

BRIDGTOWN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting.

Wednesday 9th November 2022.

At Bethel Methodist Church

Present:

Cllrs. Val Jones (Chair), Paul Snape, Peter Kruskonjic, Bob Eccleston, Mandy Cook,

In Attendance:

Chris Gracey – Clerk
1 resident

The Chair welcomed Councillors & resident to this month's council meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident commented on a previous road traffic accident in North Street when a lamp post plant holder was damaged and removed by SCC, he asked if it was coming back, the clerk will follow up.

The resident enquired about a car park on Broad Street, which is used by many visitors to the area accessing the businesses, he enquired as to whether it was going to be sold for development. Members discussed the car park and confirmed that the council objected to the land being sold earlier in year and had not heard anything since. Members discussed making the car park an Asset of Community Value, the clerk will enquire with CCDC and obtain the forms. Cllr. Mandy Cook commented that whilst we are applying for one why not apply for all the car parks in Bridgtown, this may be considered once the information comes back on Broad Street.

The resident left the council chamber & the Chairman closed the public participation section at 7.15pm.

1. Apologies received in writing prior to the meeting.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Kevin Whittaker (Vice-chairman) & Matt Freeman.

RESOLVED: To accept the apologies of above Councillors.

2. Declaration of Interests on agenda items and consideration of dispensations where appropriate.

None

3. To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th October 2022

3.1 Members discussed the minutes in detail and agreed the minutes:

This was proposed by Cllr. Val Jones (Chairman), seconded by Cllr. Peter Kruskonjic and carried to approve the minutes.

RESOLVED: MINUTES WERE APPROVED.

4.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes. (Not already on the Agenda)

4.1 Cllr. Bob Eccleston distributed a proforma for the commemorative plaque and Members agreed, proposed by Cllr. Paul Snape seconded by Cllr. Peter Kruskonjic and carried.

5.0 Chairman's Report.

5.1 **Accident at Parish Meeting** – A fall was experienced by a member of the public whilst leaving the Parish meeting at Bethel Church. The member of public was not seriously injured and spent a short time in hospital before returning home to recuperate. An accident report was completed and a minor adjustment made to avoid any further accidents. Flowers and get well wishes were sent by the Parish Council.

Bridgtown Remembrance Parade – was held on the 6th November with good representation from Bridgtown Residents. For the second year 116 Pro Coy RMP, who are based in Bridgtown at the Army Reserve Centre, sent a small detachment and it is hoped that they will be able to continue to do so each year. Civic dignitaries, including Amanda Milling MP and the chairs of both the County and District Councils attended along with the Parish Council Chair and Councillors. Following the Parade a light buffet, funded by the Parish Council, was served at Bridgtown Social Club. A letter of thanks will be sent to the Royal Engineers Association for organising this successful event.

Holiday Inn Refugees Update – letter to Amanda Milling MP the issues with regard to the refugees were fully covered in the Chair's October report with a list of actions undertaken. One action outstanding was a letter to Amanda Milling MP outlining the issues. This has since been actioned and a reply received from the MP. In her response she undertook to write to the Home Minister again and also the Police Inspector, who subsequently confirmed that there had been no change to his previous response from the meeting held with Serco, as reported in the October report.

Bus Services – letter to Amanda Milling MP – as a result of an issue raised by a member of the public regarding the bus services in Bridgtown a letter was sent to the MP. The X51 bus to Birmingham no longer stops in Bridgtown and whilst there are Buses, Nos 1, 70, & 71 that do, they can only be boarded at the Bus Garage stop on Delta Way which is a problem for elderly or frail residents.

- The Bus Operators have argued that there are insufficient passengers on some routes for them to continue offering that service at a loss. As a result when the contract for the bus services was put out to tender only one bus operator applied.
- Neither the District nor County Councils run the buses however, in the past the bus operators were given a subsidy by the County Council but as money became tighter each year this was no longer possible. Although they do still pay for the free bus passes that residents can apply for on their retirement which is currently 66 years of age.

- The MP has replied that she will contact the bus operators and County Council transport co-ordinator. Awaiting a response.
- "Support Staffordshire" is an organisation that offers voluntary transport for the disabled and the elderly. They should know what is available in Bridgtown. The number to ring is 03007771207 between 9am and 1pm.

