



**Bradford on Avon
Town Council**



**LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
QUALITY GOLD**

BRADFORD ON AVON TOWN COUNCIL

You are hereby summoned to the Environment & Green Spaces Committee

On Tuesday 17th January 2023

7:00pm in St. Margaret's Hall, Bradford on Avon

Ian S Brown

Chief Executive & Town Clerk

12th January 2023

AGENDA

1. QUESTION TIME OPEN TO PUBLIC AND PRESS (Not to exceed 30 minutes). <i>The public are welcome to ask questions on matters that are on the agenda and other matters at the Chairman's discretion. The question should not be a statement and limited to no more than 2 minutes. The Chairman will call the question from those who are indicating that they wish to speak. A record of any public participation session shall not be included in the Minutes but included as an appendix note to the Minutes of the meeting and will be made public via our website and held in archive.</i>
2. Apologies <i>To accept any apologies</i>
3. Declarations of Interests <i>To receive any Declaration(s) of Interest under The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interest) Regulation 2012 made under Section 30 (3) of the Localism Act 2011 and under the Code of Conduct adopted by the Town Council.</i>
4. Minutes <i>To approve the minutes of meeting for the Environment & Green Spaces Committee meeting held on Tuesday 4th October 2022.</i>
5. Chairman's report <i>Report attached</i>
6. Domestic Heating Project <i>Update and next steps</i>
7. Biodiversity Butterfly Event 18 th March with CFBOA & Butterfly Conservation <i>Request to Town Council for use of St Margaret's Hall</i>
8. Green Spaces update <i>Update from the Green Spaces Officer</i> <i>(i) Recycling/Litter Bins</i> <i>(ii) Cemetery – bin store, spoil tip</i> <i>(iii) Compost Scheme update</i> <i>(iv) Tree Fund update</i>
9. BoATC Secret Gardens <i>Best for biodiversity or eco award: to discuss.</i>
10. Date of next meeting <i>The next meeting has been arranged for 14th March 2023.</i>



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Minutes of the Environment & Green Spaces Committee meeting of
BRADFORD ON AVON TOWN COUNCIL held
on Tuesday 4th October 2022 at 7.00 p.m. in St. Margaret's Hall

Attendance – Town Council

Cllr K Bessant
Cllr E Franklin
Cllr S Gibson (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr A Kay (Chairman)
Cllr A Potter
Cllr K Vigar

I Brown (Chief Executive & Town Clerk/Director of Operations)
C Hogg (Green Spaces Officer)
S Howe (Committee Clerk)

Members of the Public: 4 including Karen Tyler and Jeremy Wire

See Appendix 1 for public comments

Apologies-, Cllr J Vittles, Cllr T Trimble,

22. Declarations of interest- None

23. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Gibson and seconded by Cllr Franklin, with all in favour, it was **RESOLVED:** to accept the Environment & Planning committee minutes held on 26th July 2022 as a true record.

24. Play Areas

Following on from the question on Poulton fields asked by Karen Tyler in the public session the agenda item 8 regarding the play areas proposals was addressed first. The Director of Operations outlined his report (attached) regarding the transfer of play areas to the town council from Wiltshire Council which began in April 2022 and will be under full town council control on 1st December 2022. A working group has been set up to facilitate the overall strategy, funding and running of the play areas through until 2036 and beyond and has met twice on the 26th July and 23rd September 2022. A discussion followed: Cllr Kay is welcoming a written plan for the redevelopment of each play area as each location will have different needs and requirements but is looking forward to the council actually having the opportunity to make significant improvements which are visible, useful and safe. Cllr Vigar wished to know when works would start. The Director of Operations indicated that the first phase would kick off immediately with the first action being the drawing up of a 'typical play area design' which can then be adjusted to suit each location and the budget available. Council can then go to the market to find a partner to support the designs with public consultation. In January 2023 the planning could then begin, and works would begin April 2023 when the funding would become available. There was also concern that Poulton play area was in such a state of disrepair that perhaps it should be closed. Director of Operations confirmed that qualified inspectors have viewed all the sites and play equipment weekly and they determine whether the equipment is deemed safe. Cllr Bessant asked whether the Poulton fields play area is being considered holistically alongside the redevelopment of

the proposed skate park and the landscaping of the wider area and whether the public will be consulted. Director of Operation confirmed that a landscape architect will be involved with the layout of Poulton fields and the play area designed by a specialist company once funding is agreed. At that point the public can be consulted on the play area design and the timeframe for that would be from January 2023 onwards.

From the Director of Operations Report the following was proposed by Cllr Kay and seconded by Cllr Bessant: **RESOLVED** unanimously to accept the actions spelt out in the report (i) Harmonising of service provision, (ii) Maintenance/replacement schedule, (iii) Prioritisation of the schedule, (iv) Agreed funding/budget proposed, (v) Agreed short term maintenance policy. (vi) review process to be agreed every 6 months with a progress report to E&GS committee.

