

# BINGLEY TOWN COUNCIL



The Hub, Myrtle Place, Bingley, BD16 2LF

Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Bingley Town Council held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 6.30pm at St Aidan's Church Hall, Canal Road, Crossflatts, Bingley

**Councillors present:** Beckwith, Carney, Fenton, Forrest, Gentleman, Gibbons, Goode, Heseltine, Shaw, Williams, Winnard

**Councillors absent:** Clough, Drucquer, Malik, Miah, Truelove

**In attendance:** Eve Haskins (Town Clerk)

**Members of the public:** Four (including Bradford Council's Bingley Rural Ward Officer Wendy Fisher and Assistant Ward Officer Andy Alderson)

**Meeting commenced at 6.30pm.**

## **2324/215 Chair's remarks**

Noted the following remarks from Councillor Gibbons:

- Many thanks to everyone who attended the festival for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Five Rise Locks last Saturday, which was a very successful event. Special thanks to Andy Alderson for all his hard work in the town, including being involved with Bingley Brewery in the brewing of the Five Rise beer, and to everyone involved for putting the effort in for a good event.
- Now looking forward to the next event locally, the Easter extravaganza on Sunday with Bingley Chamber of Trade and all the other Easter events around the parish for people to enjoy.

## **2324/216 Apologies for absence**

Apologies received, and the reasons for absence approved, from Councillors Drucquer, Malik, Miah and Truelove.

## **2324/217 Disclosures of interest**

None received.

No written requests for dispensation had been received.

## **2324/218 Minutes of previous meetings**

**Resolved** to approve the minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024 as a true and accurate record.

## **2324/219 Confidential items due to be discussed after item 2324/234**

**Resolved** to agree that no further agenda items to be discussed in confidence following the exclusion of the press and public in agenda item 2324/234, due to their sensitive nature.

**Councillor Carney entered the meeting at 6.40pm.**

## **2324/220 Representation from Bradford Council's Ward Officers**

Wendy Fisher, Ward Officer for Bingley Rural, and Andy Alderson, Assistant Ward Officer for Bingley and Bingley Rural, provided a brief update as follows:

1

Chair.....

Date.....

- The Bingley Rural area office is based in Shipley Town Hall and is part of the Neighbourhood Service.
- Bingley Rural consists of five separate villages, each with a parish council, who the Ward Officers are working to keep in contact with, including circulating abridged notes from the Neighbourhood Team meetings, and they also receive the minutes from the parish councils' meetings, including from Bingley Town Council.
- Bradford Council's financial reshuffle means that the Area Office has lost street cleansing and environment functions, which have gone over to the Department of Place, and the Area Office is now shifting more toward community health, social support and well-being (will still be focusing on the environment however from a community health and well-being perspective). Also moving towards underpinning social services, keeping people involved, for example the work with community partnerships such as Bingley Bubble. Currently undertaking really good work looking to pilot community transport, giving advice to carers, and on benefits, welfare etc.
- New initiative called Neighbourhood Connect has been developed, where referrals are received for individuals then the team will visit them, find out what they need and connect them to community projects that may help them.
- As part of the change in direction, the Warden Manager posts are changing; in future there will just be one for each ward. In the team, there is a full time Community Engagement Officer, and the Ward Officer and Assistant Ward Officer are both part time roles.
- The Ward Officer and Assistant Ward Officer answered several questions from councillors to confirm that they will continue to work closely with parish councils within the Bingley area on environmental issues, as well as continue to liaise with their local partners, such as the police, Incommunities, and Bradford Council's traffic and highways departments. They also assured the councillors that they are aware of what the priorities of the various wards are, that the good relationships and close working will not change and confirmed that residents should be encouraged to report any issues they have locally directly themselves via the online official system or via the Bradford Council switchboard.

**Thanks were expressed to Ms Fisher and Mr Alderson for their attendance; they left the meeting at 6.50pm.**

**2324/221      Public Participation**

None.

**2324/222      Representation from Bradford Council Ward Councillors**

None.

**2324/223      Ongoing items**

a) Bingley Pool:

As a member of the Friends of Bingley Pool, Councillor Carney reported that there have been major developments since the last meeting – the Friends of Bingley Pool now have five more trustees, two of whom are Bingley town councillors, therefore there is a varied skillset to move the refurbishment of the pool forward. A recent meeting with Phillip Davies, MP, confirmed that the funding for the pool has been ringfenced and work needs to commence before spring 2026. It is not clear as yet what role the Friends of Bingley Pool will be playing in this project, however they will continue to work to keep applying pressure to ensure this work takes place, and are currently looking for additional funding to undertake further business plans and feasibility studies on the building. Councillor Carney answered several questions to confirm that the Friends of Bingley Pool would be willing to take over a community asset transfer of the pool, and that funding will be sought from Sport England as well as via crowd funding. She also agreed that support would be welcome from the Town Council, and asked if the Town Council could inform Bradford Council of the Town Council support the campaign of the Friends of

Bingley Pool in their work to ensure the refurbishment of Bingley Pool goes ahead, and to request further information on the timeline involved.

