

MINUTES
of the
BRADFORD & COOKBURY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on
Wednesday 15th November 2023 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs: Mark Smale (Chairman), Ann Richmond, David Higgins, Karen Osborne, Nick Langley, Terri Higgins, Donna Bowman, Rebekah Allan.

Also present: Parish Clerk/RFO: Sandra Holland & one member of the public.

1) Receive apologies of absence.

Elizabeth Chandler, Andrew Oke.

2) Declarations of Interest and dispensations.

a) To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda.- None

b) To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any). - None.

c) To grant any dispensations as appropriate. - None

d) Current councillor vacancies. - 2 vacancies in Cookbury.

3) Draft minutes of 27 September 2023, having been circulated: approved and signed.

4) Other items for discussion:

a) **EV Charging points at Village Hall, Supply contract update:** these are now ready for use at 50p per KWhour

b) Grant/Donation request from:

1. **Bradford & Cookbury Village Hall,** Hall to be advised to apply to CBF fund, as Cllrs believe this falls within remit.
2. **The South West Heritage Trust – grant of £150.00 approved**
(proposed: Cllr A Richmond, seconded: Cllr D Higgins, agreed by all.)

c) **Forestry England: local woodland tree thinning update –** Cllr D Higgins awaiting response to his e-mail to them to arrange fact-finding meeting.

d) **Councillor Training courses: further available courses –** Cllrs to be kept updated as further courses become available.

e) **Vaglefield Wind Turbine: annual payment status.** - £1250.00 received

f) Dog bins

1. **Cookbury:** e-mail received from Torridge DC to say they are unable to empty any additional bins. Cookbury Cllrs have spoken with many residents, who did not want one sited near their properties citing smell and attraction of insects as potential problems. Following much discussion Chairman suggested further canvassing be done in Cookbury to ascertain potential future site.

2. School/V. Hall: following hedge trimming, this bin has been knocked down. Cllr Smale to ask Cllr Oke if he can cement it back in place.

g) Grit Bins – Cookbury – Cllr A Richmond identified need for a further grit bin to be sited on road to Thornbury where ice forms on bend on the hill. Clerk to contact Torridge to progress.

Cllr Smale advised that Cllrs should make themselves aware of location of grit bins in their areas, and check grit levels before icy weather. Cllr Smale holds grit supplies for Bradford, and Jason Coates holds supplies for Cookbury.

h) Replacement of parish noticeboards - Clerk presented details of metal notice boards that could be purchased to replace those damaged/demolished. Desired design identified and Clerk to progress full costings, and also contact Mr C Geary to quote for installation, of these and add in quote to cement in dog bins should this be necessary.

I) Speed signs - Speeding through the hamlets is a cause of much concern to all Cllrs: possibility of individuals erecting their own speed reduction signs discussed. Cycle races have taken place through Cookbury without any notice being given – could the Police/Highways inform us of such events if they know? Cllr Osborne will ask cycle club in Langtree how they organise events. Clerk to contact Highways to ask their advice and also to request Holsworthy Post to raise awareness.

5) FINANCE

a) Accounts for review and approval: Clerk updated Cllrs on the few payments made & received since September meeting. A special finance meeting for Cllrs will be arranged for January 2024, date TBC.

b) Parish precept – all agreed to request 5% increase when form arrives from Torridge DC.

c) Confirmation of any BACS payments since last meeting. - signed by Chairman for records.

6) PLANNING Applications – 1/0949/2023/FUL & 1/0950/2023/FUL Helsden Farm conversion of redundant farm buildings – supported.

7) CORRESPONDENCE

a) Any correspondence received:

- 1) letter from G Cox to be scanned & sent to Cllrs for them to consider & action.
- 2) Clerk to respond to e-mail re rough sleepers, that there is someone living in a yurt on land in Cookbury
- 3) Data Protection Registration certificate to Nov 18 2024 received.

8) AOB

- 1) Cllr Osborne has been approached to ask for funding for local children to go on school trip to France in 2024. Cllr Osborne to liaise with school to put in formal application to CBF travel club.

Close of this meeting: 9.07pm

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 10th January 2024, 7.00pm