

Appendix January 2021 Full Council meeting

2021/225 Budget 2021-2022

It's recommended that the delegations as contained on the budget spreadsheet are made to committees and the Clerk.

The Bingley Town Council budget for 2021-2022 will be £304,807, the precept will be £187,396 and the Band D equivalent is £22.07. A small adjustment has been made to allow for rounding.

2021/227 Bingley Pool

FOBP Update - Dec, 2020

2020 has been a frustrating year for the Friends of Bingley Pool (FOBP). Having had our business plan accepted for a Community Asset transfer from Bradford Metropolitan District Council (BMDC) back in February, by now we would have progressed to finalising our operating procedures, new timetables, fundraising and staff recruitment plans, but then Covid-19 struck.

This resulted in an extension to the transfer being granted until September 2021. However, it soon became apparent that our business plan would no longer be viable considering the restrictions put in place due to the pandemic, as well as fundraising and grant opportunities being affected.

We have continued to hold meetings via Zoom with officers and portfolio holders from BMDC and agreed to investigate alternative approaches in order to keep a swimming facility in Bingley. We have spoken to local schools about the provision of school swimming, as we understood from the Council that if the pool was to close, school swims would transfer to either Shipley or Keighley pools. However, neither pool appears to have the spare capacity to provide additional schools swims and the local schools we have spoken with, all say the additional travel time would put a strain on their existing curriculum and they are not supportive of this suggestion.

In light of the current situation, we have now submitted a proposal for a new working model based on a partnership approach, where the FOBP and the Local Authority would work collaboratively to keep the pool open, we are awaiting their response.

The building still requires substantial investment to improve the facilities and redesign the available space, this includes a studio with new gym layout, but also replacing the electrics, heating system and structural work.

BMDC policy is unchanged, they will not invest any more money into the building and the facility is still earmarked for closure. However, during recent conversations, the possibility of a new build community run pool was discussed, we are investigating this further and will keep the public informed and consulted on any developments.

This year has also seen changes to the trustees of FOBP, stepping down were: Anna Mdee, Polly Skerratt, Matt Martindale, Richard Holmes & David Heseltine. We thank them for their efforts and hope they will continue to support the group in whatever way they can going forward. Jag Picknett, one of the founders of FOBP also stood down as co-chair, though happily remains a trustee. We place on record our thanks to Jag for steering the FOBP to where we are today.

New trustees appointed, who join Jag, Joe Wheatley, Chris Willetts and myself are: Andy Morris, Brendan Murphy, Diane Fairfax, Isaac Wilkinson & Fiona Dunne (co-chair). They bring renewed energy and enthusiasm to the trustees as well as expertise in the following areas:

› Leisure management

- › Governance
- › Community Engagement
- › Human Resources
- › Public Liaison
- › Fundraising
- › Procurement
- › Local Government
- › Estate facilities & project management

These skills have already proved invaluable as plans are drawn up and talks continue with BMDC and other bodies.

Whilst we do not have any specific projects for which to apply for grants from Bingley Town Council this year, they continue to be keen to support the FOBP financially and recognise saving Bingley pool was No.1 on residents priorities in a recent Town Council survey. Accessing available funds is work in progress and other forms of fundraising are also being investigated. These include:

- › Crowd funding
- › A community share initiative
- › A named tile in the pool to recognise donations

One of our Trustees, Issac Wilkinson is planning a fundraising swimathon in spring 2021 in recognition of local swimmer Barry Watson. We are also grateful to the Stationery Cupboard in Bingley for kindly donating 10% from the sale of their 2021 calendar to FOBP.

Whilst our plans are not as concrete as they were in February and we are continuing to adapt to the changing public health situation, we remain committed to our goal of keeping public swimming facilities in Bingley.

Finally, in the new year we hope to provide everyone with more regular updates on developments so you can stay informed and get involved. We encourage everyone to join Friends of Bingley Pool (membership is free) so we can build on the expertise, passion and commitment of our existing members. FOBP is a community project and with the engagement of the local community will we be successful.

We hope to see you soon, in the meantime keep well and enjoy the festive season,

Marcus Dearden
&
Fiona Dunne
Co-Chairs, Friends of Bingley Pool

2021/230 Staffing Review

The following information has been received from committee Chairs about the staffing review:

Planning

Contents of Staffing review are correct as it relates to the planning committee.

Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

- NPWG's terms of reference to be amended to report directly to Full Council – this will save time and encourage all councillors to be informed and aware, ready to participate fully in the referendum later in the year
- Dedicated Clerk for the NPWG – The permanent Administration Officer is already in the strongest position to continue this role, she has knowledge, skill and contacts. It is an onerous role and it would be better to give Ruth T extra hours to take on some of Laura's tasks rather than to try to recruit and bring someone else up to speed.
- Facilitator – This role would need to be thoroughly scoped out, a specification drawn up, recruitment process undertaken. Suggest that we ask advice from other councils with successful neighbourhood plans to ascertain if this is useful before deciding. Funding can be applied for in next round.
- Steering group – attractive idea, but the whole premise of NPWG is that it is seen as a group which involves residents and councillors. Setting up a steering group may lead to suggestions that the group is not fully committed to the views/roles of residents. Meetings are less frequent than those of regular committees.

Events, Marketing and Communications Sub committee

- Communications policy is in place and should be reviewed in 2021.
- Dedicated Communications Officer rather than sub-committee. This would be a strength and should be considered perhaps as a role which can be addressed by the appointment of a Deputy Clerk, either to be undertaken by that person or by altering job descriptions so that an Admin Officer can take on the role. This would mean responsibility for all media interaction, under supervision from the Clerk and consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair.
- The current newsletter content has been produced almost entirely by Councillor Owen and former Councillors Simpson and Dawson. If the publication of the newsletter is to continue then other means of writing/sourcing content, editing and agreeing deadlines must be found.

