



**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 17th January 2023 at 7.00 p.m. in St. Margaret's Hall

Attendance – Town Council

Cllr K Bessant
Cllr E Franklin
Cllr A Kay (Chairman)
Cllr Parker
Cllr A Potter
Cllr T Trimble

I Brown (Chief Executive & Town Clerk)
C Hogg (Green Spaces Officer)
S Howe (Committee Clerk)
M McLaughlin (Communications Officer)
S Hawkins (Accountant)

Members of the Public: Jeremy Wire, Andrew Nicolson, Liz Stephens, plus 3 others

See Appendix 1 for public comments

Apologies- Cllr S Gibson (Vice-Chairman), Cllr K Vigar, Cllr J Vittles

29. Declarations of interest- None

30. Minutes

The Chair wished to amend the minutes to include her full statement on the fireworks event in November and after some discussion the Town Clerk confirmed that a proposal would be required to allow this which was carried with 4 in favour and 1 abstention. Therefore, it was proposed by Cllr Kay and seconded by Cllr Franklin, with all 4 in favour and 1 abstention. **RESOLVED:** to accept the Environment & Planning committee minutes held on 4th October 2022 as a true record with the inclusion of the Chair's full statement on the fireworks event.

31. Matters arising - none

32. Chairman's Report

Cllr. Kay outlined the main points from her report which is attached to these minutes. The Chair also highlighted the work of Cllr Trimble and some of the town's community volunteers who have been helping a resident of Silver Street to avert flooding, due to bad weather, at his home. The Chair thought the purchase of a pump to help in such circumstances would be sensible and Cllr Trimble confirmed that a puddle pump has been ordered by the TC and would arrive the following day.

33. Domestic Heating Project

The Chair explained that following on from the last domestic heating event held as part of Big Green Week, 6 different residents (who had completed domestic heating surveys) had been selected to receive a prize of a heat survey of their homes. However, the heat surveyors have yet to contact the prize winners. The TC is to chase up the surveyors asap. Once the home surveys have been completed there will be a follow up event to look at the results and discuss the domestic use of solar panels, heat pumps and the like. The domestic heat survey is still available to complete on the town council website.

34. Biodiversity Butterfly Event 18th March with CFBoA and Butterfly Conservation

The Chair has been working with Climate Friendly BoA to organise a biodiversity event with Neil Hulme, from Butterfly Conservation to come and talk to residents of the town on 18th March 2023. The Chair proposed free use of St Margaret's Hall for the event, which would be about 3 hours on the Saturday afternoon. It was Proposed by Cllr Kay and seconded by Councillor Potter and with all in favour. **RESOLVED:** to provide the use of St Margaret's Hall free of charge for the Butterfly Talk on 18th March 2023.

35. Green Space update

The Green Spaces Officer provided a verbal update.

(i) Recycling/litter bins – the TC are now managing recycling and litterbins, as part of the asset transfer from WC, having taken over from Ide Verde WC's contractors on the 1st December 2022. The TC can now implement plans to replace missing and broken bins, introduce recycling ports and organise a new contract to collect the town's litter. The TC will also introduce a scheme to replace existing recycling/litter bins and dog waste bins as funds allow.

(ii) Town Cemetery – Again, the TC now manages the burials and interment of ashes at the town Cemetery as well as maintenance of the grounds. The current programme of grass cutting and tree maintenance will be continued and improved over time to enhance the ecology and biodiversity of the site in line with the TC's philosophy. An unsightly spoil tip will be removed and bin store erected in harmony with its surroundings near the entrance gate.

(iii) Community composting scheme – a pilot scheme has been set up at the Youth and Community Centre with around 50 local households invited to take part. Some households have taken up the offer and further invites to additional households are to be sent out.

(iv) Tree Fund update- trees and equipment, including a digger, have been purchased and the Forestry Commission kept up to date on planning and progress. Trees should start arriving within the next fortnight. Some Town Wardens are trained to understand underground utility maps to ensure trees are planted without damage to underground pipework and cabling. Huntingdon Rise should see some trees planted within two weeks and some agroforestry planting is planned which is land planted with trees under which sheep can graze. The public will be invited to help with the planting in some situations but not all due to the volume of trees and sites involved.

36. BoATC Secret Gardens

The scheme will be running this year, where some residents of the town open their gardens to the public. As usual tickets will be sold to visit the gardens. Christ Church School have received a grant from the TC to develop their kitchen garden and this will be part of the scheme this year for the first time. The Chair proposed a prize awarded for the best ecological and/or biodiverse garden in the scheme and threw open the discussion for what that prize might be and the budget. There were various suggestions including: garden centre voucher, book about regeneration and rewilding, a plaque to put on the house of the winner, tickets to visit national gardens. Cllr Franklin thought linking the town's South West in Bloom entrants with the Secret Gardens might be beneficial.

Cllr Trimble suggested a budget should be set to which the Chair agreed and all thought £250 seemed a sensible sum. It was proposed by Cllr Kay and seconded by Cllr Trimble and with all in favour. **RESOLVED:** to set up prizes for respectively the most ecologically friendly and most biodiverse gardens in the Secret Gardens scheme with a budget set for prizes of no more than £250.

37. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is arranged for 14th March 2023.

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm.

Appendix 1

Members of the public who spoke at the Environment & Green Spaces Committee on the 17th January 2023

1. Liz Stephens – asked whether a roadside verge management plan has been decided?

The Green Spaces officer confirmed that as of 1st December 2022 the TC had taken over the contract for verge cutting within the 30mph limits throughout town from the Id Verde contractor. 4 new wardens have been recruited by the TC to act as core of the work force for grass/verge cutting, continue with the previous regime in the first instance. We will start bringing areas into meadow cuts and cut and collect to remove nutrients and encourage wildflowers. But the regime is likely to be developed with time, to take account of the TC philosophy with regards ecological and biodiversity concerns.

2. Karen Tyler via Cllr Kate Bessant –

(i) During the last EGS meeting Cllr Bessant asked whether the Poulton fields playpark could be treated holistically alongside redevelopment of the Skatepark and the landscape area plan and whether the Public could be further consulted?

Skateboard park users have just been in for a meeting this evening to have a look at the previous designs with a £250K budget, a scaled back version than the original design. We have asked the designers to come up with a new design and liaise with the landscape architect who is looking at the whole of the park and skatepark holistically so once we know we have got the new design for the skate park we can tie that in with the architect for the whole site and then we can then consult with the public.

Cllr Bessant asked if there was a date by which we might go back to the Poulton residents with the plans?

The Town Clerk believed about March 2023.

(ii) The soakaway situation at the bottom of Poulton field is very concerning, the current volumes of water collecting have not been seen since before the soakaway was installed. Despite the TC closing the footpath for safety reasons, some individuals, with large dogs continue to walk in the field, flattening the ground to that the surface water is breaching the footpath.

The initial Skatepark concept designs concerning runoff were always a concern and there is a real worry that since March 2021 there has been no real action happening behind the scenes between the TC and WC regarding the soakaway maintenance work or monitoring of more recent ground movements as remedial works looks necessary.

Delays in dealing with this problem will no doubt impact everything else so please can the committee treat this problem with more urgency?

In discussions with Wiltshire who provided the soakaway, with the weather this last week which has been exceptional, made contact with the drains engineer but he has been busy with other things, but will continue to chase up to see where we are. As you enter the park via the footpath the water level has risen so the Council closed the footpath.

Cllr Bessant asked if this problem area and the access will be looked at by the landscape architect, and the Green Spaces Officer confirmed that the landscape architects have been commissioned to consider the whole park, as they are the experts, including access and exit routes through the park and the sequencing of essential projects to avoid problems i.e. so tree planting does not affect other plans for works.

The town Clerk confirmed that he would respond in writing to Karen Tyler.

3. Andrew Nicolson –

(i) The Neighbourhood Plan (NP) will no doubt have lots of environmental and green space content. What involvement will the Chair have in leading consultation and participation of stakeholders in drafting the next sections of the NP?

The Chair confirmed that she would have a strong role but that the redraught of the NP hasn't really started yet and preparation of the NP is a big, time-consuming project. There is the drafting of a document for the vision of many areas (green spaces) some of which will not be covered by the NP. Ideas are however being grouped together to be synthesised and consulted on in due course. There is hope to include some ideas such as green corridors and an improved lighting strategy in the next NP.

(ii) Wiltshire's Climate Action Plan was published 18 months after emergency resolutions were published. Does WC engage with town councils, especially those who have declared climate emergencies, following through on their climate action plan?

The Chair stated that she was unaware of WC's engagement with TC's, and Cllr Trimble (a Unitary councillor) was also unaware of the extent of WC's engagement with other TC's on this matter. She went to say that if Mr Nicolson had any feedback in that regard that would be very useful.



Alex Kay, Environment & Greenspaces Chairman's report for Tuesday 01/17/23

Best wishes to all for 2023.

2022 recorded the daily average temperature at over 10°C!

We need to keep working at all our different climate projects, whether in tree planting or energy saving.

1. **CFBOA Meeting 'Regeneration – Ending the climate crisis in one generation'** on 16th January 2023:
<https://climatefriendlybradfordonavon.co.uk/monday-16th-january-7-for-7-30pm/>
2. **Drones versus Fireworks:** Watch 2021 display in Frome
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ax0GSNHNvY>
3. **Community Compost:** has started up on very low-key level; extend to other garden-less properties?
4. **Living Green Wall:** First major maintenance before Christmas. ANS Global has selected our Living Green Wall as their favourite of 2022! <https://www.ansgroupglobal.com/blog/the-top-7-living-walls-of2022>
5. **Christchurch School Kitchen Garden:** awarded a TC Climate emergency community grant
6. **GrowBoA plants** for Christchurch School sensory planters
7. **Other projects:**
 - a) URGENT green space entry gates and parking control – abuse of parking and the path way over Xmas in BCP;
 - b) tree planting: equipment ordered and volunteer recruitment; c
 - c) healthy river ... no progress with analysis, flood control.