



BRADNINCH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES

**The Guildhall
Bradninch
Exeter, Devon**

Minutes of the Bradninch Town Council Recreation and Amenities Committee Meeting
Wednesday 28th May 2025, 7pm, the Guildhall, Bradninch

Present: Cllr S Crawford (Chair), Cllr S Birley, Cllr S Glendinning.

In attendance: Mrs A Marshall, Clerk, and Mr J Shazell, Town Warden.

Public Open Session: None.

R/25/01 Apologies: Accepted from Cllr L Mottram, sick, and Cllr I Wild, family commitment.

R/25/02 Declarations of Interest relating to items on this agenda: None.

R/25/03 Appointment of a Committee Deputy Chairman: RESOLVED to postpone this item until the next meeting.

R/25/04 Charwell Wetlands: Cllr Birley reported that the working group had recently met on site to consider progress. 15 different bird songs had been identified during the 40 minute meeting. Consideration had been given to the creating of a large pond for wildlife. The next meeting would take place in June and the working group was on track to put a plan to full Council, regarding the future of the site, by November this year. The working group continues to investigate available funding. A recent wildlife survey had provided positive results about the site. More residents were now using the site, dogs were largely being kept on leads and positive feedback, regarding site progress, continued to be received from residents. The Town Warden had carried out brush cutting, to clear the entrance and paths, and an area had been cleared for the use of youth groups.

R/25/05 The 2025 RoSPA Report: The report was considered and the Town Warden, who had attended the inspection, reported that the event had been worthwhile. Most matters raised by the report had already been rectified, including the swing links, zip wire tensioning and the A frame repairs. Attention to the wooden shelter was required, due to rotting wood, and this was considered. The Town Warden would make recommendations to full Council suggesting that he could make good the shelter for approximately £800 in materials. It was RESOLVED to recommend to full Council that the Town Wardens recommendations be accepted and that the funding be taken from the earmarked reserves for play equipment repairs. All present agreed that the Recreation Ground is currently looking in good order, especially now that the fencing had been jet washed.

R/25/06 Play equipment repairs and replacements: The Activity Unit with Rotator remained broken, but safe to play on, as the swing no longer rotates. Ideas to replace this equipment, supplied by Green Scheme, were considered and, for the time being, rejected. It was RESOLVED that the Town Warden should try to source the part to fix the swing prior to considering replacing the equipment further (by way of the roundabout funds already in reserves as previously resolved). If the equipment was to be replaced, monkey bars had been suggested by local children.

It had been confirmed by the Town Warden and Tree Warden that the new tree in the Rec was being watered regularly although it currently does not look too healthy. Those present were reassured that the tree would recover over the next few months.

R/25/07 Section 106 funding: MDDC's latest report showed funding of £1,422 available for the Townlands Play Park but none available for the Rec. A resident had suggested placing surfacing under the new picnic tables and/or installing a Spinner Bowl at the Townlands site. Following discussion it was considered that the picnic tables do not need surfacing underneath them, and as the Town Council does not own the play park it did not want to spend funds on new equipment. It was instead RESOLVED to recommend to full Council that an additional adult bench be purchased with the funds, Cllr Crawford would investigate options.

R/25/08 Purchase of a wood chipper: The Town Warden had requested a chipper to enable branches/wood/tree trimmings to be recycled and placed at the allotment site for allotment holders to use. It was thought that a second hand machine would cost in the region of £500. Wood is currently being stock piled. A licence is held for one van trip to the tip per month but this is not sufficient. Those present would not recommend burning the wood. It was RESOLVED to defer this matter until towards the end of the financial year when the Council's 'free funds' situation could be reviewed to see whether funding for a chipper was available.

R/25/09 Town Warden training:

- a) Play equipment inspection training by RoSPA Playsafety – DALC had confirmed that *whist an independent annual play equipment inspection is not compulsory, it does highlight any issues, helps minimise accidents and claims, prolongs the life of play equipment, provides a Council with peace of mind and helps avoid litigation. In general, it spreads the Council's risk.* Further to consideration it was RESOLVED that the Town Warden attend a 1 day RoSPA Playsafety Routine Playground Inspection Course at a cost of £315 plus VAT to uplift knowledge on equipment checking, and to continue with annual independent inspections. Clerk to make the arrangements. Training budget is in place.
- b) Weed control spraying training – to allow the Council flexibility with future weed control, it was RESOLVED that the Town Warden attend a 3 day PA1 and PA6 'Safe Use of Pesticides' course with exam at a cost of £505 at the Duchy College. Mileage to be paid for the 3 return trips to Callington. Clerk to arrange, budget in place.

R/25/10 Covered bus shelters: Following a request from a resident for more bus shelters in the town, and to a resident offering £2,000 towards the project, it was RESOLVED to ask the Town Warden for costings and a plan should he be interested in making a shelter. The site agreed for a new shelter was on Hele Road by Townlands, on the Townlands side. The existing bench would need to remain in situ and a notice regarding the donation would need to be installed. The Town Warden would provide costings and a plan to full Council at the September meeting in order that a decision could be made whether to progress with the project. The Clerk would look into whether planning permission was required and would ask Stagecoach and the new County Councillor whether funding was available.

R/25/11 Recreation Ground lamp post lighting: Due to the high cost of the current electricity arrangement with EDF for the two lamp posts at the Rec, consideration was given to changing the supplier and to the use of solar lights instead of electric. It was RESOLVED to ask EDF to install a meter and to reduce the current tariff costs. Cllr Crawford would look into alternative suppliers. The solar option was deemed not to be as reliable as the electric option so was put on hold at this time. Cllr Crawford would put recommendations forward, on behalf of the Committee, at the July full Council meeting in order that a way forward could be agreed. It was noted that the current financial year's electricity budget would not cover the electricity costs as they currently stand for the whole year which could leave a substantial shortfall at year end.

R/25/12 Speeding Traffic: Cllr Birley reported that residents were concerned about speeding traffic on Saturday mornings along Kensham Avenue, due to people attending cricket and football events, as children play on the grass verges at the side of the road. Residents are worried that a child could be injured if traffic does not slow down. It was confirmed that the '20 is plenty' sign is still in place and that there is, unfortunately, little more that the Town Council could do about this. It was RESOLVED to write to the sports clubs making them aware of the situation and asking them to remind members and visitors to drive slowly and carefully along all local roads. Cllr Birley would assist the Clerk in this matter. A third VAS pole at this location could be a consideration for the future.

R/25/13 Councillor/Clerk comments (no decision making): Cllr Crawford reported that Hen Street stream had been cleared yesterday. He had recently met with the Town Warden regarding the future clearing of the stream and its banks and a recommendation would be put to full Council about this in the near future. All present requested that full Council be asked to add the Town Warden as a Recreation and Amenities Committee member.

R/25/14 Date of the next Committee meeting: Scheduled for 30th July 2025 which would be the annual property inspection starting at the Rec at 6pm. The meeting would then move onto the Tennis Club, Bowling Club, Football Club and Cricket Club. The annual inspection of West End Hall would follow as a separate meeting, details to be arranged.

The meeting closed at 8.27pm