Restaurant Business in Bridgtown – letter to Amanda Milling - letter to MP re businessman's complaint made at the Parish meeting re impact of refugees at Holiday Inn on his business. The MP's office has responded that the businessman had already contacted the MP who has written to Minister of Business and the Treasury re his claim for compensation.

Holiday Inn U Tube Video – Parish Councillors were made aware of this video by Cllr Ecclestone. The Chair sent it to the Community Safety Hub Lead and Cabinet member for Community Safety who forwarded it to the Police & Serco. Response received was that they were already aware of this video as it has been around since August and that they would continue to monitor the situation.

HGV restriction signs – This issue has been debated in Parish meetings and reported in the Chair's reports. A map was provided to demonstrate the location of the current legally enforceable HGV signs and the 20 speed limit signs. This illustrated that all access roads have a legal HGV weight restriction sign which prohibits HGVs over a specific weight from entering those roads. However this can only be enforced if information on the offending drivers are provided to the Police by the witnesses. Residents have reported difficulty in doing this and an alternative was proposed that where the details (date, time, place) of the incident, along with the name of the company are provided to Parish Councillors, they can forward this to the Parish Clerk who would then write to the company concerned as discussed and agreed at the October meeting. Repeat offenders, where this has not already been done in the first instance, can then be reported by the Clerk to the Police.

6.0 Consideration of reports received from the PCSO.

6.1 None received

7.0 County Councillor's Report

7.1 Cllr. Paul Snape reported on the following:

Speed survey on Laburnam Avenue vehicles average speed was 34mph.

Two complaints from residents attending the Remembrance Sunday parade & service about a member of the council being inappropriately dressed. The Member reported that he had been litter picking and tidying up in the vicinity of the church and memorial gardens to ensure it was tidy for the parade, therefore he was casually dressed.

County Council community funding £700 was awarded to Army Cadets in Bridgtown, Cannock & Hednesford.

8.0 Recreational Areas.

8.1 The Leighton Memorial Garden – No comments

8.2 War Memorial - No comments

8.3 Bridgtown Memorial Gardens & Play Park in Union Street – The Chairman reported that the gardener had commenced the work on clearing the areas of weeds and debris. Volunteer Sue Heath has purchased plants to be planted in the beds for the Autumn/Winter, the gardener will assist in the planting when he has finished the clearance work.

9.0 Adjournment to receive reports from 'Friends of Bridgtown Park'

9.1 Bridgtown Friends of Bridgtown Park – None present

10.0 Planning:

All planning applications have been circulated to Councillors for comment.

10.1 Applications for Consideration - none

10.2 Applications Approved/Rejected by District Council -

CH/20/062 Change of use of rear annexe to studio flat @ 120 Watling Street Bridgtown – withdrawn

CH/22/0324 Prior notification from change of Use Class E to Use Class C (dwellinghouse) @ Poplar Court Union Street Bridgtown - approved

11.0 **Correspondence** – Items of correspondence received during the month are emailed to Councillors, as received and for this month included the following:

11.1 Incoming –

- SPCA Bulletin emailed to council 19th October 2022
- 20's Plenty in Staffordshire remote meeting details email to council 22nd October 2022
- Invitation to a Charity Event from Chairman of CCDC emailed to council 23rd October 2022
- CCDC with details of the proposed development at Laburnum Avenue Open Space initial meeting, represented by Cllr. P.Kruskonjic emailed to council 25th October 2022.
- SPCA Bulletin emailed to councillors 2nd November 2022

11.2 **Outgoing** - None

RESOLVED: ALL RELEVANT POST HAD BEEN CIRCULATED AND NOTED.

12.0 Accounts

12.1 Payments for Approval

Date	Payee	Cheque Nr.	Amount	VAT	Approved/declined
09/11/2022	Cancelled	102082			

09/11/2022	Cancelled	102083		
09/11/2022	Rydan International(Heritage boards)	102084	2374.60(VAT 396.60)	approved
09/11/2022	Bethel Methodist Church (Hall hire 09/11//22)	102085	20.00	approved
09/11/2022	HMRC Clerk's October & November PAYE)	102086	81.40	approved
09/11/2022	C E Gracey Clerk's salary October & November salary)	102087	325.16	approved
09/11/2022	Boundary Fencing & Gate Services Ltd (Replacement barriers)	102088	3172.85(VAT 528.81)	approved
09/11/2022	Gallagher Insurance(2022-23 renewal)	102089	911.17	approved
09/11/2022	S. Heath (plants for gardens & park)	102090	23.98	approved
09/11/2022	K. Punter(Extensive weeding & tidy up at the gardens & park)	102091	80.00	approved
09/11/2022	Cancelled	102092		
09/11/2022	Signcast(Commemorative plaque)	102093	474.00(VAT 79.00)	approved
TOTAL			£7463.16	

