



**Minutes of the Full Town Council on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7pm at Aldersgate Room, Wesleys Methodist Church.**

**Present:** Cllrs Gill Dixon, Gill Jennison, Joe Ashton, Ann Foster, Bill Wyatt-Millington, John Turner, Dave Reed, Richard Knowles, Paul Sharkey, Kate Griffin.

**In attendance:** Cllr Pollard (Ward Member), 3 members of the public

**FC2324/94 Chair's Opening Remarks**

The Chair announced her candidacy for the Labour Party in the up coming local elections for Ward Councillor. As the campaign reaches formal stages the Chair will stand back from a leading/public facing role and Cllr Jennison as Vice Chair will take that role.

Cllr Dixon also announced that, notwithstanding the results of the local elections she would not be standing as Chair of the Town Council but would remain as a Town Councillor.

The situation with the landslip at Baildon Station was described. A meeting had been held between councillors and Friends of Baildon Town Council (FOBS) and other stakeholders such as parents of children impacted due to travel to Guiseley School and other schools. The debate had centred around a) the restoration of the land and b) the inadequacy of the replacement bus transport. FOBS had prepared a letter to Network Rail and this was to be sent by the Clerk. The draft letter was read out. It is felt vital to put pressure on Network Rail as there had been an announcement that the work was extended until mid April. The letter requested an urgent roundtable meeting with all parties to discuss further assistance for children travelling to school.

Litterfree Baildon had started their two week campaign in line with the National Litterfree Campaign and there were litter picks organised throughout the Baildon community. Cllrs were encouraged to take part wherever possibly.

**FC2324/95 Approve Reasons for Absence**

Cllr Town and Cllr Shaw reasons for absence were approved.

**FC2324/96 Disclosures of Interest**

Cllr Ashton declared an interest in relation to the Baildon Civic and Historical Society's application for funding as he was a member of the Society.

**FC 2324/97 Resolved:** The minutes of the Council meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023 were approved.

**FC2324/98 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk presented a written reported and invited any questions. None forthcoming. The Clerk was thanked for their work on the issues raised.

**FC2324/99 Public Participation**

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Cllr Pollard updated on the Baildon Reservoir. The plans for land remediation and restoration to a natural wetland discussed at the meeting with Bradford Council in November 2023 were on hold due to Bradford Council's extremely challenging financial position.

Cllr Dixon asked whether the suggestion to move the management of the reservoir to the Countryside Service had been progressed. This needed to be checked. The situation may improve (eg biodiversity grants and the like) if the whole area becomes a Nature Reserve and the results of the consultation on this were due in May.

**FC2324/100 Important information from Councillors and staff**

Cllr Turner mentioned that the reservoir fencing has blown down.

Cllr Griffin has been investigating flytipping in the Coach Road area.

Cllr Sharkey brought to the attention of Councillors the hoax social media surrounding allegations of knife attacks outside schools. These have been confirmed by Police as false.

Cllr Dixon flagged up that the Wilsden Neighbourhood Development Plan was now out for consultation after taking 9 years to develop.

**Resolved:** The Clerk to send the draft Wilsden plan to councillors

**FC2324/101 BTC Action Plan Six Month Review**

Cllr Dixon presented the Action Plan Review, explained the purpose and objectives of the document and invited questions.

Cllr Sharkey pointed out that Cllr Kean (a former Councillor) needed to be taken off the document and replacing with Cllr Foster.

**Resolved:** Subject to this minor amendment the BTC Action Plan Six Monthly Review was approved.

**FC2324/102 Jenny Lane Playground Update**

Cllr Sharkey updated on progress. Bradford Council had procured a specialist contractor who was due to start in late April. The works would take 6-8 weeks and the playground is due to reopen in June. Funding of £20,000 from Baildon Town Council had enabled Bradford's budget of £60,000 to introduce more play equipment elements. The playground would be more accessible to a greater age range, have surface improvements and keep old favourites such as The Rocket. The contractor would be inviting small groups of school children (via the schools) to look around the playground as it was being constructed and Cllrs would be invited to take part in that activity.

**FC2324/103 Local Council Award Scheme**

The Clerk presented the checklist itemising all the evidence required to apply for this Award and conformation of the existence and location of the evidence. Cllr Jennison had kindly 'sampled' the URLs and they did lead to the requisite evidence.

Cllrs felt that more examples of consulting the community could be added such as NDP consultation, Farmers Market Stall and Contact Point.

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**Resolved:**

- that the Clerk adds a few more examples of community consultation,
- the council confirms that all documentation and information is in place for the Foundation award and where applicable, is published on its website.
- the Clerk is delegated to making of the application.

**FC2324/104 Proposal from the Baildon Civic and Historical Society (BCHS) on Yorkshire Day on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2024.**

Wendy Tonks, Acting Joint Chair of BCHS and Geoffrey Shaw- Champion presented their proposal for £1,000 to support their plans for a week full of events and activities to celebrate the history and culture of Yorkshire. A grant had been secured from Bradford Council. Many different community groups are involved, risk assessment and insurance is being looked into. Involving restaurants, retail and residential homes is also being worked on. BCHS see their role as publicising the range of events and much of the cost is in this advertising.

