



Town Development committee minutes

Minutes

From the committee meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 28 November 2023

At St. Margaret's Hall, Bradford on Avon

Decision making

Decisions made by the committee at this meeting are at Minute [35](#) & [42](#).

Present

Councillors:

- Kate Bessant (Vice-Chair)
- Alex Kay
- Simon McNeil-Ritchie
- Alison Potter (Chairman)
- Tim Trimble
- Katie Vigar
- Jack Vittles

Town Council Officers:

- Ian Brown - Chief Executive & Town Clerk
- Chris Stringer – Deputy Town Clerk

Meeting clerk:

- Sarah Howe – Committee Clerk
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Apologies

From Councillors unable to attend the meeting:

- Dave Garwood
 - Sarah Gibson
 - Jennie Parker
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34. Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were made.

35. Minutes from the previous meeting of the committee

Proposed by Councillor Katie Vigar.

Seconded by Councillor Jack Vittles.

And with all in favour it was **resolved**: that the Minutes of the last committee meeting held on 12 September 2023 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

36. Matters arising

None

37. Agenda item 6 – Decisions from the Delegated Planning Committee

The minutes and decisions were noted from meetings held on 20 September, 18 October, 1 November and 15 November 2023.

38. Agenda item 7 – Bradford on Avon's Neighbourhood Plan review

The Deputy Town Clerk referred to his report supplied with the agenda and reiterated the call for sites made by the council at the last Full Council meeting on the 31 October 2023. The deadline for applications is the 11 December 2023.

The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that they have received several applications thus far and overall are hoping that better sites will be highlighted for consideration than the old golf course site which is currently on a reserve list for development with Wiltshire Council (WC). He also confirmed that the sites put forward will be reviewed independently. Councillor Kay reiterated the need for new sites to get the old golf course 'off the hook'. Councillor Vittles asked how this call for sites is being promoted and again reminded those present that the town cannot not keep saying 'no' to sites being offered for development as our housing allocation needs to be built somewhere. The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that promotion had been through the usual channels including the website and local press.

39. Agenda item 8 – Local Plan

The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that the town council's comments on the Wiltshire's Local Plan (LP) have been forwarded to Wiltshire Council and thanked both the public and councillors for all their contributions and help compiling the document. Alongside the comments 2000+ signatures on a



petition to remove the golf course from WC's reserve sites for development was handed in.

Councillor Kay asked for the comments to appear on the website, suggested it was a good summary and thanked the Chair for her hard work. Councillor Vittles asked what the next steps would be the Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that WC will be reviewing the comments in the spring but anecdotally several Parish Councils are unhappy with the LP which may create some delays for WC in finalising the document. The Deputy Town Clerk also stated that the council needs to progress the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) having received applications during the call for sites and that any delays finalising the LP will help the town council prepare the town's NP ahead of the finalised LP.

40. Agenda item 9 – Town Vision

The Deputy Town Clerk thanks the public for all their ideas and comments. The updated version of the Town Vision will be presented to Full Council in the New Year. A lot of the ideas submitted are quite detailed and the Vision needs strategic overarching ideas with the detail as a more 'how to fix an idea'. Councillor Vigar stated that many clubs and organisations in town have been contacted for comments and that the business community would also be approached.

41. Agenda item 10 – Business Forum Report

The Town Clerk introduced the report prepared by Cognisant Research, supplied with the agenda, based on replies from the Business Forum held on the 18 July 2023. The Report will now be circulated to local businesses and an action plan of points will be brought to a future Town Development meeting.

42. Agenda item 11 – Civil War re-enactment

The Sealed Knot have approached the town council and Preservation Trust to organise a weekend of activities next July 2024 including a battle on Victory Field, soldiers camp in the Tithe Barn and assorted 'how we used to live' displays. There will be no horses on this occasion. The costs (£1800) will be shared with the Preservation Trust.

The Town Clerk asked members whether the town council would like to support the event.

Opinion varied from not wanted to get involved if it was going to take up a lot of Officer time in an election year and with the backdrop of nasty wars abroad, to perhaps the council should put its energies into supporting the Green Man



Festival instead. Others thought it was a reasonable price to pay alongside the Preservation Trust to bring people to the town and therefore additionally support local businesses who are keen on town wide events. There was an educational aspect to engage the local schools which could be emphasised over any battling. It was also confirmed that this event should take up very little Officer time as the event has been scaled back compared to previous visits.

Councillor Vigar suggested that perhaps we would go back to the Sealed Knot and convey concern over any celebratory tone to the battles and ask for plenty of 'way of life' demonstrations and activities and in that context the £900 was a small price to pay to help the businesses.

It was proposed by Councillor Katie Vigar

And seconded by Councillor Tim Trimble

And with 4 votes in favour, 2 abstentions and 1 vote against it was **resolved** to support the Sealed Knot Civil War Re-enactment event in July 2024 and share the costs with the Preservation Trust.

42. Next meeting

The next committee meeting is arranged for Tuesday 16 January 2024.

End of the meeting

The meeting finished at 7.37 pm



Appendix A: Comments and questions from the public

There were a few questions and comments from members of the public at the meeting. There were 4 members of the public present.

- 1) A resident thanks the town council for putting on an excellent Christmas Lights event the previous week.
- 2) A comment on Agenda item 8 – Local Plan

It was felt that the comments on the Local Plan by the council were very good and the resident was also pleased with the environmental emphasis.

- 1) A question on Agenda item 10 – Business Forum Report

The report states ‘improvements on vehicular and pedestrian access’ please can someone clarify the quote. The Town Clerk reminded the resident that they were comments made by one of the businesses not by the town council.