

BRIDGTOWN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting.

Wednesday 10th May 2023

At Bethel Methodist Church

Annual Meeting

1. Election of Chairman

Cllr. Mandy Cook proposed Cllr. Bob Eccleston for the post of Chairman for the coming year, seconded by Cllr. Danielle Zazulak & carried

2. Acceptance

Cllr. Bob Eccleston thanked Members for their support and commented that he was looking forward to working with them.

3. Election of Vice-chairman

Cllr. Roger Thackham proposed Cllr. Richard Craddock for the post of Vice-chairman seconded by Cllr. Mandy Cook & carried.

Annual Parish Assembly

1. **Welcome** The Chairman welcome residents & Members to this year's Assembly.

2. **Residents Open Forum** - Residents raised the following points and concerns:

Parking on East Street with vehicles blocking the footpath and the roadway access – Cllr. Roger Thackham commented that if there are double yellow lines enforcement is present the problem should be reported.

HGV using New Street and getting stuck and asking resident to move their vehicles so that they can get through – *Cllr. Richard Craddock (Vice-chairman) commented if large vehicles are stuck in Bridgtown streets (such as New Street) the problem should be reported to the police, he went on to say the Parish Council will shortly be checking the Parish traffic signage.*

A resident reported an incident to which an arm response officer had responded to a local incident, where is our local police officer? - *The Chairman commented that we do not have a local police office but we do have a PCSO, who we hope to develop a good working relationship with.*

A member of the public reported the lack of litter bin on Walsall Road – Delta Way side of the village.

Clothing bin for the Salvation Army overflowing on the Broad Street car park, the clerk will report.

Fly tipping of furniture at Poplar Mews, the clerk will report to landlord.

A Bridgtown resident made the point that the bus service is inadequate. He brought up many points that people who rely on a public service are let down by busses that don't run to time or don't turn up at all. The fact is no busses run through the centre of the village i.e. North Street where all the bus shelters are. The Chair commented that this is an on-going problem and the PC will report any findings.

The Assembly closed at 7.40pm

Council Meeting

Present:

Cllrs. Bob Eccleston (Chairman), Richard Craddock (Vice-Chairman), Mandy Cook, Jo Hodgkiss, Roger Thackham, Martin Gutowski, Danielle Zazulak

In Attendance:

Chris Gracey – Clerk

7 residents

1. **Apologies** – Sue Heath (Friends of Bridgtown Group) submitted her apologies.

RESOLVED: To accept the apologies of above resident.

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

None

3. To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 29th March 2023

3.1 Members discussed the minutes in detail and agreed the minutes, subject to amendments & corrections as noted in matter arising.

This was proposed by the Chairman seconded by Cllr. Mandy Cook and carried to approve the minutes.

RESOLVED: MINUTES WERE APPROVED.

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

4.1 12.1 on minutes for 29th March 2023 Cllr. Mandy Cook objected to the purchase of bark for the park and gardens.

5.0 Chairman's Report

5.1 None

6.0 Holiday Inn – Update

6.1 The Chairman commented that there seemed to be new residents in the hotel. Cllr. Richard Craddock(Vice-chairman) reported following a complaint of littering made by residents, he checked the surrounding streets and grounds. Members would like an update from Community Officer Bryan Jones, the clerk will contact him. The Chairman reported that maybe more bins are required on Bridge Street and Walsall Road.

7. Consideration of reports received from PCSO

7.1 None received

8.0 Recreational Areas.

8.1 The Leighton Memorial Garden – Volunteers have been carrying out work on the garden, with Spring bulbs flowering and various plants donated by the community and the local businesses, similarly Summer bulbs have also been planted continuing the array of flowers.

8.2 War Memorial – The memorial is the parish council's responsibility, the Vice-chairman has enquired with English Heritage and the stone can be cleaned in the Autumn and he will get a quotation.

8.3 Bridgtown Memorial Gardens & Play Park in Union Street – The Vice-chairman has spoken with Sue Heath who confirmed that the planting in the Memorial Gardens has been vandalised – Knotweed will be treated by CCDC - It was suggested we look into the possibility that damage to the brickwork damage is caused by weathering and that Winters have took their toll, the council want to look at methods of improving the area. A proposal to reduce the height of the hedgerow so that the garden and park are more visible. The clerk will ask for permission to carry out the work. At present work will be stopped until further notice, the clerk will notify the gardener of our decision.. Carpark to the park needs tidying up, bollards need painting, the block paving needs attention. The PC feel the area should be restored to being a good and safe amenity, we will work with the parks department to achieve this.

