

MINUTES
of the
BRADFORD & COOKBURY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on
Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs: Mark Smale (Chairman), Ann Richmond, David Higgins, Nick Langley, Elizabeth Chandler, Terri Higgins, Donna Bowman, Rebekah Allan.
TDCllr: Ken James, Devon Co. Cllr James Morrish.

Also present: Parish Clerk/RFO: Sandra Holland & two members of the public.

1) Receive apologies of absence.

Karen Osborne, 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. - 1 vacancy in Cookbury.

Nikki Why was introduced as a prospective new councillor for Cookbury and was co-opted.

3) Draft minutes of 15th November 2023, having been circulated: approved and signed.

4) Other items for discussion:

X1. Co. Cllr James Morrish explained challenges he faces as a DC., where his remit includes roads, and adult & child services. He advised ringing either himself or Cllr James with any concerns, and gave an overview of some local problems he has been addressing. He currently has £300-400 available for special projects.

X2. Member of public, informed PC that she would like to provide a lending library via the monthly Coffee Hub, now that the mobile library is to stop. Following discussion it was suggested that the Village Hall be contacted, and further funding including "warm-space" could be investigated. Meeting informed of the success of the converted telephone boxes, particularly at Holemoor, into informal book access points, and some of the donated books may be suitable for this project.
Clerk to contact John Hart & ask about accessing books & investigate Libraries Unlimited.

X3. TDCllr Ken James updated the meeting on plans for the Torridge area to improve access to jobs, and incorporating " Levelling Up Skills". Included are a high-tech development for the Holsworthy cattle market which is expected to attract a Further Education site, and £20M to be invested in Appledore.

a) Grant/Donation request from:

- 1. All Saints Parish Church, Bradford to replace outdoor bench for visitors,** £250.00 to be allocated from Vaglefield fund towards purchase. (Min ref Jan24- 1)
- 2. Singing Group & Ruby Girls** – singing group commenced paying the Hall direct from Jan 2024. It was agreed to cover costs of hall hire for 6 months as further donation, which is expected to equate to 24 hirings for each group. (Min Ref Jan24 - 2)

c) Grit Bin for Cookbury:

Cllr Richmond spoke with Cllr J Morrish, who agreed to fund a grit bin at the site on the hill on road to Thornbury. This will be installed asap.

d) Replacement of Parish Noticeboards:

It was agreed to replace the local noticeboards, with black powder coated metal boards with magnetic inners, with public access twist locks, each to have a header with individual Hamlet name. PC supported applying to CBF to fund.

e) Speeding in Hamlets – update:

Clerk has e-mailed Holsworthy Post to ask them to raise awareness of problems.

Cllr Morrish advised that Highways should be informed of any cycle races, but would not necessarily be informed of private club meetings. Cllrs James & Morrish advised that Stuart Hughes should be approached at Devon Highways and that it might be possible now to apply to have a reduction in the speed limits through the Hamlets.

5) FINANCE

a) A special finance meeting for Cllrs will be arranged for Wed. January 24th 2024,

2.30 pm in the Village Hall. Clerk advised that following changes to our accounts internally by Barclays, the clerks wages were not paid by standing order for Nov & Dec 23, these now to be paid by BACS. The advice as to how to set up a S/O now, seems rather involved, clerk to pursue. (Nov – min ref Jan 24-3; Dec- min ref Jan 24-4)

1) EV Charging Points: PC informed that the chargers had now been used twice. Associated costs all to come from CBF Fund, so a transfer to PC account to be made to cover earlier reimbursement to Cllr Smale. (min ref Jan 24-5.1)

b) Parish precept – notice has now been received and returned requesting 5% increase.

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

6) PLANNING Applications

TDCllr James updated meeting upon current planning practices and explained the local needs criteria. Concerns expressed that in Cookbury, modern housing styles had been passed which were not in keeping with the local area, there are sometimes "rough sleepers" and ongoing problems associated with the sale of patches of land on Allens Lane. TDCllr James advised that a list can be sent to him, to apply for enforcement orders for eviction of land squatters.

The danger of the bus stop at Dunsland was highlighted: the PC were advised that they can request a shelter for which Highways would need to give permission – contact James Morrish & Stuart Hughes.

- 1/0924/2022/FULM 2 Jan 24 Stadson Grange Farm, Brandis Corner
change of use, removal of agricultural occupancy, extensions, erection of detached business unit (affecting a public right of way) – *application withdrawn.*
- 1/1171/2023/REM 11 Dec 2023 reserved matters relating to 1/0274/2021/OUT
- *ongoing*
- 1/0949/2023/FUL Helsden Farm
conversion of redundant farm buildings – *permission granted*
- 1/1192/2023/FUL 5 Dec 2023 – Moyles Moor, Dunsland Cross, Brandis Corner, conversion of barn to 1 bed dwelling.
- 1/1145/2023/OUT 22 Nov 2023 – 1 local needs dwelling, Holemoor, Bradford – *supported*

7) CORRESPONDENCE

a) Any correspondence received:

1. Requisition form for full list of electors, signed by Chair to scan and return.
2. E-mail enquiry ref a Squire Daniels: unknown to those present, clerk to forward to Cllr Oke for potential comment.

8) AOB

SW Ambulance, will undertake Defibrillator training for us and is available in April. The PC will pay for the hire of the Village Hall, and donate £100.00 to the trainer. (min ref Jan 24 -5)

Close of this meeting: 8.55pm

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 13th March 2024, 7.30pm