

BINGLEY TOWN COUNCIL



Bingley Town Council, The Hub, Myrtle Place, Bingley, BD16 2LF

**Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on
Wednesday 14th June 2023 at 6.30pm at the Hub, Myrtle Place, Bingley, BD16 2LF**

Councillors present: Fenton, Gentleman, Gibbons, Goode, Heseltine
Member Councillors absent: Truelove, Williams, Winnard
Non-member Councillors present: None
In attendance: Eve Haskins (Town Clerk), Debbie Ioanna (Admin Assistant)
Members of the public: Six

Start time: 6.30pm

End time: 8.15pm

2324/01 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Resolved to elect Councillor Geoff Winnard as Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee for the municipal year 2023-24; voting was carried out by a show of hands.

Resolved to elect Councillor Philippa Gibbons as Vice-Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee for the municipal year 2023-24; voting was carried out by a show of hands.

2324/02 Apologies for absence

Apologies received and reasons for absence noted from Councillors Truelove, Williams and Winnard.

2324/03 Disclosures of interest

None received.

No written requests for dispensation had been received.

2324/04 Minutes

Resolved to confirm the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) Committee meeting held on 3rd May 2023 as a correct record.

2324/05 Confidential items to be discussed under item 2324/17

No further items to be discussed in confidence after item 2324/17, following exclusion of the press and public, due to their sensitive nature.

2324/06 Public Participation

None.

2324/07 Grants

- a) Representation was provided by a member of Beckfoot and Bingley Tennis Club, who explained that they were applying for a grant to improve their facilities for their members, visitors and

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families, confirmed that they were also searching for further grant funding, and answered several questions from councillors.

Resolved to approve a grant of £2,000 to Beckfoot and Bingley Tennis Club.

- b) Representation was provided by members of Bingley Congs Cricket Club, who explained that they were searching for funding to modernize their facilities, especially for their thriving junior section and answered several questions from councillors, confirming that they had links with a local school and running clubs and had undertaken extensive fundraising to contribute to this project.

Resolved to approve a grant of £5,000 to Bingley Congs Cricket Club.

- c) Representation was provided by a member of Cottingley Community Centre, who outlined their plans for a community cohesive fun day, and answered several questions from councillors confirming that they were not searching for match funding for this event.

Resolved to not approve a grant of £1785 to Cottingley Community Centre.

2324/08 Allotments

Resolved to receive the following updates on the allotments and to agree the following actions:

- Two councillors with responsibility for monitoring the allotments, primary and secondary: appointed Councillors Fenton and Heseltine.
- Annual inspections: to be held on Tuesday 27th June 2023, Councillors Fenton and Heseltine and the Town Clerk to meet at Beck Lane allotments at 9.30am; Town Clerk to arrange for all allotment holders to be informed.
- Forum/meeting date: to be held on Thursday 27th July 2023 at 6pm, Councillors Goode, Fenton and Heseltine and the Town Clerk to attend; Town Clerk to arrange for all allotment holders to be informed.
- Rent payments/hand-backs of allotments: noted that awaiting six rents from Beck Lane allotments and all three from Stanley Street allotments.
- Plots 1, 2 and 3 Stanley Street: noted that plot 1 is now let, residents on the waiting list are being contacted regarding the letting of plots 2 and 3.
- Plot 7A and 1B Beck Lane allotments: agreed that plot 7A is not suitable to be split therefore needs to be let; Councillors Fenton and Heseltine to assess the condition of plot 1B prior to it being let again.
- Plots 14, 23 and 27 Beck Lane allotments: agreed that plots 14 and 27 are suitable to be split – Councillors Fenton and Heseltine to undertake the work to divide these plots, then inform the staff that they are ready to be let; Councillor Fenton to obtain proposals for the work necessary on plot 23, with a view to turning this into a communal plot.

