

# BINGLEY TOWN COUNCIL



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

## Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Bingley Town Council held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 6.30pm at Eldwick Memorial Hall, Otley Road, Eldwick

Councillors present: Beckwith, Carney, Fenton, Gentleman, Gibbons (Chair), Goode, Heseltine, Malik, Shaw, Truelove, Williams, Winnard

Councillors absent: Clough, Drucquer, Hardy, Miah

In attendance: Eve Haskins (Town Clerk)

Members of the public: Thirteen (including Bradford Council Ward Councillor Joe Wheatley)

### Meeting commenced at 6.30pm.

#### 2425/55 Chair's remarks

Noted the following remarks from the Councillor Gibbons, the Chair of the Town Council:

- The Boundary Commission agenda item will be open for public discussion.
- We have a new councillor in the Crow Nest ward, Councillor Maryann Hardy.
- The summer holidays are here, and the Town Council has arranged for several Play in the Park events to take place across the parish.
- The bandstand concerts will continue to take place on Sundays in Myrtle Park.
- The Annual Report newsletter is currently being delivered – please can residents inform the Town Council if they do receive one (50% of the attendees of the meeting had received it).

Councillor Carney entered the meeting at 6.36pm.

#### 2425/56 Apologies for absence

Apologies received and the reasons for absence approved from Councillors Drucquer and Hardy.

#### 2425/57 Disclosures of interest

No disclosures of interest. No written requests for dispensation had been received.

#### 2425/58 Minutes of previous meetings

**Resolved** to approve the minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024 as a true and accurate record, subject to the following addition to agenda item 2425/54 regarding the recording of meetings via the Owl: 'and that the policy to be reviewed'.

#### 2425/59 Confidential items due to be discussed after item 2425/76

No further items to be discussed after agenda item 2425/76 following the exclusion of the press and public, due to their sensitive nature.

#### 2425/60 Public Participation

1. Recent Town Council election

A member of public expressed congratulations to the new Town Councillor for the Crow Nest ward following the recent election, commented upon the disappointing turn out in local by elections, and suggested that the Town Council should promote local democracy by paying for polling cards or find another method to ensure that the electors are made aware of them. The Chair responded to explain

Chair.....

Date.....

that polling cards were not ordered as they would cost over £2,000, in addition to the other £5,000 election costs, however she stated that the polling card decision will be revisited at the next election.

## 2. Thanks to Councillor Goode

A member of the public who is a local gardener requested for his gratitude to Councillor Goode to be included in the minutes, for the sterling job he does providing plants to Eldwick and his tangible support with constructive work in Bingley train station in association with Action Stations. Councillor Goode highlighted that the Town Council provide plants to community groups across the parish and asked any groups who would like to them to please get in touch. The Chair echoed the comments that Councillor Goode does a lot of fantastic work around the parish.

### **2425/61 Representation from Bradford Council Ward Councillors**

Ward Councillor Wheatley also praised the hard work of Councillor Goode across the parish and highlighted other good work that was taking place on the Town Council, including the Chair working with Ward Councillor Fricker to prepare for the Bradford City of Culture 2025 celebrations, and Councillor Carney working with Ward Councillor Marcus Dearden as members of Bingley Remembrance Group, including to investigate ways to refurbish the war memorial in Myrtle Park; he also highlighted that Councillor Goode has spearheaded the work taking place on the riverside in conjunction with the Aire River Trust.

