



BRADNINCH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

The Guildhall
Bradninch
Exeter, Devon

Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee Tuesday 24th March 2026, 7pm, The Guildhall, Bradninch

Present: Cllr Lefebvre (Chair), Cllr Birley, Cllr Wild, Cllr Bellamy, Cllr Mottram.

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

R/25/37 Apologies for absence: Received and accepted from Cllr Glendinning, family commitment, and Cllr L Taylor, work commitment.

R/25/38 Declarations of Interest relating to items on this agenda: None at this point.

R/25/39 Recreation ground replacement shelter: The proposals for the replacement shelter had been agreed by full Council at the March meeting and the drawings were being finalised by the Town Warden. Tender documents, with the final plans, would be put to full Council shortly. The proposals would be run past the RoSPA inspector to check compliance.

R/25/40 Recreation ground electricity supply: RoSPA had reported that surface mounted electric cables would not form, or interfere with, the independent annual play equipment inspections. With regards to safety, it reported that no advice could be given on this and recommended that relevant rules and requirements should be investigated and that inspections by a competent person(s) should be carried out. RESOLVED to move forward with the surface mounted cables in order to connect the lamp post electricity to the tennis court supply, and to advise the tennis club accordingly. The electrician would be asked to supply recommendations with regards to whether it would be best to have the cables surface mounted or slightly buried, how this would be achieved, that all required standards would be met and that his works would be guaranteed. Relevant signage would need to be put in place.

R/25/41 Hele Road:

a) New bus shelter: Grant funding had been agreed by Devon County Council for the building of a new Oak bus shelter at Townlands, Hele Road, by the Town Warden. An underground utility survey would be required and although ordered through DCC it was RESOLVED that the Clerk should obtain this, at little or no cost, through the 'Line Search Before You Dig' website. Checks to ensure South West Water utilities were included should be made. The Town Warden would create a risk assessment, method statement and scope of works to be presented to full Council prior to the start of the build planned for May this year.

b) Second new bus shelter: A resident had pledged funding for a second new bus shelter, possibly at the bottom of Westfield, should the requested grant funding not be forthcoming. Noted.

c) Hele Road grass cutting: Following a further request for information from a resident as to why the Fore Street grass cutting had remained within the town council's grounds maintenance contract whereas the Hele Road grass cutting had reverted to the responsibility of DCC, it was RESOLVED to advise the enquirer that the Fore Street grass cutting had been retained under the town council's management on the advice of the previous grounds maintenance contractor. Other areas around the town had been handed back to the authorities responsible for the relevant grass cutting, DCC or MDDC, to save on town council funds and annual costs to residents. The contract changes would be monitored by the town council and action would be taken if and when felt required. A response to a recent social media post, to clarify the grass cutting changes in general, would be replied to.

R/25/42 Charwell Wetlands: Cllr Mottram reported that the working group continued to do a great job on site. Grant funding applications/enquiries had been submitted and responses were awaited. Cllr Bellamy reported that a Water Rail bird had been seen on site recently, along with visiting ducks. All present were pleased to hear that the site was now being well used by a large number of people. The Duchy of Cornwall had confirmed by email that the current lease expires in 2037. RESOLVED to recommend to full Council that permission be given for shrubs and trees be obtained from the Woodland Trust in order to extend the hedgerow, Cllr Mottram to oversee. The Clerk would seek permission from the Duchy as Landlords. Cllr Mottram would supply a map. The Town Warden would start work on fixing the bridges now that the required and agreed sleepers had been obtained.

R/25/43 Inspection of West End Hall: The feedback from Cllr Wild was considered and it was RESOLVED to accept the recommendations put forward as follows –

- a) Stop cock – Clerk to investigate the results of the South West Water inspection.
- b) Weeds – add to Town Warden spraying rota.
- c) Litter – advise tenants of the responsibility to pick up litter.
- d) Storage cupboard containing flammable liquids – advise tenants of responsibility to keep hazardous liquids safe and to use relevant signage.
- e) Electric appliances – advise tenants to have belongings such as kettles/microwaves checked in accordance with rules.
- f) Electric appliances – check with Cllr Andrews regarding annual PAT testing of Council owned items.
- g) Fire door – Town Warden to fix the current issue and to obtain a quote for a new door.
- h) Drain pipes – Town Warden to apply minor fixes.
- i) Fire exit concrete landing – monitor. Obtain quotes for fixing when felt necessary.
- j) External pointing, brickwork and window arches – recommend to full Council that professional advice is sought.
- k) It had been reported that the heat detector in the kitchen had expired in January 2025, and that the Co2 detectors may need moving. RESOLVED that the Town Warden should look into this and make any necessary amendments or recommendations.

R/25/44 RoSPA play equipment inspection: The annual inspection remained pending.

R/25/45 Zip Wire: Further to the Town Warden reporting that the wooden uprights were showing signs of rot, inspections on the equipment had increased. Further consideration would be given as to how to take the matter forward once the RoSPA report had been received. It was noted that a resident who had given funding towards a new roundabout, a project no longer needed, had suggested that the funds go towards fixing the zip wire. Noted.

R/25/46 Councillor/Clerk comments and any updates since the last meeting:

- a) Connecting the Culm:** Cllr Mottram would attend the upcoming forum and report back anything relevant to Bradninch.
- b) New play equipment** - Cllr Birley had received feedback from local youngsters suggesting that monkey bars and a trampoline would be a great addition to the existing play equipment should funds become available.
- c) Townlands Play Park S106 application** – the Clerk reported that MDDC had agreed the application for 2 new benches and that the funding was expected shortly.

R/25/47 Date of the next Committee meeting: To be advised.
The meeting closed at 8.20pm