

BINGLEY TOWN COUNCIL



Bingley Town Council, Mrytle Place, Bingley, BD16 2LF

ANNUAL MEETING FOR THE PARISH OF BINGLEY

Tuesday 4th May 2021 6.00PM

Held remotely via Zoom

Chaired by Councillor Helen Owen, Chair of Bingley Town Council and minutes taken by the Administrative Officer, Ruth Thompson.

Also present: Councillors Barton, Clough, Goode, Pennington, Taylor, Truelove, Williams and Winnard.

Thirteen members of the public.

1. Welcome by Councillor Owen, Chair, Bingley Town Council.

Councillor Owen welcome to the 4th Annual Town Meeting for Bingley Parish advising that it should have been the fifth but last year's meeting had to be cancelled due to Covid restrictions.

Councillor Owen advised that, following Government guidance, BTC will be returning to face to meetings from Thursday May 6th. Further details will be published on the website. Thanks were given to Councillors Taylor, Goode and Williams for their work on researching and planning measures to allow in person and hybrid meetings to be held in a Covid-safe environment. Sub-committee and working groups will however still take place remotely until further notice.

Local and Mayoral elections take place on Thursday and two new councillors for Priestthorpe Ward will be elected. The recent resignation of Cllr Brazendale means there is a vacancy in the Crownest Ward to be filled. Notice of the vacancy has been posted by BMDC electoral services.

The next Full council meeting on May 25th is preceded by the Annual council Meeting at which the Chair of the Council and Chairs of the committees and sub – committee will be elected.

Councillor Owen informed the meeting that Cllrs Richard Holmes Ros Dawson and Edwina Simpson resigned in 2020 and that Councillor Mick Taylor was co-opted to BTC for Central Bingley. Councillor Owen thanked all councillors who've continued to work so hard for BTC.

Councillor Owen advised that Laura Jowett (Admin Officer) and Ruth Batterley (Town Clerk) both resigned in 2021. Councillor Owen noted that they had both been superb employees.

In terms of current staffing, Councillor Owen advised that the council has a locum Clerk Tracy Predeth. Nicola Mansfield Smith has been appointed as Deputy Clerk and Ruth Thompson is employed as a part time Administrative officer.

Councillor Owen commented that during the pandemic many of the Council's public facing activities were necessarily halted, such as Green and Clean projects, litter picks, the markets and Play in the Park. The

Council is looking forward to resuming these in the very near future. However, despite the many difficulties, the work of the Council did not stop.

In 2020 the street furniture and lighting renovation project was completed. This has made a huge difference to the 'look' of the town centre. The floral displays in the centre of town and in the villages were maintained and the provision of bedding plants to various community groups continued.

Although the Chamber of Trade Big Lights Switch on was cancelled, BTC provided a Christmas Tree and continued to replace festive lights in the town centre and to roll out provision of these in the district.

The council continues to actively campaign for and promote the needs of Bingley to BMDC on matters such as: the provision of Pedestrian Crossings, maintaining a library service in Bingley, improvements to Car parking in the town, and in responding in detail to the recently published Local Plan. The Council fully support the efforts of FOBP and is ready to respond to requests for support from this group when needed.

The new office building 'The Hub' and public toilets were completed and opened for use in September. The toilets are very well used. Staff have been working from home since last March. We look forward to the office being properly occupied and open to the public in the coming months.

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group has continued to meet and to complete the first draft of the NP. This has included the commission of a Master Plan and Design Code from AECOM, which sets out the vision for the future of Bingley. The next step for this is for the plan to go to BMDC for what is called section 14 Consultation for acceptance by the statutory authority. Once this is complete, a referendum will be held with all Bingley residents before the end of the year. The draft plan and associated documents are available on the website.

The Changing Place working group continues to meet monthly. The BTC set aside £40,000 towards the cost of installation of a CP facility in this year's budget and the working group are actively seeking funds via other sources. Planning permission is now being sought for the extension to the Office building for a CP facility. These working groups, as well as the Climate Emergency Working Group and the Events Marketing and Communications committee include residents as well as councillors and their contributions, time and efforts are highly valued.

Last year the market was held in February, March, August and September and resumed again in April this year. Despite the cancellations, traders have been keen to return. It is hoped that Charity Stalls and entertainment will be able to return by July

BTC continues to meet its statutory duties in the management of the Allotments at Beck Lane and Stanley St.

The Council has continued to provide over 30 Grit Bins in the district and to add and replace litter bins in key areas.

During the pandemic Bingley Town Council has supported the work of local volunteer groups, particularly the Food Bank and Community Kitchen. A Community Partnership has been formed, led by Marcia Churley Ward Officer for Bingley and Baildon. This group aims to work together, share good practice and information on initiatives which support the most vulnerable and isolated. It includes the Bingley Befriending Service, Community Kitchen, Food Bank and local churches.

Councillor Owen noted that there has been a disappointing rise in the amount of litter in different areas during the lockdown, especially in the parks and open spaces. However there has been a rise in the number of volunteer litter champions who have taken responsibility for their local areas and go out regularly with their pickers, bags and hi-vis jackets.