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

9.1 None

10.0 Planning:

All planning applications have been circulated to Councillors for comment.

10.1 **Applications for Consideration** - CH/23/0175 Proposed change of use from retail workshop to one bedroom apartment at 250a Walsall Road Bridgtown – objections parking issues – safety issues – existing parking issues – overdevelopment

10.2 **Applications Approved/Rejected by District Council** - none

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

- SPCA Bulletin emailed to council 7th May 2023

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
10.05.23	Cancelled	102113			
10.05.23	K Punter (Gardening & membrane)	102114	440.00		Approved
10.05.23	C E Gracey(Clerk's April and May Salary)	102115	325.44		Approved
10.05.23	HMRC(Clerk's PAYE April & May 2023)	102116	81.20		Approved
10.05.23	Bethel Church(Hall hire 10/05/23)	102117	20.00		Approved
10.05.23	Cannock Chase Council(license renewal to maintain memorial area)	102118	8.63		Approved
TOTAL			£875.27		

RESOLVED: Authorisation of the accounts presented for payment totalling £875.27 was agreed proposed by the Cllr. Roger Thackham seconded the Chairman and carried.

12.2 Consideration of the Current financial situation of the Council - The financial statement 1st April to 31st March 2023 was presented, proposed by the Chairman seconded by Cllr.Mandy Cook and carried. The financial statement for 1st April to 30th April 2023 was deferred until the next meeting.

12.3 Chairman's Allowance – It was suggested this monies could be reassigned to the Village Christmas Celebrations held at the Bethel Church.

12.4 Consideration of infrastructure projects update – none

12.5 Consideration of any grant funding application opportunities – An application to the SCC Community Fund will be made for planting throughout the parish, a plan is required showing the planting areas to accompany the application form, the cost of planting will be £500, £250 applied for from the fund matched with £250 from parish council funds, agreed.

12.6 Consideration of any Grant applications received – None

9pm extension agreed

12.7 Review/Approve Financial Regulations deferred

12.8 Approve change of bank mandate to add/remove signatures – It was agreed to add the Chairman, Cllr. Jo Hodgkiss and Cllr. Roger Thackham and remove existing signatures except the clerk.

12.9 Approve AGAR 2022-23 Annual Governance Statement & Dates of the Notice of Exercise of Public Rights – approve by the Chairman Cllr. Bob Eccleston seconded by Cllr. Mandy Cook and carried.

12.10 Hire of hall at Bethel Church – Members discussed it would be better to pay for the hire of the Bethel Church for Parish Council Meetings in advance. We suggested one invoice would cut down on administration for both parties. It was agreed by the Council that we suggest to the Bethel Church that a raise in rent was overdue. It was agreed we would talk to them about a sensible raise.

13.0 Highways Issues -

13.1 The Chairman commented on the reported blocked gullies, reported again 8 have been accepted, 6 rejected and 19 left to consider. The council would like to invite Highways Manager Mark Keeling to a site meeting in Bridgtown to discuss the blocked gullies and other highways problems, residents face around the village. It may then be time to invite him and our county councillor to a Parish Meeting.

14.0 To receive reports from Councillors who have attended outside meetings

14.1 None. It is noted that the new council will have their own roles and responsibilities and these will be determined shortly.

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

15.1 As discussed in the Assembly.

16.0 Lakeside Boulevard

16.1 The Chairman will speak to the developer about the possibility of sighting the King's Coronation Bench on the park area of Lakeside Boulevard.

17.0 New Lamp Posts

17.1 Awaiting date for the commencement of work.

18.0 Council meetings Bi monthly to Monthly

18.1 The situation was considered and it was agreed we would remain at bi monthly meetings.

19.0 Social Media

19.1 The new council have set up social media pages on Facebook, Twitter and Link Tree sites.

20.0 Items for Information or Future Agendas

20.1 Financial Regulations, Standing Orders and Risk Assessment will be reviewed and approved.

21.0 Date of Next Meeting.

21.1 The next meeting would be Wednesday 12th July 2023 at Bethel Church, Union Street Bridgtown.

RESOLVED: NEXT MEETING: 12th July 2023

22.0 The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.40pm.

Signed By Chairman

Date