



# Bridgtown Parish Council

## Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 13th September 2023

Held at:

**Bethel Methodist Church, 12 Union Street, Bridgtown, Cannock, WS11 0BY**

**Present:** Cllrs, Bob Eccleston (Chair), Mandy Cook, Martyn Gutowski, Joanne Hodgkiss (acting Clerk), Roger Thackham

**Absent:** Richard Craddock (Vice Chair), Danielle Zazulak.

**In Attendance:** 4 Residents

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The chairman welcomed residents and members.

Cllr Bob Eccleston advised that he had been in contact with the local bus service provider and there is to be an extra bus (number 1) that will run daily (unfortunately unable to confirm a time as yet) but it will stop at Delta Way towards Great Wyrley/Cheslyn Hay. CCDC are also trying to promote bus passes for over 65's.

It has been raised that September 1<sup>st</sup> has now past and CCDC need to be chased to cut back on the overgrowth, our new councillor Jeff Hill is enthusiastic about supporting Bridgtown and will be approached to try and speed this up and get it actioned. An email is to be sent to CCDC Parks team (Tom Walsh) to try and get a date as to when this will be actioned.

The Highways team at the council have been invited to Bridgtown regarding the chicane's, we will reach out to them again and try and get them to have a walk around with Councillors to see the issues that are ongoing daily.

Mr Leighton has been approached and he has confirmed he is dealing with the Remembrance Service for Bridgtown (awaiting confirmation of date for Bridgtown service), and the Parish council are looking at having the memorial professionally cleaned. There is a new Minister for The Bethel and the Remembrance service will be her first Service. As many residents/businesses as possible are invited to both services. The council will approach the school to engage the children in making displays of poppies for the Memorial. Anglesey House Nursery are looking at doing an event for the children in the week prior to the service to include the children marching in period costume to the Memorial and Councillors have been invited to take part/observe.

Everybody is invited to take part in a little Halloween competition, businesses, houses, etc to dress your house, shop and there will be a small prize for the best dressed (judged by the Parish council). This will be followed by Xmas light up of Bridgtown, starting with Leighton Memorial Garden where there will be hot toddies (the pub will provide access to bathroom and log fire).

### **Council Meeting**

1. **Apologies received in writing prior to the meeting.**  
Danielle Zazulak
2. **Declaration of Interests on agenda items and consideration of dispensations where appropriate.**  
None
3. **Bridgtown Parish Council meeting minutes:**  
To Approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023. Proposed by Cllr Roger Thackham, seconded by Cllr Mandy Cook, and carried unanimously.
4. **Correspondence & Reports**
  - 4.1. Report received from PCSO Hannah Fearnall (unable to attend due to it being her day off) – no detail on the report, missing dates, postcodes, detail. The report has been shown to a District Councillor for advice who will approach the PCSO's for more detail going forward.
  - 4.2. SPCA Bulletin – 17th July 2023 – Councillor Fundamentals (all councillors encouraged to go on the course)

**5. Accounts**

5.1. Financial Overview – There are now 3 Councillors on the Bank Account and the Bank Mandate is finally in place

5.2 Payments for Approval.

Payments have been previously approved and now the bank issue is resolved the following cheques have been issued.

CCDC – May Election

Kim Punter – Gardner

Cllr Richard Craddock – reimbursement of PC Paramedics IT invoice (Paid on behalf of BPC while bank was being sorted)

**6. Funding & Grants**

Currently have access to £13500 (approx.) from Levelling up/UKSPF monies and with the aid of Angela Hains from CCDC, ideas for spending are tools (to clean/maintain local area), popup gazebo, banners (inc logo's), benches, flowers/bulbs/compost/winter plants, transport of xmas streetlights (that for 2023 are to be loaned to Cannock), Christmas trees, tree lights, xmas presents for children, cleaning of the War Memorial by professionals. The aim of the Parish council is to source local and any local businesses that are not currently on the CCDC preferred supplier list, we want to complete the paperwork to have them added.

**7. Resignation of Cllr. Richard Craddock**

Following on from a message sent to Cllr Richard Craddock requesting clarification of his role within the PC (and an email from Cllr Mandy Cook), Cllr Bob Eccleston has taken advice from Steve Partridge at CCDC electoral office. It was confirmed that Cllr Craddock was told twice by the electoral office that he should formally write to the Chairman of the PC with his resignation or to not attend any meetings for 6 months. Steve Partridge has requested to be copied in on any correspondence.

**8. Date of next meeting: 8th November 2023, 19:00, Bethel Methodist Church.**

**9. AOB**

9.1. Suggestions of start up of a youth club to be hosted in The Bethel, all details are to be investigated, discussed, and confirmed, this is just at the idea at the moment.

9.2. We are still looking for a Clerk and CCDC have suggested approaching Norton PC and Heath Hayes PC Clerks to see if they would be interested

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed at 20.25

25<sup>th</sup> September 2023  
Cllr. Mandy Cook

Signed By Chairman .....

Date .....