



**Bradford on Avon
Town Council**



Minutes of the Full Council meeting of
BRADFORD ON AVON TOWN COUNCIL held
on Tuesday 7th March 2023 at 7p.m in St. Margaret's Hall

Attendance – Town Council

Cllr K Bessant
Cllr S Blackwell
Cllr E Franklin
Cllr D Garwood
Cllr A Kay
Cllr S McNeil-Ritchie
Cllr J Parker (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr A Potter
Cllr T Trimble
Cllr K Vigar (Chairman)
Cllr J Vittles
Mr I Brown (Chief Executive & Town Clerk)
Mr C Stringer (Deputy Town Clerk)
Ms S Howe (Committee Clerk)
Mr Matthew McLaughlin (Communications Officer)

Members of the public: Jeremy Wire, Joyce Shaw, Beryl Turner, Andrew Nicolson, Christian Sullivan and around 60 others including supporters of the BoA Skatepark fundraising group.

Apologies: Cllr S Gibson

63. Declarations of interest - none

64. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Trimble and seconded by Cllr Parker and with all in favour it was **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 10th of January 2023 were accepted as a true record.

65. Matters arising – none

66. Skatepark – Proposal of a final design for the skatepark at Poulton fields. A presentation was given by Russ Holbert from Maverick Skateparks. He outlined the scope, objectives and aims of the skatepark project before providing some practical details about the final design, construction and setting within the landscape. The Chair thanked both Mr Holbert for his presentation and also Skate BoA, members of the town council (TC) and all those involved with the fundraising process. She was very pleased to see so many stakeholders present including younger members of the community. Mr Holbert offered to answer some questions as follows:

- Would there be a caretaker? No, it is a self-governing space, with signage provided supplying useful phone numbers and encouraging the use of helmets.
- Would the construction involve the use of low carbon concrete and other measures to minimise the impact on the climate? Maverick would do its best with the budget available but costs, the exact makeup of the concrete as a suitable material for a construction of this type and proximity of the concrete plant will all be considered

carefully. Cllr Kay supported the view of Maverick as the Council has a commitment to the youngsters of the town and their needs as well as Climate change and Cllr Vittles reiterated the green credentials of the whole Poulton fields area with a wider landscaping project underway including widespread tree planting.

- Is there a timetable in place? It would take around 2 ½ months for the construction of the skatepark once the order was placed and works were underway.

It was proposed by Cllr Bessant and seconded by Cllr Kay and with all in favour:

RESOLVED: to proceed with the final delivery of the skatepark design as presented by Maverick.

67. Fairtrade Town status. – Support for the renewal of the town's Fairtrade status. A presentation was given by Vivienne Kynaston, on behalf of Bradford on Avon Fairtrade town and an organiser of the town's Fairtrade Fortnight event which is running this year from 27th February – 13th March 2023. Fairtrade fortnight events this year have included: a display at the library, Fairtrade wine tasting, a coffee morning at the Hub and Fairtrade refreshments being served at a talk by Neil Hulme from Butterfly Conservation.

BoA has held its Fairtrade status for 20 years and its renewal is due very soon. However, the scheme is currently being revamped so the exact date of renewal is still uncertain. Ms Kynaston went on to say that BoA was the first town in Wiltshire to gain its status and that the Fairtrade scheme is about making the world more equal with fair pay for those supplying goods from anywhere in the world. She added that the TC have always and, going forward, continue to support the town's Fairtrade status for which the group are very grateful. The Chair thanked Ms Kynaston on behalf of the TC for all her efforts over the last 20 years.

It was proposed by Cllr Kay and seconded by Cllr Parker and with all in favour. **RESOLVED:** the town council will continue to support the town's Fairtrade status and renewal.

68. Chairman's report

The Chairman summarised her report supplied with the agenda, but referred to a few highlights: the friendship link and meeting with the Mayor of Tubas via Zoom, the annual Pancake Race making the national news, the Ukrainian pancake event and commemoration of the 1st anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia culminating in the planting of Kalyna trees in Westbury Garden donated by the Ukrainian community and finally an invitation by the BoA Quakers to attend the final Journeyman Theatre production as the members of the company are retiring.

A statement on the latest update regarding Becky Addy Wood was also read out.

69. Traffic Consultation – Decision to go ahead with request for funds by Wiltshire Council for the traffic modelling as part of a potential traffic management plan.

Cllr Trimble addressed question 8 from the public (see appendix) and apologised for causing any confusion. He confirmed that reduction in traffic volumes, improved air quality and increasing pedestrian and cyclist safety are the top priorities for the modelling process, however as congestion leads to air quality problems congestion is still relevant. Cyclist and pedestrian safety are to be highlighted to promote a safe and pleasant town centre. 2-way traffic systems do cause problems for cyclist and pedestrian safety because of the very close proximity of pedestrians and cyclists to the motorised traffic due to the narrow streets. One-way systems would help to improve safety as the only way of creating more space. Cllr Trimble is keen to promote Active Travel within and through the town but there is no Active Travel plan as part of the modelling priorities.

Cllr Trimble continued, due to the public consultation on traffic in town we know what current resident thinking is and pursuing the modelling process will allow WC to prepare a plan and be read-to-go when funding opportunities arise. The TC do not want to have to commit money to this but traffic problems have dogged the town for decades so here is a chance to

invest, not let the matter drift away and give WC the opportunity to be project ready for future rounds of funding.

WC recommend modelling to prepare for a new traffic management plan and TC agrees with this approach. Cllr Caroline Thomas (WC's Cabinet member for Transport) has now met with the TC and the meeting was productive.

