



BRADNINCH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES

The Guildhall
Brad n i n c h
Exeter, Devon

Minutes of the Bradninch Town Council Recreation and Amenities Committee
Tuesday 26th March 2024, 7.30pm, the Guildhall

Present: Cllr S Birley, Cllr S Crawford, Cllr S Glendinning, Cllr I Wild. One member of the public was in attendance from 8.30pm. Due to the absence of the Clerk, it was RESOLVED that Cllr Crawford take the meeting and Cllr Birley take the minutes. It was further RESOLVED to postpone the public open session until the end of the meeting to accommodate the arrival of a member of the recently ceased Wetlands Management Group.

R/23/25 Apologies: Received and accepted from Cllr E Ottery (childcare), Cllr M Taylor (work), Cllr L Taylor (childcare). Cllr L Mottram, not currently a member of the Committee, had wanted to attend to partake in the Wetlands discussion but had a prior commitment.

R/23/26 Declarations of Interest relating to items on this agenda: None.

R/23/27 Updates since the last Committee meeting:

a) **New roundabout:** Installation and funding – due to Cllr L Taylor not being present it was REOSLVED to add this matter to the April Town Council meeting in order to receive an update on the S106 funding ‘swap’ from Townlands to the new roundabout fund which was being overseen by Cllr L Taylor.

b) **Solar lights:** Cllr Birley reported that the two solar lights positioned on the fence at the Recreation Ground had been stolen within a few weeks of being installed. It was RESOLVED to spend up to £50 of the Committee’s annual funding allowance to purchase a replacement light to be positioned on the lamp post near the Bowling Green speed bump. Cllr Crawford would update the Clerk accordingly and request that the light be purchased.

c) **Broken twisting seat equipment:** Pending a site visit and quote from Yates Playgrounds when the new roundabout is installed.

d) **Basket swing surfacing:** Pending renewal from Yates Playgrounds when the new roundabout is installed.

e) **Tractor Springy:** Pending a site visit and quote from Yates Playgrounds when the new roundabout is installed.

With regard to items c), d) and e), it was RESOLVED to revisit these items once the Yates Playgrounds site visit has been completed and relevant quotes are available.

f) **Painting of the slide and goal posts:** Cllr S Glendinning declared an interest in this matter due to being related to the contractor. As Cllr Glendinning had not obtained an update from the contractor regarding when the painting would be carried out, Cllr Birley agreed to investigate the timings.

g) **Townlands picnic seats/benches:** Cllr Birley reported that the equipment had not yet been installed and that they remained flat packed in his garden. Cllrs Glendinning and Crawford agreed to help with the installation which Cllr Birley would organise as soon as the weather improved.

R/23/28 Duchy of Cornwall increase in annual rent for Charwell Wetlands: The information received was considered and it was RESOLVED to put the matter to full Council.

R/23/29 Cigarette butt bins for bus stops: It was RESOLVED to postpone this matter until the new Town Warden was in place.

R/23/30 Deodorant canisters found at the Recreation Ground: Cllr Birley had found deodorant canisters at the Recreation Ground whilst covering the Caretaker's duties recently. As this information was of concern, it was RESOLVED that any further findings of this nature should be reported to the Police.

R/23/31 Annual property inspection: The idea of splitting the annual inspection meeting into two separate meetings was considered. Cllr Crawford raised concerns about committee members being able to attend an additional meeting but accepted that two meetings would be a good idea. It was RESOLVED to try the two meetings idea this year and to consider the way forward thereafter. It was further RESOLVED that the Cllr overseeing the 'footpath' role would be asked annually to check the state of the Council owned benches ahead of any inspection meeting so as to save time.

R/23/32 Town Warden position: Cllr Crawford reported that the Town Warden Steering Group had met. Costing information had been presented to Cllr Glendinning, as Chair of the Finance Committee, and HR matters had been presented to Cllr Ottery, due to her expertise in this area, for consideration. The matter would be further considered at the April Town Council meeting.

R/23/33 Councillor/Clerk comments (no decision making): None.

R/23/34 Date of the next meeting: Scheduled for May 22nd 2024.

Standing Orders suspended.

Public Open Session – to consider the future of the Charwell Wetlands Nature Reserve: A member of the recently ceased Wetlands Management Group was present and explained the current situation regarding the cessation of the Management Group and ideas for the future of the site. It was noted that the group had approximately £400 held in funding and that it owned a strimmer.

Standing Orders resumed. It was RESOLVED that full Council should be asked to consider the following points at the April meeting in order to take things forward:

- (a) What the community can do towards the upkeep and on-going management of the site.
- (b) What the council may be able to fund towards the upkeep and on-going management of the site.
- (c) As a last resort, should the site be handed back to the Duchy of Cornwall.

Cllr Crawford commented that, whilst the idea of the Wetlands being managed as a community asset/project is a good one, the site is too big to be managed as a community space unless funding is found. It was noted that Cllr Mottram was keen to be involved with discussions on the future of the site. It was RESOLVED to put the matter of the future of the Wetlands to full Council and to follow this up at the next Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting. Cllr Ottery would be asked to put a message on social media asking for anyone interested in being part of the Wetlands future to attend the April 8th full Council meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.58pm