



**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 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 7p.m in St. Margaret's Hall

Attendance – Town Council

Cllr K Bessant  
Cllr D Garwood  
Cllr S Gibson  
Cllr A Kay  
Cllr J Parker (Vice-Chairman)  
Cllr A Potter  
Cllr T Trimble  
Cllr K Vigar (Chairman)  
Cllr J Vittles  
Mrs S Bartlett (Town Clerk)  
Mr I Brown (Director of Operations)  
Ms S Howe (Committee Clerk)  
Mr C Hogg (Green Spaces Officer)

Members of the public: Jeremy Wire, Richard Smith and three others.

Chairman asked everyone to use the microphones, so that the people at home can hear everything.  
Apologies: Cllr S Blackwell, Cllr E Franklin and Cllr S McNeill-Ritchie

27. Declarations of interest - none

28. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Gibson and seconded by Cllr Trimble and with all in favour it was **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022 were accepted as a true record.

29. Matters arising – none

30. Chairman's report

The Chairman report is attached to these minutes. The Chairman mentioned every item. With regards to the Summer Club this was well attend and she hoped this is repeated again. On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2022 she opened the Walking Festival and Cllr Gibson did the walk.

On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2022 she attended the flower show, which was well attended. Chairman presented the Town Clerk with a large bouquet of flowers, as she was retiring at the end of September 2022, and this was her last Full Council meeting. The Chairman thanked the Town Clerk for her long service to the town and wished her well in her retirement. Town Clerk thanked the Chairman and said the flowers were lovely.

31. Minutes of Committees

The minutes of the following committees were noted:-

12.07.22 Town Development Committee, 19.07.22 Sustainable Travel Committee and 26.07.22 Environment & Green Spaces. Cllr Kay said that she had not received a copy of the Environment & Green Spaces minutes yet. Town Clerk agreed to look into this.

### 32. Re opening the High Street

Cllr Gibson said that Wiltshire Council had some money for Levelling Up the High Street. Triangular information towers in the car park advising where the other car parks are located are one item the money is to be used for. Cllr Gibson reported that she had been working with City Dressing and Jenny Dack and Cllr Kate Bessant, as the original designs were inappropriate for Bradford on Avon. The imagery on the Heritage Trail were not of high resolution to show the woollen trade, rubber and brewing history of the town. As these information towers were late being installed, she hoped that they could be used for a longer period. Cllr Gibson said that she would share with other members what is being proposed. She was sure it would be delivered.

### 33. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Gibson explained her report and said that the latest Housing Needs Assessment with a lack of affordability for housing in this town, will be forwarded to all councillors. At the Town Council conference members came up with six topics. She said that she had been speaking to the Town Council's Planning Consultant to find out what was encapsulated in the original plan before certain aspirational points were removed by the Inspector in 2016. She said that the Planning Consultant was available to talk to members about when, how and what any vision framework should look like. He was also prepared to talk to members about how to deal with planning applications or maybe concentrate more on the strategic side. Cllr Gibson explained she sent some notes to the councillors on each topic. It was agreed that members would inform Cllr Gibson if they wished to be on the following groups with their area of interest:-

1. Active Travel – Cllr Trimble agreed to be on.
2. Commerce
3. Community and Health – Cllr Parker agreed to be on.
4. Education and Youth
5. Green Spaces
6. Housing

Membership of these groups to be discussed at the next Town Development Committee next week. Cllr Gibson also agreed to send some dates to members for initial discussion on reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan.

### 34. Traffic Consultation

Cllr Trimble reported that a response had been received from Cllr Dr Mark McClelland on the traffic consultation and he was pleased to read it was not a 'no'. He gave a résumé and explained that we had been asked if we could contribute a substantial amount to fund the development of traffic options. We had declined as Highways is the responsibility of Wiltshire Council and £20,000 had been spent already. Phase 2 will cost £10,000 so £30,000 in total. Cllr Gibson said that the Highways Team at Wiltshire Council have taken the response on as their responsibility. They have budgetary restraints and they are looking for funding. Cllr Bessant said that our M.P. was keen to get involved in this and to ask her what funding pots she had available for it. Cllr Trimble said that he has updated the local M.P. but that he did not know about any funding she may have available. Jeremy Wire said in that he had read in the letter to Cllr Dr Mark McClelland that the Town Council had a local traffic engineer who had independently built a VISSIM traffic model free of charge for the town. He asked why don't the council run that anyway to give the Town Council something to compare it to? Cllr Trimble advised that Wiltshire Council should be allowed to do their work, modelling costs a considerable sum. Cllr Bessant said that would cause controversy with the outcome, that it had influenced it in some way how the modelling is interpreted and that the Town Council had to remain as neutral as possible.