2324/09 Bank reconciliation, statement, balances

- a) **Resolved** to approve the bank reconciliations for May 2023.
- b) **Resolved** to approve the bank statements for May 2023.
- c) **Noted** the balances to date as follows: Unity Bank: £224,423.91; Public Sector Deposit Fund (PSDF): £143,334.
- d) Discussion on the Public Works Loan Board loan took place: it was queried whether it would be more cost effective to pay this loan off early, however it was highlighted that there would be an early payment penalty, as well as the loss of the interest earned on the PDSF account where the reserves are kept; the Town Clerk also advised that the reserves should not be used for this purpose as the Town Council needs to keep at least 6-12 months' operating costs in reserves.

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Resolved to agree to review the PSDF interest rate in six months' time.

2324/10 Website

Resolved to agree to pursue a new website which is more accessible and interactive for the public and for councillors; Councillor Gibbons and the Town Clerk to revisit the outline specification to be considered again at the next meeting; Councillor Gibbons encouraged all councillors to look at potential website types circulated by the Admin Assistant.

2324/11 'Welcome to Bingley' sign

Resolved to agree to investigate costs to replace the damaged 'Welcome to Bingley' sign.

2324/12 Green and Clean

Resolved to receive an update on Green and Clean as follows:

- a) Two councillors with responsibility for Green and Clean matters, primary and secondary: deferred to the next meeting.
- b) Litter picks: Councillor Goode reported that the most recent litter pick was held last Saturday, when 10 bags of litter were collected. Thanks were expressed to Councillors Goode and Winnard and all the Green and Clean Champions who attended this litter pick and all those who continue to collect litter in their own time. It agreed that the Town Clerk to contact Beckfoot School to suggest a collaborative approach to the litter problem there, following suggestions from residents at the recent Green and Clean Forum.
- c) Green and Clean Forums: Councillor Goode reported that the recent Forum on the Clean Air Zone was very informative, although not very well attended.

2324/13 CIL funding

Resolved the following:

- To receive an update from Councillor Goode on in-progress CIL projects: Councillor Goode has been in contact with the Bradford Council Ward Councillors regarding the potential project to install a mains electricity supply to the bandstand in Myrtle Park, who advised that there does not need to be a service agreement between Bradford Council and the Town Council as they own the structure, although still awaiting an official response from Bradford Council officers on this. Councillor Goode also highlighted that the Northern Powergrid quote will have lapsed.
- Noted the Town Council's remaining CIL funding amounts (all except the 2022-2023 amount allocated to the bandstand project):
 - 2018-2019: £2,948.
 - 2019-2020: £2,731.
 - 2020-2021: £4,219.
 - 2021-2022: £1,833.
 - 2022-2023: £2,638.51.

2324/14 Unsung Community Heroes

Resolved to approve the Risk and Resource Assessment form for the Unsung Community Heroes scheme, to acknowledge the work of local volunteers at the Annual Town Meeting via the presentation of certificates; agreed that Councillors Fenton, Heseltine and Gibbons to develop this idea, including

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obtaining advice from Bradford Council's Area Office on what criteria could be used to agree awards individuals and groups, prior to presenting it to the Full Council.

2324/15 Risk Management

No new risks to the Council identified.

2324/16 Date of next meeting

Noted the date for the next Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting on Wednesday 12th July 2023 at 6.30pm at the Hub, Myrtle Place, Bingley.

2324/17 Exclusion of the press and public

Resolved to exclude the press and public from item 2324/18 under the provision of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act 1960 s1 (2)), due to their confidential nature.

2324/18 The Hub

Resolved to receive the following updates on the issues associated with the Hub and to agree the following actions:

- a) Electrical work: still awaiting quotes, Councillor Fenton to chase these.
- b) Entrance dome: awaiting one quote, agreed to use their recommendation as the specification for two further quotes.
- c) Exterior wood staining: agreed that the Town Clerk to contact Astor Bannerman again to highlight the warped wood at the side of the Changing Places toilet prior to considering wood staining; also agreed to add the water heater to the next agenda.
- d) Sewerage and drainage problems: Councillor Gibbons reported that the correspondence from Astor Bannerman confirms that they are not responsible for the drainage problems, agreed that the Town Clerk to contact Bradford Council to request that they remedy this problem by placing a regular piped drain from the gully to the main drain.
- e) Alarm call-out process: faulty sensor has now been rectified, agreed to monitor this.

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