**Resolved** to agree that the Town Clerk to write to Bradford Council in support of the refurbishment of Bingley pool and to request further information on the timeline involved.

**2324/224 Finance**

**Resolved** the following:

- a) To approve the schedule of payments for March 2024.
- b) To approve the bank reconciliations for February 2024.
- c) To approve the Review of the Effectiveness of the Internal Audit 2023-24.

**2324/225 Events, Marketing and Communications Committee (EMACC)**

Noted the following update from the recent EMACC meeting: the beacon for the D-Day event in June has been ordered, Bingley Remembrance Group are holding a meeting next week to confirm arrangements for bands, etc.; no updates yet on the electricity supply to the bandstand in Myrtle Park.

**2324/226 Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) Committee**

Noted the following updates in the circulated minutes from the recent F&GP Committee meeting:

- Agreed to recommend to the Full Council to transfer a large proportion of the precept into the higher interest bank account once received.
- Green and Clean: arranged a litter pick for 13<sup>th</sup> April 2024 in Cottingley and also arranging a Green and Clean Forum on 10<sup>th</sup> August, which money was allocated for; also agreed that up to £250 to be spent on a gardener to renovate the flowerbed at Ferncliffe Road.
- Asset Register reviewed.
- Staff are liaising with new website provider to transfer all documents etc.

**Resolved** to agree the following:

- To transfer £150,000 of precept into Public Sector Deposit Fund as soon as the precept is received and to be reviewed monthly by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.
- To ratify the allotment rent increase.
- To ratify the Financial Risk Assessment Policy.

**2324/227 Neighbourhood Plan Working Group (NPWG)**

Councillor Williams provided an update from the NPWG as follows:

- Open Day held on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024: less than 20 people turned up and the policies map was the focal point once again.
- Several questions were asked regarding the draft Neighbourhood Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, and healthy conversations took place regarding what will happen from Plan's Referendum forwards; it was explained that this is an informal consultation, and Bradford Council will be undertaking the formal consultation.
- 64 responses have been received to the Survey Monkey survey, with only a handful of actual comments.
- Next meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024 to go through all responses/comments.
- Responses from the statutory consultees include one from West Yorkshire Police and one from the Canal and River Trust, which was positive.

**2324/228 Planning Committee**

Noted the following update from Councillor Heseltine from the recent Planning Committee meeting: all applications reviewed and recommendations made.

**2324/229 Five Rise way-marking**

Councillor Gibbons reported that investigations into the costs/feasibility etc. of carved paving stones are still ongoing; will continue to progress.

**2324/230 Town Clerk's Report**

**Resolved** to accept the Town Clerk's Report.

**2324/231 Correspondence**

**Resolved** to receive the following correspondence and agree necessary actions as follows:

- a) Email from resident re Freedom of Information request re litter picking attendance: noted.
- b) Email from Bradford Council's Keighley Area Coordinator's Office re Community Energy Fund: agreed that the Town Clerk to contact the Area Coordinator's Office to request further information on this fund, to determine whether it would be cost effective for the Town Council to pursue.
- c) Email from YLCA re request for photos for their Annual Review 2023-24: agreed that the Town Clerk to send photos and details of the Loo of the Year Awards received and of the recent festival held to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Five Rise Locks.
- d) Email from Bradford Council's Traffic and Highways Department re proposed footpath improvement across Cottingley Recreation Ground: agreed that the Town Clerk to respond to this message to express the Town Council's support for this footpath, subject to it receiving funding.
- e) Email from resident re Freedom of Information request re office hours visitors/cost/staff wages and duties: noted, the Town Clerk responded already, including to explain that individual staff wages are confidential information.
- f) Email from resident re concerns re speed humps near Bingley Grammar School: noted.

**2324/232 Promotional items**

**Resolved** to promote the following items for publication:

- Agenda item 2324/215: Thank everyone for attending Five Rise Locks 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary event.
- Agenda item 2324/223: Letter of support for Bingley Pool.
- Agenda item 2324/225: Support for D-Day commemoration, more information to follow.
- Agenda item 2324/227: Final public meeting for Neighbourhood Plan and consultation end date.
- Agenda item 2324/231d: Letter of support for Cottingley footpath.

**2324/233 Date of next meeting**

The date of the next Full Council meeting agreed as Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 6.30pm, at Eldwick Memorial Hall, Otley Road, Eldwick, Bingley, BD16 3EQ.

**2324/234 Exclusion of press and public**

**Resolved** to exclude the press and public from agenda item 2324/235 under the provision of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act 1960 s1 (2)), due to its confidential nature.

**2324/235 Policies**

**Resolved** to agree the Business Continuity Plan.

**Meeting closed at 7.40pm.**