

## **DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Benefit Fund Committee**

A committee which reports to, and is overseen by,  
Bradford & Cookbury Parish Council (BCPC).

Date of meeting: Tuesday 9th July, 2019 at 5.00 pm  
in Bradford & Cookbury Village Hall Committee Room.

**Present:** Parish Councillors - Nigel Manners (Chair), Bill Pennington, Kate Rowlands.  
Parishioners - Paul Clarke (Secretary), Chris Reed, Catherine Smale, Andy Smith.  
Geoff Pitt joined the meeting at 5.20 pm.

**1. Apologies:** Parish Councillor - Mike Welch. Parishioner - Phil Drummond.

### **2. Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11th June, 2019.**

The Minutes were approved with the amendments as detailed on the agenda.

### **3. Consideration of any new funding applications received since 11th June.**

None received.

### **4. Cycling Proficiency: New National Standard & Instructor Training Reforms.**

The secretary, having distributed the latest requirements of the Bikeability scheme for cycling proficiency trainers to each committee member, reminded everyone present that Phil Drummond is very keen to keep cycling proficiency training active in our community. He has been involved with this for many years but his health is now restricting his ability to continue.

The Chair pointed out that our local schools do still receive training through the Bikeability scheme but thought that there may be a minimum age for pupils taking part. He agreed to find out which age group is currently covered and if it may be possible for younger children in our parish to be taught as well. (ACTION: Chair)

### **5. Open Platform.**

i) Dunsland Cross southbound bus shelter.

The Chair said that he had made contact with Devon Highways (DH) but was meeting red tape objections from its representative. DH would be happy for the CBF to pay for the work but as DH has to do all the planning work he was concerned that this is a fast, open stretch of road where overtaking is dangerous and building over the ditch at the side of the road might cause flooding. The Chair pointed out that road users should not be overtaking at speed at a junction and a relief pipe through the ditch would mitigate any flooding risk.

An approach to the National Trust, which owns the land where the bus stop would be sited, is now needed and enlisting the help of parish and county councillors may be a way to get DH on board with this project. (ACTION: Chair)

ii) Bickford Arms junction safety issues.

The Chair wondered if any CBF money could be used to improve safety at this very dangerous junction on the A3072, e.g. by funding double white lines, speed indicator signals or speed limit signs, all of which would need the agreement of DH. Community benefit funding might provide leverage for parish and county councillors to get this notorious junction sorted once and for all.

iii) Post-16 student travel bursaries.

The Chair reported that he had received enthusiastic responses to this proposed scheme from staff at Holsworthy Community College and the Route 39 academy near Kilkhampton, but as yet there had been no applications from students or their families. Posters will be placed on local noticeboards by the secretary. (ACTION: Secretary)

iv) Refusal of Friends of Bradford School (FOBS) award by full parish council.

Catherine Smale expressed her dismay and dissatisfaction at the parish council's decision not to endorse the CBF committee's recommendation of a £2,500 award to FOBS for play equipment at Bradford Primary School. Her sentiments were echoed by Chris Reed and Paul Clarke.

Catherine pointed out that a thriving primary school is one of the main attractions keeping young families in the parish and the CBF should be used to give the school all the support it needs to survive in these challenging times. If the school goes then there is little to keep the younger generations in this area.

The parish councillors present said that the complication of Bradford Primary School being part of the Dartmoor Multi-Academy Trust was the root of the problems in this case. Had the school chosen to remain under the auspices of Devon County Council, as three other local schools had, then making the award would have been straightforward.

The Chair asked if there were other ways to support FOBS via the CBF? The answer seemed to be anything which did not involve capital expenditure by the school. The parish council had given FOBS £600 for two trips last month and will seek to advise FOBS what can be funded in future. (ACTION: Parish Councillors)

## **6. Nomination and election of new secretary from 1st August 2019.**

No nominations received. The outgoing secretary had spent 90 minutes with one potential candidate describing all aspects and obligations of the role but that candidate subsequently chose not to accept the nomination. Kate Rowlands made the committee aware of advice given by the parish clerk in the event that the secretarial role remains unfilled. That advice is, 'If no one will act as secretary it will be up to the Committee to decide, initially, if they can or wish to continue without one. If they do, there will presumably be no minutes or agendas for future meetings and no point of contact for applications. If that is not acceptable, then the Committee will have to consider disbanding with all future CBF applications reverting to the main council for discussion, just like any other grant application. I would not like to see an increase in my workload without further discussion.'

*Post Script: Three days after the meeting Geoff Pitt and Catherine Smale offered to job share the secretarial role on an interim basis until a new secretary can be recruited. The outgoing secretary will hand deliver all the paper and computer files and email access codes to the interim team on 31st July 2019 and will prepare and distribute recruitment adverts for local noticeboards, websites and newsletters before that date.*

## **7. Items for next agenda.**

Progress towards appointment of new permanent secretary for the group.

## **8. Date of Next Meeting:**

To be advised.