The scale of the contribution (2/3rds of the total funding cost) is more than the original 50% contribution set aside at the previous Full Council Meeting, but since then there is confirmation that Marlborough TC have committed to a 2/3rds contribution for similar traffic modelling work. Consequently, the Sustainable Travel meeting on the 28th February 2023 saw Councillors agree to set aside the additional £8,350 for the modelling work in BoA and bring the sum set aside to 2/3rds of the modelling cost. Cllr Thomas has confirmed that the TC will help set the modelling parameters of study, will be responsible for the second public consultation and come up with the town's preferred options as a result of the modelling. Finally, the timeframe could be within a month for the start-up meeting and the modelling work completed 6 months later.

Cllr McNeil-Ritchie asked that the recommendation include all the caveats we want as part of the motion.

It was proposed by Cllr Trimble, seconded by Cllr McNeil-Ritchie and with all in favour.

RESOLVED: to agree that the Town Council asks Wiltshire Council to go ahead with the traffic modelling for the town: with the Town Council contributing £33,350 towards the total cost of this work with the following conditions:

- The objectives of the modelling work are to achieve (i) increased pedestrian and cyclist safety, (ii) reduced traffic volumes, (iii) improved air quality.
- Guarantees the final decision on the plan will rest with the Town Council.
- Reassurance that Wiltshire Council will progress the project at the earliest opportunity.

70. Next meeting

Next meeting arranged for 2nd May 2023.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm

Questions and comments from the public and Councillors

1. Judith Hammond from the 'Friends of Palestine' thanked the Council for agreeing the grant which allows the group use of St Margaret's Hall on three occasions. She publicised a free film called 'Boycott' which is to be shown at the hall on Friday 10th March. She also thanked various councillors and the TC in general for helping to forge links with Tubas, a town on the West Bank.
2. Question: Agenda item 9: Traffic Consultation – 'In relation to the proposed modelling for traffic solutions. Given that the proposed spend on the modelling alone far exceeds the TC's budget for transportation for the year, please would you confirm:
a) What transport-related projects will not be funded this year as a result?
The Chair confirmed it is hard to say as resident's requests and other projects crop up throughout the year and the TC is often asked to match fund with Wiltshire Council's (WC's) Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG) requests. However, the TC will continue to liaise with WC to progress requests/projects should there be any issues with funding.
b) What other TC projects/services will not be funded or will be cut this year to fund the excess spend required on the modelling?
The Chair confirmed that this year's budget will be managed using grants, reserves and possibly delays to expenditure on some projects until next year.
3. Question: Becky Addy Wood
a) At the last Full Council meeting the Chair confirmed the spend on Becky Addy Woods of £25,528 to the 10th January 2023. Would the Chair please update these costs to the 6th March and provide a forecast of any additional costs to the end of March 2023.
The Chair confirmed that the current spend on works in the wood to 6th March is £39,434.04 but costs to the end of the month are uncertain due to ongoing legal situation and stay of works resulting.
b) Can the Chair please advise what the current expectation of costs will be in the financial year commencing April 2023. Can the Chair confirm whether the planned expenditure is in line with the budget of £2,500 for the year.
The Chair confirmed that she cannot give a forecast of costs again due the legal situation with works in the wood beyond the information given in her statement in the Chair's report.
4. Question: Agenda item 9: Traffic Consultation.
a) The temporary one-way system significantly increased noise pollution for residents on Mount Pleasant through to New Town. It started early around 5.30am, was constant and is a serious concern for those of us living along this route. There was a black box installed by the council next to Mount Pleasant Social Club and I assume this has collected data about the noise pollution. Is this going to be considered in the modelling?
The Chair confirmed that the black box mentioned measured numbers and speed of vehicles, but this information would be used in the modelling process.
b) Running a temporary one-way system during lockdown conflated the overall reduction of traffic while we were not allowed to travel with the efficacy of the one-way. The negative effects are considerably worse outside of lockdown with normal traffic back. For this reason, I do not support the one-way. It will increase traffic flow and volume. Despite this, the TC and our MP are biased towards a one-way system. Donelan has been outright politicking with the one-way plan too against the TC. How impartial can any modelling be in this environment?
The Chair confirmed that WC use an independent modelling firm and there will be no bias.
5. Question: Blocked gullies in the town centre. WC have committed £1M to be invested in flooding mitigation measures. Gullies should be cleaned either once a year or every 3 years depending on the status of the road in question. The road over the bridge has not been cleaned in 3 years. Will this investment help BoA?

Cllr Trimble confirmed that he has written to WC about the cleaning of some but not all town centre gullies and proposed to meet for a site visit of the roads of concern with the resident.

6. Question: Unswept pavements. Pavements from The Three Horseshoes Pub, coming towards the town centre and over the bridge are in a poor state with debris, leaves and litter.

The Chair confirmed that due to the asset transfer with WC, this is now the responsibility of the TC and she would pass on the details to the relevant Officers.

7. Question: Agenda item 9: Traffic Consultation. With all the cuts to government funding what are the prospects of any proposal from modelling actually happening? The Chair confirmed that the modelling is necessary to facilitate a ready-to-go project so that when government funding becomes available WC can bid in a timely fashion.

8. Question: Agenda item 9 – Traffic Consultation.

Confusion about the aims of the modelling. The consultation highlighted the top three concerns were reducing traffic volumes, improved air quality and pedestrian and cyclist safety and today's report says the top concerns are congestion and road safety. However, BoA is congested because of the position of the town in the road network and there is not much to be done about that. So, what are the top three objectives and are the resident's top three priorities still the top three objectives for the modelling?

The Chair confirmed that this question would be answered during the agenda item 9.