**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on**

**Monday 20th March 2023 at 7pm**

# Present:

Cllrs G Dixon, J Ashton, D Reed, A Foster, G Jennison, B Wyatt-Millington and R Knowles

**Apologies:**

Cllrs J Kean, P Sharkey, S Hewitson

Informal – Bradford Council Ward Officers Drop In – The Ward Officers (Wendy Fisher, Ross Collard and Marcia Churley) attended to provide Councillors a brief update on the Baildon Ward Plan as well as an introduction into the work they do.

Carys Bose also attended on behalf of Bradfords youth provision and provided an update on the work undertaken in Baildon. Lucy Maddison also provided a brief update on youth provision at Baildon Community Link.

# FC2223/57 Chair’s opening remarks

# The Chair introduced Helen Thornton, the incoming new Town Clerk (who was in attendance as a member of the public).

The Chair commented on the upcoming elections and the need to continue to promote and advertise the same.

The Chair updated Council on the funding to Baildon primary schools in relation to the cost-of-living increases. Baildon Town Council allocated £10,000.00 to help those in financial difficulty. A written progress report was tabled. Cllrs Dixon and Foster had visited all 4 schools on 17th March 2023 and all allocations were fully signed and will now be paid.

**FC2223/58 Approve Reasons for Absence**

**Resolved unanimously to approve reasons for absence of Cllr Hewitson, Sharkey and Kean.**

**FC2223/59 Declaration of Interests**

Cllr Ashton declared his interest in the investment opportunity as an employee of Shipley Town Council.

**FC2223/60 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**Resolved to approve the minutes of Full Council 20th March 2023.**

**FC2223/61 Clerks Report**

None

**FC2223/62 Public Participation**

Jon Turner enquired as to whether the gas markers on the moor are permanent.

Cllr Pollard provided an update and confirmed that they will likely be there to stay as they are markers for high pressure gas pipeline. Cllr Pollard advised that Northern Gas’ regulator confirmed they were there to stay.

Cllr Dixon asked that the Bradford Councillors pursue this issue if possible.

**FC2223/63 Important Information From Councillors and Staff**

Cllr Foster advised on the road closure courses (of which funding was agreed at Governance) and that they are currently looking to collect a group of individuals to take part.

Cllr Foster also advised on a buddy system for new councillors, along with an induction pack which was agreed at Governance.

It was also noted that the Baildon Town Council information stall at Baildon Farmers Market will recommence April – October. Councillors were requested to sign up to the rota.

Cllr Knowles noted that the Tramtrain proposal was not included on the agenda.

Cllr Dixon advised that it will be included at the next meeting.

**FC2223/64 Baildon Town Council Action Plan 2022 / 2023 – Mid Term Progress Report**

Cllr Dixon advised on the updated Action Plan and noted that the same should have been presented sooner.

The Action Plan was noted.

**Action – Add Bradford City of Culture.**

**FC2223/65 Baildon Horticultural Society Project**

Cllr Reed gave a brief overview of the proposed project as the same had previously been brought to the Community Committee.

John Turner gave a detailed report on the project:

* Funding is needed for power – be that via a generator or solar.
* BHS hope to open the project by 1st June 2023.
* The project will be a big boost to an area that does not have a lot of community activities.

**Resolved to award £1500 to BHS from Allotment Reserves towards the costs of this project.**

**FC2223/66 War Memorial House**

John Turner provided an update confirming that an appraisal is soon to take place which shows Bradford Council are serious about possibly transferring the property.

The Flower Fund Homes proposal is to take over and renovate the property.

Cllr Dixon recorded her thanks on behalf of the Council to the action group who have got the project to this stage.

Cllr Pollard commented that he fully supports this project but noted that there is a long way to go.

John Turners report was received and noted.

**Resolved that Baildon Town Council fully support this project and hope for a swift conclusion.**

**FC2223/67 Coronation Celebrations**

Cllr Jennison provided an update on the upcoming coronation musical afternoon, as well as some possible ideas for ways for the Council to mark the day.

**Resolved to allocate the £3000 from the coronation budget line to the coronation and delegate the same to the Clerk. The same may be spent on the following, and in this priority order:**

1. **Anything required to facilitate, promote or assist the musical afternoon.**
2. **Coronation bench**
3. **Supporting community hubs**

**FC2223/68 Baildon Civic / Historic Society**

Cllr Knowles provided a detailed report / proposal regarding the formation of a Civic Society and a Historical Society.

Bradford Councillors in attendance voiced their support for the idea.

**Resolved to:**

* **Approve in principle moves to establish a Baildon Civic Society and appoint Cllr Richard Knowles as lead councillor and representative of BTC in this matter.**
* **Receive a further report in due course should there be community support for this.**

**FC2223/69 Proposal to Change the Way BTC Responds to Planning Applications**

Cllr Jennison provided a detailed proposal and the current issues the Planning Committee face were discussed.

The proposal involves disbanding the Planning Committee and reviewing planning applications at all other Council / committee meetings.

It was noted that highways issues would fall under the remit of the Economy committee. Should an extraordinary meeting be required, it would be assessed which committee the relevant application is most suitable for (eg, an application for planning on a green space would likely fall to the Environment Committee).

Resolved:

1. To dis-band the Planning Committee from May 2023
2. To improve information on BTC website regarding where and when we consider planning applications
3. To amend all Terms of Reference as set out in the report for approval at the first meeting of Council (May 20th 2023), and any consequent changes needed in other documents such as Standing Orders
4. To run this new system as a trial until May 2024, with a 6 month review in October / November.

**FC2223/70 Schedule of Meetings**

**Resolved unanimously:**

* **To remove Planning Committee meetings from the 2023 / 2024 calendar.**
* **That the January Governance to be moved to 29th January**
* **That the Annual Town Meeting date to be reviewed**

**FC2223/71 Committee Membership**

No changes to note.

**FC2223/72 Investment Opportunity**

Council reviewed and discussed details of an investment opportunity pursued by the previous Clerk.

The investment would be for 1 year (short term) and is something that the internal auditor had recommended previously. The funds used would be taken from general reserves.

**Resolved to approve the investment of £100,000 (from general reserves) into the very low risk Public Sector Deposit Fund in order to generate interest income, as recommended by the internal auditor and our RFO, and delegate implementation to the new Clerk.**

**FC2223/73 Promotional Opportunities**

* Schools (Cost of Living)
* Youth Work at Baildon Link
* Planning update
* Civic and Historical Society
* Baildon Horticultural Society
* Elections

**FC2223/74 Next Meeting Date**

22nd May 2023.