RESOLVED: Authorisation of the accounts presented for payment totalling £7384.16 was agreed proposed by the Cllr. Peter Kruskonjic seconded by Cllr. Paul Snape and carried.

12.2 Consideration of the Current financial situation of the Council - The financial statement 1st April to 31st October 2022 was presented, proposed by Cllr. Peter Kruskonjic seconded by Cllr.Val Jones(Chairman) and carried.

12.3 Consideration of infrastructure projects update – Painting of ornamental stands for flower baskets, Cllr. Peter Kruskonjic will confirm the ownership of the stands and a quote will be sought for the work.

12.4 Consideration of any grant funding application opportunities – Nothing to report

12.5 Consideration of any Grant applications received – Christmas at Bethel Church £200 towarded Christmas toys - proposed by Cllr. Bob Eccleston seconded by Cllr. Mandy Cook and carried.

12.6 Approve clerk applying for online banking facility – proposed by Cllr. Peter Kruskonjic seconded by Cllr. Mandy Cook and carried.

12.7 Approve the National Pay Award for the clerk from 1st April 2022 – proposed by Cllr. Peter Kruskonjic seconded by Cllr. Paul Snape & carried.

13.0 Highways Issues - Quote for the Painting of the Hanging Baskets Stands on North Street

13.1 Cllr. Bob Eccleston commented about using local contractors, Members agreed that this was acceptable so long as they were using a cherry picker and appropriate PLI insurance.

14.0 To receive reports from Councillors who have attended outside meetings - None

15.0 HGV Signage – North Street – New Street – Cross Street

15.1 The Chairman Cllr. Val Jones distributed a plan of Bridgtown showing the existing notices and the speed limits. It was agreed that the clerk would write to the companies of the HGV 's driving through the village area of the parish, when the details of ownership and registration number, date and time of the offence, has been forwarded to her by councillors aware of the breach. Cllr Bob Eccleston passed various details to the clerk for previous breaches and recent offenders.

16.0 Hedgerows – Delta Way from Waterbrook Estate to Bridgtown Social Club

16.1 Cllr. Peter Kruskonjic reported that the work was complete apart from the area that belongs to Bromford Housing Association, the housing association will be contacted and asked to either cut the hedge or approve the cost for CCDC to cut the hedge.

17.0 20's Plenty Staffordshire

17.1 Cllr. Paul Snape commented on the problems reducing the speed limit in areas of commercial & residential use. Members discussed other methods of reducing traffic speed and agreed to consider Speed Indicator Devices proposed by Cllr. Paul Snape seconded by Cllr. Mandy Cook and carried. The clerk will obtain the cost .

18.0 Lakeside Boulevard

18.1 No further information.

19.0 New Lamp Posts

19.1 Date for work has not been confirmed, the clerk will follow up.

20.0 Christmas Tree 2022 – Leighton's Memorial Gardens – Approve Risk Assessment

20.1 Members agreed the risk assessment proposed by Cllr. Bob Eccleston seconded by Cllr. Mandy Cook and carried.

21.0 You Tube Video – Holiday Inn

21.1 As discussed in the Chair's Report

22.0 Green Flag Awards

22.1 Cllr. Bob Eccleston asked about the funding to carryout the work to gain awards for certain parks. The clerk reported that there is funding for compiled projects you can't apply for funding without a defined project and maintenance of an area would not meet the criteria.

23.0 Items for Information or Future Agendas

23.1 None

24.0 Date of Next Meeting.

24.1 It was agreed that the next meeting would be Wednesday 25th January 2023

RESOLVED: NEXT MEETING: 25th January 2023

25.0 The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

26.0 Confidential Items – exclusion of the press and public when applicable.

Signed By Chairman

Date