Facilities Management Sub Committee

Sub Committee is now in place. Comprehensive 'Users' Handbook has been produced by Councillor Williams, which includes day to day management of the building as well as statutory inspection and information requirements.

Climate Emergency Working Group

My view is that it would be unhelpful to put an end to the Climate Emergency Working Group in its present form at this current moment. The group is making meaningful steps towards setting out a plan for making Bingley more sustainable with the climate conversation and questionnaire. The group has taken on some of the previous responsibilities of the Green and Clean Forum when it was formed and is currently highlighting areas for tree and wildflower planting. I also believe it would be unpopular with the public if we were to abandon our commitments.

Bingley Town Council can be described as an 'anchor institution' and therefore has a role to play by setting an example and ensuring Bingley becomes carbon neutral by 2030. We should continue to assess the environmental impact of the work we do wherever possible. The council's precept raising powers can and should be used to fund projects that Bradford may not be able to. By investing early

on in sustainable infrastructure and resources we may also be putting Bingley at an economic advantage in a scenario where food or technologies have to be limited.

I am not against the idea of external organisations having a working group which BTC could be involved with. It would offer some advantages but how they would get funding would be unclear. It's not known if there would be enough interested groups within the parish area to take this on. I would suggest the ongoing working group scopes this out as a possibility, possibly with the help of other local councils in the Shipley constituency. The climate conversation may be how we discover individuals and organisations who may be able to help form such a group.

Additional points.

- Chair and Vice Chair attendance at all standing committee meetings

Currently the terms of reference for all standing committees state that the Chair and Vice Chair shall be ex officio voting members of each committee. It's recommended that the relevant terms of reference be reviewed at the Annual Council meeting to include only the Chair or Vice Chair to be a member. One of the consequences of this if agreed, is that it will create a vacancy on each standing committee.

- Recommendations for review of all policies – in place.
- All members of committees and working groups to be given Terms of Reference and links to relevant legislation – Clerk or Admin Officer who clerks the meetings to ensure that new members are furnished with these.
- Communications with both External and Internal auditors to be maintained and procedures to ensure good Governance to continue

2021/234 Leeds Bradford Airport

An e-mail was received from GALBA requesting that the town council supports an open letter against the expansion of LBA. It arrived too late to be considered at the December full council meeting. The letter is copied below:

Dear Councillor Blake

In a few days, 13 Leeds councillors will make a decision that will affect the lives of the people of West Yorkshire for generations. These 13 people make up the committee that will say 'yes' or 'no' to Leeds Bradford Airport's planning application – designed to increase passengers from 4 million a year to 7 million by 2030.

Expansion would mean health damaging increases in noise, traffic and air pollution for thousands of people in our local communities. Above all, it would mean a huge increase in greenhouse gas emissions exactly when we need to cut them to prevent the worst effects of the climate crisis.

*Expansion would be fundamentally wrong. Leeds City Council has declared a Climate Emergency and aims to reach net zero carbon by 2030. Yet from 2030 onwards, aircraft from an expanded airport would pump out more greenhouse gases than the carbon budget for the **whole** of the rest of the city. Allowing LBA to expand would immediately make the Council's own net zero target impossible.*

*The Covid crisis has exposed how vulnerable we are as individuals and as a society. The climate crisis will be far worse – unless we make the right decisions now. Rebuilding the local economy matters to us all and we **can** rebuild a healthy economy with good, sustainable jobs. We **can** decide not to return to 'business as usual'. A better, safer and greener future **is** possible. Leeds City Council **can** keep its promise to tackle the climate emergency. 13 Leeds councillors **can** stop the airport doubling its emissions.*

We, the undersigned, implore those 13 councillors to follow the example set at Stansted and Bristol airports and reject LBA's planning application. We call on them to use their legal powers to make the right decision for the future – for the good of our children, grandchildren and future generations.

Group for Action on Leeds Bradford Airport

Following this letter, a further e-mail from GALBA was received:

I wanted to let you know that the date of the Leeds Planning meeting has been delayed because of a change made by Leeds City Council's Planning Dept. We had previously been told a decision would be made in mid-January but that will not now happen. We still intend to send this letter to the press and to the Leeds councillors who will make the decision on LBA's planning application. We also still hope that the Town Council will join GALBA, over 30 local organisations and Leeds MPs Hilary Benn and Richard Burgon by co-signing the letter.

We believe the reason for the delay is because LBA has submitted two new documents to the Council following GALBA highlighting a serious error in LBA's original planning application. This error resulted in a significant underestimate of the increase in noise that would result from expansion. GALBA is not satisfied with LBA's response and we shall continue to press for a full and frank assessment of the consequences of LBA's proposals.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by replying to this email. Thank you.

2021/235 Annual Meeting of the Council and Annual Town Meeting

- a) It's recommended that the Annual Meeting of the Council is held just prior to the ordinary May full council meeting on 25th May.
- b) The Annual Town Meeting should it go ahead is to be held between 1st March and 1st June. Suggested dates are Tuesday 18th May and Wednesday 19th May, coronavirus and meeting room availability permitting.

2021/237 Councillor vacancies

A duly signed petition was received at the CBMDC Elections Unit. Notices advising that the by election will be postponed to the elections on 6th May have been put up in the parish and on the website.