25. Chairman's report (As attached)

Cllr. Kay outlined the main points from the report which is attached to these minutes.

Additionally, point 1 of the report: the Government plans to remove protection from wildlife and large areas of the countryside which has attracted a strong response from various national groups such as RSPB, WLT, NT and CPRE. Cllr Gibson confirmed that for the likes of the NT and RSPB to issue statements about the proposals the level of outrage is significant. Cllr Kay would like the council to issue a statement condemning the Government's approach. It was suggested that Cllrs Kay (Chairman of Environment and Green Spaces) and Chairman of Town Development Committee should write to Michelle Donelan MP to express how appalled and concerned the council feels.

Point 10 of the report: Community composting project which allows those without gardens to make compost from their vegetable waste using a public facility; the composting bins are set up and ready to go and Cllr Vigar confirmed letters have been finalised and lists of addressees invited to make use of the facility are now being prepared. Also, money is available via WC for planting a substantial number of trees around various sites in town. A meeting is planned on 5th October between the town council and WC as the town council establishes a planting plan. Volunteers are needed and the town council has a page on its website for volunteers to sign up to help with the tree planting.

26. Great Big Green Week Events (GBGW)

Cllr Kay outlined the GBGW event (report attached to these minutes) which has just come to an end after 10 days of events across the town. 16 events ranging from walks, talks, harvest festival service, domestic heating evening and an eco-film festival took place. The popularity of events varied greatly with the public and there was concern expressed that the wider public had not been reached with familiar faces participating in the main. However, there was a lot of interest in the Co-cars car share scheme with lots of surveys completed.

The Domestic heating event, it was noted by Cllrs Kay, Gibson and Vigar, has served to provide lots of advice and support to other action groups around town (representatives of which did attend) who can pass on plenty of advice and tips to their members to reduce homeowners carbon footprint and help with conserving energy and reducing heat loss during the current energy crisis. Cllr Gibson proposed a 'Top Tips' poster to conserve heat in the home to be prepared by Cllrs Kay and Gibson which could then be made available in various places around town such as The Hub and town council website where a page is being prepared to collate essential information on this topic. Cllr Vigar thanked Cllr Kay for organising such an interesting and varied week of events and estimated that several hundred participants were involved and enjoyed the activities on offer. The Bat walk is now arranged for the 7th October at 6.15pm due to poor weather on the original date.

The low cost/low carbon online e-recipe book is currently floundering due to lack of recipes.

27. Green Space update

The Green Spaces Officer provided a verbal update on matters covered above. As well as the bat walk on Friday 7th there are monthly volunteers at Barton Farm including this Saturday 8th October at 9.30am, and the Town Council are recruiting volunteers on the website. He confirmed that volunteers are being sought to help the tree planting programme due to start in Barton Farm Country Park, Poulton fields and the Cemetery fields amongst other sites and confirmed that volunteers across a range of activities town wide are in short supply. Cllr Bessant suggested that the Year 10's at St Laurence School who are tackling their bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award need to complete a period of volunteering. Cllr Bessant suggested they might volunteer with the town council.

Waste bins replacement: The Facilities Manager has reviewed the waste bins around the town and produced a replacement schedule. In the first phase 8 will be replaced, 7 have two ports for

general/dog waste and recycled waste. The eighth bin will be general only as the site is too small to accommodate anything larger.

Vehicles accessing green spaces: A gate with combination lock has been erected at Culver Close to prevent unauthorised vehicular access onto the cricket pitch. Those groups with authorised access to the area will be given the code which can be changed down the line if too widely known. A similar set up is also to be used at the entrance to Barton Farm County Park.

There was some discussion concerning the annual Fireworks display. It was clarified that no fireworks will be let off in Victory Field, due to concerns of air quality, noise and negative impact on residents, wildlife and pets. Victory Field will host stalls and activities, with viewing of high-level-only fireworks which would be set-off elsewhere.

28. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is arranged for 17th January 2023.

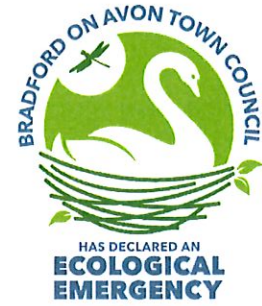
The meeting closed at 8.07pm

DRAFT

Appendix 1

Members of the public who spoke at the Environment & Green Spaces Committee on the 4th October 2022

Karen Tyler – The Council has promised £400k investment in Poulton field, play park and accompanying green space. In the current circumstances is it acceptable for youngsters to have to move junior goal posts in Poulton field because the council says it can't afford a safe dedicated junior pitch? Why is it acceptable for the play park to remain in such a dangerous and disgusting condition which would not be allowed anywhere else in Bradford-on-Avon? Cllr Kay, thanked Karen for her question and assured her the topic would be covered in agenda item 8 covering the new strategy for all the play parks in town.



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=Ax0-GSNHNvY>
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-of-2022>
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) healthy river ... no progress with analysis, flood control.