More volunteers are welcome. The first full community Litter Pick this year will be on 26th June at 10.00 am. Meet by the Council Hub. Other areas will be announced in advance.

Councillor Owen advised that the Play in the Park summer holiday scheme will return in late July and there will be events in Myrtle Park, Gilstead Rec, Cottingley Rec, Crossflatts Rec, and Eldwick park . Dates will be confirmed via website and Social Media.

Councillor Owen commented that despite the difficulties of the last year many volunteer groups in Bingley have continued to work together and to improve Bingley for the benefit of all. These included: Friends of Myrtle Park, Friends of Prince of Wales Park, Friends of Bingley Pool, Action Stations, Cottingley Community Association, the Village Societies in Eldwick, Crossflatts, Micklethwaite and Gilstead and the Bingley Bloomers. Councillor Owen noted that Bingley was very fortunate to have so many dedicated people who have such a community spirit and love of their home town and gave heartfelt thanks to all.

Councillor Owen welcome representatives from some of the groups and charities who have benefitted from the Bingley Town Council Grants Scheme. Councillor Owen noted that It is was a privilege to be able to support this work. Councillor Owen reminded attendees that the next round of grant awards is in June, and asked for grant applications to be submitted by 15th May. Applicants should contact deputy@bingleytowncouncil.gov.uk for advice and application forms.

Finally, Councillor Owen gave thanks to everyone who attend the meeting

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were noted from Councillor Druquer, Councillor Heseltine and Jamie Illingworth. Condolences were extended to Councillor Heseltine and his family

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7th March 2019_ were approved.

4. Presentations by guest speakers

Unfortunately, the guest speaker was not in attendance so no presentation was given.

5. To receive reports and phots from grant recipients

The following reports were received:

Bingley Arts Theatre. Ian Smithson described how funds had been used to purchase a new cinema screen. Covid restrictions allowing, the screen will be in action on May 25th for a screening of "Film Stars don't die in Liverpool"

Friends of Myrtle Park. Lindsay Bennett described how funds had been used to purchase some high visibility jackets and banners. Unfortunately, a planned Easter event could not be run due to Covid restrictions. Part of the grant will also be used for internal restoration and decoration of the former bowling green hut which the group plan to use as an event and display area. Information was also provided on the work the group do maintaining areas of Myrtle Park including an interesting video of the volunteers at work.

Crossflats Primary School. Katy Sugden described how funds had been used to purchase signage to be placed on the road outside the school to ensure the zigzag no parking area was kept free of traffic. This has greatly improved pedestrian safety.

Downs Syndrome – Training and Support Service. Dr Wendy Uttley described how funds had been used to replace worn out carpets. This was particularly valuable as much of the work takes place through floor-based activities. A section of the new carpet had also been used to create a crawl tunnel. Some new lino had been purchased for an area where snacks were taken which made the area easier to keep clean.

3rd Bingley Sea Scouts. Cameron Wilson described how the funds had been used to purchase new buoyancy aids and helmets. This meant that the group no longer had to borrow kit and Mr Wilson believed this has been pivotal in allowing the group to operate in a Covid-safe manner.

Bingley Remembrance Group. Steve Williams on behalf of Maureen Carney. Steve Williams advised that the grant had enabled the group to hire a PS system so that the service of remembrance could be shared with a wider audience.

Action Stations. Sara Hardman described how the funds had been used to build and fill planters at Bingley and Cross Flats train stations and described the work of the group.

All grant recipients were very appreciative of the funds provided and thanked Bingley Town Council for supporting their work.

Councillor Owen praised the work of all the voluntary groups and encouraged people to submit grant applications for next year.

6. To take general questions from the public

Residents raised the following items:

- I. One resident commented that they were impressed with the strength of voluntary activity in Bingley and praised the work of the council in supporting these groups. They also asked to what extent the council meets with the Police to consider policing in the Bingley area.

The resident was advised that Councillor Steve Williams is a member of the Police liaison group. Councillor Steve Williams and Rachael Drucquer are members of the Pub Watch group although this group has not met recently due to the closure of public houses during the Covid pandemic.

- II. One resident suggested that it would be helpful if the link to the Annual Town Meeting was included in the monthly mailing. Thanks were given to Ruth Thompson for sending them the link.

- III. Councillor John Goode advised that the Cottingley Community Association had received a grant from Bingley Town Council which they had used to create and maintain flowerbeds . Positive feedback has been received from the public with regard to this work. He also asked attendees to let him know if any local areas need the attention of litter pickers as it is hoped to start litter picking groups again following the lifting of Covid-restrictions.
- IV. Councillor Howard Clough thanked Councillor John Goode for all the work he had undertaken and commented that John had done an amazing job.
- V. Attendees were advised that it was hoped that the Green and Clean forums would soon be able to recommence once Covid-restrictions were lifted

7. To close the meeting

Councillor Helen Owen thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for all the work done by the voluntary groups.

One resident thanked Councillor Owen and the council for all the work it did and felt the council had made a very positive impact in the town since its formation in 2016.

One resident thanked all those who campaigned for a Town Council in Bingley and all those who have supported the Council.

The meeting closed at 7:03pm