmed as we map out the range of events.

06. Lighting Strategy

The draft Lighting Strategy was circulated to members on Monday, this has been previously commented on by officers and the chairman with changes made. It must be noted that the report is currently confidential as it shows the bat nesting sites which will be removed in the final version.

To enable the council to reference the document it was proposed by Cllr Kay, seconded by Cllr Franklin with all in favour it was **RESOLVED**: to provisionally adopt the Lighting Strategy. The final version will return to the Committee in July meeting for full adoption.

07. Play Areas

The Council is now responsible for 10 play areas following the asset transfer, including those already owned. The annual survey of the areas is due, and the Council has been receiving weekly inspection reports from Idverde. These have confirmed the condition of the play areas is variable, but in many cases, we need to review and draw up plans to improve the equipment, layout, management and use of all the play areas. Cllr Bessant mentioned that some gates on Poulton Play area need immediate attention whatever the outcome of the working group.

It was proposed by Cllr Vittles, seconded by Cllr Potter with all in favour it was **RESOLVED**: to set up a cross-committee play area working party.

08. Climate Communications

The Communications officer has submitted an outline communication plan, which the Chairman ran through.

Cllr Vigar appointed out that the last residents panel was on the Environment and the results should give a direction for communication.

09. Terma of Reference

Members had reviewed the current terms of reference and two points are recommended to change.

- i) 1.1 up to ten Members including the Chairman of the Council and Deputy Mayor ex-officio
- ii) 3.4 Policy regarding the provision of the following services: Parks, Open Spaces, Assets

10. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is arranged for 26th July 2022.

11. Confidential business

It was proposed by Cllr Vigar seconded by Cllr Franklin and with all in favour it was **RESOLVED**: To start private business

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Appendix 1

Members of the public who spoke at the Environment & Green Spaces Committee on the 6th June 2022

1. Sona Bass - Friends of Culver Close is a group of residents local to Culver Close and Victory Fields who have become concerned about the Town Councils proposal to build a two storey development on Culver Close playing fields in open green space.

During our groups previous communications with the Town Council and at a meeting with Cllr Jack Vittles and Cllr Katie Vigar before the most recent Planning and Development Committee meeting, our group raised 47 questions relevant to that planning application and the site on which it is proposed. As yet we have not received any answers.

Many of these questions are relevant to the remit of this committee especially issues relating to the acquisition of the green spaces from Wiltshire Council and the legislation governing the management of those spaces.

Amongst the myriad of issues we are aware that there are currently no byelaws in place for Culver Close or Victory Fields and that current anti-social behaviour and parking is not being effectively policed leading to regular parking on the green spaces by groups who use the facility.

Specifically we would like to ask the committee to commence work to put in place appropriate byelaws to prevent parking and wider anti-social behaviour on the green spaces now under the management of Bradford on Avon Town Council, as a matter of urgency.

Cllr Vigar mention that there were verbal responses on the evening of the meeting, and we said we respond with all the written answers when we had all the information available. We have also been in receipt of questions about the same issue and Freedom of information requests which have to be prioritised.

Cllr Kay added that we haven't got byelaws but are working on user guidelines for the spaces that we have.

2. Joyce Shaw - Thank you to all those involved in providing the Jubilee celebrations, and how successful it was.

Members then remarked how clean the town looked over the jubilee and thanked the Town Wardens for their efforts.



**Alex Kay, Environment & Greenspaces
Chairman's report for Tuesday 7/06/22**



1. Climate Friendly presented two films

Monday 16th May both recommended:

- a) **Make It A Fair COP Glasgow** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWzVNVkWehg>
- b) **On the Wild Side** <https://youtu.be/GHk4jUB0V8s>

- 2. **Drinking water stations** with signs and poems: walk with poets on 10 June.
- 3. **Climate & Ecological Emergency Display in Library:** new material needed.
- 4. **BoA Repair Café 10.30 -13.30 18th June in Wallington Hall**
- 5. **CF Sustainable Food Group** meeting Mon 23rd May 7.30pm. Questionnaire being prepared for businesses incl. FairTrade and Plastic-free
- 6. **Plastic free Green Peace The Big Plastic Count 15-22 May 2022**
https://youtu.be/kyurCohF_fc; This was shared by all Cllrs and shared through TC media and hopefully many people will have provided their results by the 31/05/22 deadline.
- 7. **WALPA Neighbourhood Planning Update Meeting 17th May.**



Alex Kay, Environment & Greenspaces
PROJECT UPDATES for Tuesday 7/06/22
Environment

8. **Green Space Management projects:** signs, litter/recycle bins, green-space management, tree planting project, verge cutting, gate designs for all greenspace entrances and control access as appropriate.
 - a) Signage needs to be clear we have declared Climate & Ecological Emergency and we have achieved Plastic-free Community status and always looking to improve;
 - b) BCP road use and parking, repair of gate/lock, access to launch/ford damaged by erosion
 - c) Development of park (and other Greenspaces) use guidelines.

9. **Living Green Wall:** construction date???

10. **Community Fridge** 'soft' opening for 23rd May was unfortunately delayed. However, discussions with the CoOp and volunteers have progressed and it is hope that this project will be up and running soon.

11. **Community compost update?**

12. **Healthy River Project:** some progress is being made on this ambitious project.
 - a) This spring, there has been some dangerous tree management mostly due to ash-die back but also of willow by the EA and also members of the rowing club;
 - b) Riparian owner list now up to date for TC use (?);
 - c) User groups is been developed;
 - d) Discussions with Wessex Water who are planning major works to greatly reduce potential sewage problems. There has been some discussion of creating clean wild swimming status downstream of BoA at Warleigh, which would be a fantastic out come;
 - e) GSO (Chris) has planned work removing invasive Himalayan balsam with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.
 - f) <https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/news/2020/cleaning-up-our-rivers-and-waterways> it is hoped to support a community/river user litter pick with BOARC
 - g) wildlife watch/care;
 - h) river user guidelines.

13. **Domestic Heating Event** Simon Forsyth gave project summary at Town Gathering 26th May and reminded people to do the CF survey; fuel prices are only going to go up!
<https://bit.ly/3w8kKMM>
 - a) Next steps to include fix a date and preparation for event in Sept/Oct
 - b) Continue to promote CFBoA's questionnaire (social media, posters on noticeboards etc) and review results
 - c) Decide on suitable properties for thermal studies
 - d) Prepare shared case study website with CF, CHEESE etc.

14. Other CE&E Events for 2022

- a) September Green Week 24 Sept-2 Oct <https://greatbiggreenweek.com/> : support CF efforts on this (tbd), possible mini film festival SMH, soil and biodiversity event(s) in BCP or other Greenspace, litter picks and plastic-free picnic
- b) November/December: suggestions? Perhaps a plastic-free xmas fayre or craft session, further Domestic Heat project workshops, maybe practical help?
- c) Do we consider a new year event ... Feb/March?

15. SW in Bloom

- a) Last year BoA achieved Gold, so we've gone up a tier!!, thanks to our GSO! Our focus Climate & Ecological Emergency projects played directly into this success and underpins future
- b) Judge visit is 12th July
- c) Suggestions of projects and locations for discussion.