Ward Councillor Wheatley also provided an update from the Ward Councillors, including that they will be meeting with the relevant officers from Bradford Council's Department of Place this coming Thursday to discuss the plans for Bingley pool. He reported that an additional £3.6m is needed by Bradford Council so the Ward Councillors are working with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) regarding this. He also reported that the improvements at Crossflatts recreation ground should be completed by next week, and encouraged residents to respond to the ongoing library consultation, which has options to close at certain times due to the gap in funding. He also reported on the WYCA transport plan, explaining that mass engagement is being carried out to assess transport needs, running from now to 30<sup>th</sup> September. He confirmed that Ward Councillor Fricker continues to hold regular meetings to plan for Bradford City of Culture 2025, bringing together community groups to make sure Bingley is involved. Councillor Wheatley also reported that he has been involved liaising with Incommunities residents, holding regular community meetings, supporting parents with issues. He also answered several questions from councillors, to confirm that the extra £3.6m needed for the pool is in addition to the committed £14.4m which will be received from the government, and that the Ward Councillors' preference would be to demolish the existing site and have a purpose built pool, which will be £3m more – they are hoping that WYCA will be able to help with this extra funding. He also explained that Phase 2 of the pool project would focus on the running costs.

### **2425/62 Local Government Boundary Commission for England Consultation on ward boundaries in Bingley**

- a) The Town Council, Ward Councillor Wheatley and residents in attendance discussed the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's Boundary Review proposals on ward boundaries in Bingley and the Town Council response, with the following observations made:
  - The Bradford Council Ward Councillors do not support Baildon Town Council's proposal, which will split Eldwick in two, with part of it going into Bingley West, with Harden, and a portion of Cottingley, with the rest of Cottingley going to Shipley. Ward Councillor Wheatley stated that he supported the Town Council's proposal to have an additional councillor in Bingley, however warned that he did not believe the Boundary Commission would accept this. He highlighted that all amenities etc. in Eldwick should be under the remit of one councillor, therefore the Ward Councillors reject Baildon Town Council's proposal and would encourage residents to support Bingley Town Council's proposal.

- The Chair outlined her proposed response to the Boundary Commission’s consultation, highlighting that the geography of the area means that Bingley should stay as it is and get a fourth councillor to provide the electoral equity needed. She stated that it does not make sense for any parts of Bingley parish to join Wharfedale as it is too far away and does not share a community spirit etc. with Bingley; she also stated that the proposals for Micklethwaite and Crossflatts crosses the parliamentary boundary, which also does not make sense. She also urged residents to reply to the consultation with their own views, as the Boundary Commission do not know the area or the links between the people who live here therefore they are reliant on the views of residents.
  - A member of the public, who resides in Lee Lane, Bingley, stated that the proposal for Lee Lane to join Shipley also does not make sense, as it is truly part of Bingley Rural; another member of the public concurred, and highlighted the community spirit of Lee Lane, which under the plans would be split.
  - Councillor Winnard, also a Bradford Council Ward Councillor for Bingley Rural, highlighted that this exercise is taking place across the wards in Bradford to form electoral equality, and stated that it is a matter of regret that the Bingley family of towns/villages has high electorate numbers, which is why they are being included in proposals therefore a compromise needs to be made, however the compromise to split Eldwick in half is not acceptable. He requested that the rejection of the arbitrary splitting of communities needs to be highlighted within the Town Council’s response.
  - Councillor Heseltine, as one of the Town Councillors for the Eldwick ward, reported that he has received many emails and phone calls from residents of Eldwick who wish for the Town Council to reject the proposal to split the community of Eldwick, as they want Eldwick treated as one community and preferably in a Bingley ward. He highlighted that there is no easy means to get from Eldwick to Baildon as there is no connecting bus service, and that Baildon and Eldwick are two completely separate communities; he also highlighted that the Eldwick residents want to be represented as one community. He requested that the Town Council’s response should highlight that splitting Eldwick in two is unacceptable; he also suggested that it would make more sense for Low Springs, BD17 in Baildon, should be moved to Baildon from Bingley. He also stated that the proposals are only taking into account 90 councillors, therefore including 91 in the Town Council response will not be accepted by the Boundary Commission.
  - Councillor Williams concurred with Councillor Heseltine’s suggestions, and highlighted that the Chair’s proposal does outline that the splitting of Eldwick is not acceptable; he also thanked the Chair for all her hard work on the proposal.
  - Councillor Goode, as a Town Councillor for the ward of Cottingley, congratulated the Eldwick residents for putting a campaign together to oppose these proposals, and stated that Cottingley residents will be doing the same to oppose the proposals to split Cottingley. He supported the Chair’s proposal to have an extra councillor in Bingley so no communities will need to be split.
  - A member of the public highlighted that Bingley town centre is also a community that should not be split.
  - The Town Council agreed that it needs to be made explicit in the response that no communities should be split.
- b) **Resolved** to agree the following amendment to the Chair’s suggested response: ‘The suggestion of any arbitrary splitting of a community, be it Eldwick, Cottingley or Bingley itself is not supported as it will not reflect community identity and historical links.’
- c) **Resolved** to approve the response: Town Clerk to submit this to the Boundary Commission.