Cllr Knowles asked that the traditional 'Declaration' from the Chair of the Council to be read out at 11.50 on Yorkshire Day itself or the Saturday nearest and that this event had some ceremony about it.

**Resolved:** to support Baildon Civic and Historical Society with the award of £1,000 to fund Yorkshire Day celebrations from General Reserves.

**FC2324/105 The future of 1-3 Northgate, vision and options for the future of the Baildon Library and Town Council Offices.**

Cllr Dixon introduced a report about the issues, Vision and options related to this building. A meeting had been held with Bradford Libraries, there had been a tour around the inside of the building now it has been stripped out and another meeting was planned to continue working together on possible ways forward. It was felt important that the Town Council had a clear and agreed Vision for the building and what service it could provide to the community. This would guide all future negotiations around the options and indeed funding bids should these be made.

Cllr Wyatt-Millington queried what the capital funding gap actually was. This is approximately a £1million.

Cllr Ashton queried whether BTC might consider borrowing money to help meet the capital funding and this should be kept in mind as part of the future.

Cllr Wyatt-Millington supported the Vision and Cllr Turner stated that we needed a pragmatic way forward and supported the partnership model but there should be caveats on the ownership. There were pros and cons to the Town Council taking on full ownership of the building and maybe a long lease would be more favourable.

Cllr Knowles raised concern about the timescales viz a viz Bradford Council's next budget setting for 2-25/26 – which will be equally if not more challenging than this year – time was of the essence for us to find a partnership which worked.

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Cllr Foster felt we needed to have clear information about the costs and the income from the sale of Ian Clough Hall.

Cllr Sharkey felt that it was likely that the Options would become hybrids with others.

Cllr Ashton felt that all options had to be kept open and the eventual way forward may well be a combination of several. The review of Libraries would be a backdrop to this.

Cllr Dixon felt that a big funding bid would put us in a strong position and that there were schemes out there which could be explored.

**Resolved:**

- Baildon Town Council supports and adopts the vision for 1-3 Northgate as laid out in the Vision Document above.
- Baildon Town Council delegates to the Clerk the research, development and submission of external funding applications to support this Vision in liaison with the Chair or their nominee
- Baildon Town Council delegates to the Clerk, liaising with the Chair and Governance Committee, negotiation of an option for 1-3 Northgate with Bradford Council, to develop a partnership agreement with favourable funding and ownership terms for the long-term benefit of this significant building for Baildon.
- Partnership and other agreements should be brought back to Full Council for final approval.

**FC2324/106 Planning Consultation Process Review**

Cllr Jennison gave the background to the review of the way that the Council deals with commenting on planning applications. Although changes for the past year had worked in some respects, the Council had had a lot of public interest in attending council meetings where planning was on the agenda. Comments on more routine applications had disproportionately fallen to a very small group of Councillors and sometimes planning items on committee agenda had taken up too much of that committee's time. A new approach was needed as described in the report. The review of the process had improved everyone's understanding of how the Town Council relates to planning applications and the Local Planning Authority. A new Planning Committee would only be summoned if necessary.

Cllr Knowles queried whether there should be mention made of substitutes in the Terms of Reference for the new Committee.

Cllr Ashton was concerned that other Committees could still have planning on their agenda unless their Terms of Reference were not amended. However the Clerk advised that this should remain as it was for the trial period of the year.

**Resolved:**

- the creation of a Planning Committee and Terms of Reference
- the Scheme of Delegation to the Clerk for Planning
- the implementation of this new approach starting in May 2024 for a year (to April 2025) with a further

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review in Oct/Nov 2024.

**FC2324/107 To consider and agree a date for a visit/presentation from the Lieutenancy Office.**

Discussion about the approach which had been made offering a visit and a picture of His Majesty the King.

**Resolved:** to invite the Lord Lieutenant or his representative to the first meeting of Council on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024. To politely decline a picture as the Town Council is in temporary accommodation.

**FC2324/108 Schedule of Council Meetings 2024 / 2025**

Discussion of the Calendar of Meetings for 2024/25.

**Resolved:** to agree and accept the dates in the Calendar of Meetings subject to confirmation of Mondays being better for Community Committee.

**FC2324/109 Promotional opportunities**

1-3 Northgate  
Jenny Lane

**FC2324/110 Planning**

24/00622/HOU Front and Rear dormers

**Resolved:** BTC has no comment on this application

**FC2324/110 To notify the Clerk of items for the agenda of the next meeting.**

None

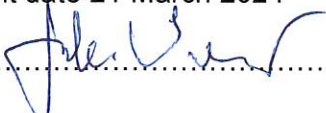
**FC2324/111 Date of next meeting.**

The date of the next meeting is Annual Meeting of Council 7pm 13th May 2024 and First Meeting of Council 7.30pm 13th May 2024.

Town Clerk Tel: 01274 593 169 Email: enquires@baildowntowncouncil.gov.uk

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