### 35. Business Survey

Chairman said that she was sad to note the recent closure of Cassia, she was mindful of the difficulties businesses are facing, she thought they had made a good contribution to the town. Chairman noted that the Town Council had been offered to be used as a pilot scheme for a business survey and that Bradford on Avon Business had agreed to circulate it to their members. This survey will reveal how the businesses are feeling about the future. Jeremy Wire asked who was providing it? Chairman said Cognisant, who had selected and developed the application form for the Residents Panel. The outcome of the survey was hoped to be discussed with the local business community in the future. Cllr Kay said that the businesses have no cap on their energy and their costs are through the roof, with the domestic heating project coming up we need to try and help them. Cllr Gibson said that with the replacement of our Community Engagement Officer, that he is going to dig around to find out what assistance and advice is available for domestic and small business owners too. Wiltshire Council's commercial partner who installs the solar panels and reducing energy costs to businesses may be able to attend the heating project event. She said not to advertise this yet, as it is not confirmed yet. Cllr Kay said that Money Wiltshire helps people with money. She did not know if this is entirely domestic or business. She was waiting to hear from Selwood Homes about this.

### 36. Leave of absence

It was noted that Cllr Jack Vittles was due to become a father at the end of October 2022 and that he will not be available for council business following the birth for the remainder of the year. Chairman congratulated Cllr Jack Vittles and thanked him for his hard work and wished him well for an enjoyable break from council duties. Chairman gave her best wishes to him and Cerys. Cllr Vittles said that being a young father as well as a town councillor should be something that everyone can do.

### 37. Next meeting

Next meeting arranged for 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

### 38. Great Big Green Week (this item was not on the agenda)

Cllr Kay said that the Great Big Green Week starts on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September until the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2022. There will be an Eco Fair, Domestic heat event, Eco Films, Eco Recipe books, Saving Foods, Food events, biodiversity and saving energy. It will be advertised in the library on banners and on 'A' Boards and details on the Town Council website. Chairman said it was advertised on the back of the town council newsletter with a green bubble.

### 39. Confidential business

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

Members of the public who spoke at the Council meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022

1. Jeremy Wire was a bit dismayed at the letter from Cllr Dr McClelland to the Town Council he said they did not have any money, don't have any time, not doing any modelling, can you reassure me that reducing the volume of traffic is still the priority of the Town Council and pedestrian safety and air quality also. Chairman said there was a level of engagement with the Cllr Dr McClelland, Cabinet Member for Highways at Wiltshire Council if people are not aware. Cllr Trimble said he was looking at the downside, he will get back to us and share something soon, all the discussions have been very positive. They are still working out what the scope of any modelling will be and will be doing several different scenarios, they are cutting their cloth here with what money is available. He said it was very encouraging that we have received a reply and he is reassuring Jeremy that we still have the same three priorities as above.

2. Richard Smith asked:-

1. Can the Chair please confirm that proposals for a one-way system will require the D1 bus service to operate in both directions along New Road as part of the same journey? Does the Council recognise or realise that this will be a deterioration in service for bus passengers? If the increased journey time deters bus users and patronage reduces in consequence how will the additional cost of the service be funded?
2. At the Sustainable Travel Committee, it was proposed to introduce mitigation measures to avert an increase in traffic; is it possible that any of these measures may further adversely impact the D1 bus service by slowing journey times?

Cllr Trimble said he could not confirm that the proposals for a new one way will go up and down New Road. We cannot presume that a one-way system will be the same as it was before with social distancing measures. Cllr Gibson said the system is still yet to be considered on the priorities we have. A one-way traffic is all hypothetical. Cllr Trimble said that you are jumping ahead to Phase 2 which has not been decided. The bus service network is involved and will be consulted. The D1 is a commercial system and does not receive any funding from Wiltshire Council. With regards to mitigation measures may further adversely impact the D1 bus services by slowing journey times – you are jumping ahead 6 or 9 months this will be looked at by the traffic engineers and the bus company.

3. The previous one-way system resulted in residents of North Bradford and Winsley travelling towards Trowbridge diverting via Staverton, avoiding Bradford on Avon town centre. Does the Town Council recognise that a one-way system may result in a loss of passing trade for commercial and retail premises in the town centre if journey habits change. Did the consultation exercise identify any concerns from retail or commercial businesses in Bradford on Avon about the impact of a one-way system proposals? What steps have the town council taken to consult with retailers in the town centre about one-way system proposals?
4. Can the Chair please confirm that the impact of any one-way system on the residents of Staverton has been fully modelled and quantified?

Cllr Trimble replied second question first, no it has not been modelled. No traffic model will go out as far as Staverton because you would have to include Winsley and Westwood. Cllr Trimble did not agree that people were travelling via Staverton during the last one-way system and he lives in the north of the town. He wanted pedestrians and cyclists in the centre of the town but not the cars or the traffic in the town. He said you need to come back in 6 or 9 months when we have some solid proposals, which have been consulted with different groups in the town. Chairman said that businesses and residents were consulted in the last consultation.