**2425/63 Ongoing items**

- a) Bingley Pool:

Councillor Carney reported that the Friends of Bingley Pool are continuing to obtain the views of residents via their online survey, and that they are not having much luck getting Bradford Council officers to engage, however they are pursuing this to visit the pool to assess etc. She also confirmed that the Friends want to maintain some of the original heritage of the pool, and stated that their co-chair is a Lottery Fund expert, therefore the Heritage Lottery Fund could be an option to pursue; she also reported that the Friends would like the Town Hall taken out of the equation.

**2425/64 Finance**

**Resolved** to agree the following:

- a) To receive and approve the schedule of payments for July 2024.
- b) To agree the bank reconciliations for June 2024.
- c) To approve the transfer of funds from the Building Reserve budget for the cost of the recent electrical work (£2,404.79) and upcoming dome work (£3,200) at the Hub.
- d) Bingley Heritage Trail funding shortfall:
  - (i) To approve the Risk and Resource Assessment form for the Bingley Heritage Trail funding shortfall proposal.
  - (ii) To approve the proposal for the Bingley Heritage Trail funding shortfall.

**2425/65 Election of members to Committees and Working Groups**

**Resolved** to elect Councillor Fenton on to the Staffing Committee.

**2425/66 Events, Marketing and Communications Committee (EMACC)**

Noted the following update from the Chair from the recent EMACC meeting:

- Discussed communication and recommended to cease recording of meetings.
- Discussed whether the Town Council could act as the overall coordinator of the Arts and Crafts Festival ('Bingley 25') for May 2025, the plans for which are ongoing; the Chair stated that she would bring forward a Risk and Resource assessment form for this for next year's budget.
- Continuing to plan an event for VE Day on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May next year.
- Councillor Goode reported that the bandstand concerts continue to be successful and well attended and stated that two extra dates have been added to the programme; will be working with Bingley Music Town and Bradford Council in advance next year to get a full programme together. He also reported that the recent 'Bingley 2025' meeting highlighted that a new website called 'It's On In Bradford' can be used by anyone to add local events, therefore it was agreed that the Admin Assistant should post all social media posts on there.

**Resolved** to agree the following recommendations:

- To agree to cease the video recording of meetings.
- To approve in principle the Town Council taking an overall coordinator role for 'Bingley 2025'.

**2425/67 Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) Committee**

Noted the following update from the recent F&GP Committee meeting:

- Confirmed that all CIL funding is allocated to bandstand (previously agreed).
- Electrical work has taken place in Hub, the dome work is taking place this week, still awaiting a quote for the joinery work, and agreed the alarm monitoring company (YSS).
- Allotments forum went very well, with a good number of existing and new allotment holders in attendance; a local PCSO attended to provide crime prevention advice; the staffing team will meet with Councillors Fenton and Heseltine to discuss a number of issues raised regarding anti-crime measures the Town Council could consider.
- Green and Clean: Councillor Goode reported that there have been very positive comments regarding the plants that the Town Council has provided; going forward we need to arrange a new watering contract.

- Recommended to transfer £50K from Public Sector Deposit Fund (PSDF) to Unity Bank.

**Resolved** to agree the recommendation to transfer £50,000 from the PSDF to Unity Bank.

**2425/68 Neighbourhood Plan Working Group (NPWG)**

Noted the following update from Councillor Williams on the progress with the Neighbourhood Plan: still waiting for Bradford Council to respond to the consultation regarding removing the Aecom documents from the main Plan into the supporting documents section; their advice will be discussed at the next NPWG meeting once received.

**2425/69 Planning Committee**

Noted the following update from Councillor Heseltine: the draft minutes outline the planning application recommendations made.

**2425/70 Staffing Committee**

Noted the following update from Councillor Gentleman: the Employee Expenses Policy and Lone Working Policy were agreed; approved increased staffing hours for one member of staff until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025; approved flexible working hours, combining 37 hours into four rather than five days, for one member of staff; received a declaration of other employment from a member of staff, which was approved.

**2425/71 Five Rise Way-marking (pavement signs)**

Noted the following update from Councillor Gibbons on the Five Rise way-marking scheme: the specification for the pavement way-marking was circulated to all prior to the meeting, intend to go out to tender with this, one quote already received, which was less than expected. It was discussed whether a sample should be prepared before the work taking place to ensure the design size is not too detailed on the pavements.

**2425/72 Town Clerk's Report**

**Noted** the Town Clerk's Report; agreed that the Town Clerk to contact YLCA again regarding the whole council training on the Code of Conduct.

**2425/73 Correspondence**

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

- a) Email from Bradford Council's Highways Department's Delivery Unit's Winter Maintenance Operation: acknowledged, agreed to invite a representative of the team to a Council meeting.
- b) Email from resident re problem parking on Longwood Avenue, Bingley: acknowledged, agreed that the Chair to raise this issue at the next Ward Partnership meeting.
- c) Email from a member of Plastic Free Bingley re potential support for Keighley & Airedale Business Awards (KAB Awards): noted, passed onto Bingley Chamber of Trade.
- d) Email from resident re concerns re water/debris running from Gilstead Moor: noted, agreed to continue to send any concerns onto Yorkshire Water and Bradford Council.
- e) Email from West Yorkshire Combined Authority re Mass Transit public consultation (further information attached): noted, the Chair encouraged all in attendance to read this and a further local transport plan document also included and comment as appropriate.
- f) Telephone call from a resident re concerns re Spa Lane, Bingley: Councillor Williams reported that a resident raised concerns regarding the overgrown area and access to Gawthorpe, which is an adopted road so is responsibility of Bradford Council – agreed to write to Bradford Council to report this issue and to highlight that this area is on the potential Heritage Trail and the heritage water fountain in situ on this road is included in Neighbourhood Plan.

- g) Email from resident expressing gratitude to Councillors Fenton and Heseltine for redirecting traffic on Park Road recently: noted.
- h) Email from Bradford Council's Electoral Services re review of polling districts and polling stations consultation: noted.
- i) Email from resident re staff salaries: noted.
- j) Email from resident re lack of publicity for recent Town Council election: noted.

**2425/74 Promotional items**

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

- Agenda item 2425/55: New Town Councillor for Crow Nest ward.
- Agenda item 2425/55: Play in the Park events.
- Agenda item 2425/62: Local Government Boundary Commission for England Consultation on ward boundaries in Bingley.
- Agenda item 2425/63: Bingley Pool update and survey.
- Agenda item 2425/64d: Bingley Heritage Trail funding shortfall.

**2425/75 Date of next meeting**

The date of the next Full Council meeting agreed as Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at 6.30pm at Bingley Baptist Church, Clyde Street, Bingley.

**2425/76 Exclusion of press and public**

**Resolved** to exclude the press and public from agenda item 2425/77 under the provision of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act 1960 s1 (2)), due to their confidential nature.

**2425/77 Staff member pay rise**

**Resolved** to approve the incremental pay rise for a member of staff following a successful appraisal.

**Meeting closed at 8.58pm.**