**MEETING OF BOVEY TRACEY TOWN COUNCIL**

**HELD AT THE RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON**

**26TH JUNE 2023 AT 7.00PM**

**Present:**

Town Mayor, Cllr S Brooke

Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr M Evans

Cllr A Allen Cllr G Kennedy

Cllr U Arnold Cllr S Oldrieve

Cllr C Burton Cllr S Simmons

Cllr D Fletcher Cllr C West

Cllr E Kelly

**In attendance:**

Mr M Wells – Town Clerk

Ms A Christie – Assistant Town Clerk

A member of the Neighbourhood Watch Association

A member of the Residents Association

Two members of the Police

Two members of the public

Cllr S Morgan *\**

Cllr M Smith *\**

Cllr G Gribble *\*/\*\**

*\* District Cllr*

*\*\* County Cllr*

*The meeting was chaired by the Town Mayor, Cllr S Brooke.*

**FC.23/28 Apologies for absence**:

Cllr O Mills – Personal commitment

Cllr S Webster *\**

**FC.23/29 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations:**

Cllr Kelly declared an interest in item FC.23/42 (applicant 2) and will therefore withdraw from the meeting as is listed as a named referee.

Cllr Simmons and Cllr Oldrieve declared personal interests only in item FC.23/42 (both applicants).

**FC.23/30 Minutes**

i) The minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 10th May 2023 *(\*copy previously circulated)* were confirmed as a correct record.

ii) There were no updates on matters arising from the previous Annual Council meeting minutes which were not covered on the agenda.

**FC.23/31 Standing Item – Climate and Ecology Emergency:**

Members notedthe Council Declaration to embed the climate and ecology emergency declaration across all Council services, activities, plans and other relevant work, considering the environmental impact of decisions, ensuring a fully integrated approach to mitigating the impact of climate change.

*The meeting went out of session.*

**FC.23/32 Reports from Key Bodies on Parish related matters:**

 The following reports were received (if submitted) from key bodies including:

i) **Chaplain to the Council** – no report received.

ii) **Police** a written report for the period of 1st May - 31st May 2023 was provided (*\*copy previously circulated*). The summary stated that there were 26 recorded offences across the Bovey Tracey area, including 6 linked to assault offences, 4 criminal damage offence, 1 dog offence, 4 harassment offences, 2 fraud offences, 2 communication offences and 7 theft offences. Police responded to approximately 45 other incidents in the same period. From 1st June - 15th June when the report was compiled, there had been 9 offences recorded and 40 non-crime incidents.

PC Dave Gibson (Neighbourhood Beat Manager) added there is no emerging crime trend in the community and the majority of offences are domestic offences. There has been a number of thefts of vehicle parts in the local towns, including Bovey Tracey. Bovey Tracey has areas where young people like to congregate such as parks etc and see a well-behaved majority of users.

iii) **Cllr Gribble** provided a verbal overview of the County Council’s Highways works and pressures locally within the parish including, pothole repairs and in particular Haytor Road patching works, shortage in government funds and mitigating income measures such as the introduction of chargeable on-street car parking in trial areas across the county.

**Cllr Morgan** updated members about issues locally advising that Teignbridge has a Community Safety and Safeguarding Officer (Rebecca Hewitt) and that issues can be reported direct. Cllr Morgan also stated that Teignbridge committees have now been determined. The LIDL site meeting was well attended. Cllr Morgan highlighted how planning consultation responses and local community opinion are important for Planning Officers to consider when determining applications and stated that observations do not need to be based only on material considerations.

**Cllr Smith** submitted a report (*\*copy previously circulated*) and referred to key items within the report. Cllr Smithraised the community speed watch initiative; PC Dave Gibson gave an update confirming some volunteers have come forward. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Town Council did a call for volunteers and passed details to the Police. This will be followed up by the Town Clerk.

**Cllr Simmons** highlighted concerns following the recent Climate Emergency presentation event held at the Riverside Community Centre and the disruption caused by members of the ‘Time to Wake up Devon’ group. Cllr Simmons thanked the Police for their attendance and support for the recent Climate Emergency march.

**Cllr Arnold** updated members around the forthcoming carnival activities and events taking place in the town starting next month. Full details are available via the Bovey Tracey Carnival Facebook page.

iv) **Cllr Brooke** circulated a copy of Town Mayor interests and events attended since the last meeting. Cllr Brooke advised that the Council is working in partnership with the Police and the Youth Café to seek to provide a shelter in the park. Cllr Brooke further advised that residents could report issues to the Police through the StreetSafe portal for enhanced police intelligence and gave thanks to the Police for partnership working and support for town events. Cllr Brooke updated members on the preparations for the Southwest in Bloom entry for the town and judging taking place on 11th July 2023.

v) Other outside bodies: No reports received.

*Cllr G Gribble left the meeting at 7:27pm.*

**FC.23/33 Questions and Statements by the Public:**

i) A member of the Neighbourhood Watch Association raised the pending anti-terror legislation being considered under new laws aimed at enhancing public security at public venues and may affect the running of community halls. Reference was also made to the postbox which is temporarily out of action in Le-Molay Littry Way.

A member of the Resident’s Association thanked the Town Council and the Bovey Tracey Craft Festival organisers, citing the event as a success with international attendance, and congratulated Sarah James on the recent award of the MBE.

ii) The two applicants for Heathfield Ward Councillor co-option gave supportive information verbally to their applications and answered questions from members.

*The meeting went back into session.*

**FC.23/34 Business Raised by the Public:**

The Town Clerk will follow up with Royal Mail the repairs to the post box and seek an estimated timescale for the work.

**FC.23/35 Recreation, Parks & Property Committee (RP&P) Committee**:

The minutes of the meeting held on 30.05.23 (*\*copy previously circulated*) were received and adopted. Cllr Kelly provided a verbal summary on the key items considered.

**FC.23/36 Finance, Resources & General Purposes (FR&GP) Committee:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12.06.23 *(\*copy previously circulated)* were received and adopted. Cllr Burton provided a verbal summary of the key items considered.

**FC.23/37 Planning & Environment (P&E) Committee**:

The minutes of the meetings held on 15.05.23, 30.05.23 and 12.06.23 *(\*copies previously circulated)* were received and adopted. Cllr West provided a brief verbal summary highlighting key observations issued.

**FC.23/38 Annual Council Meeting (10.05.23):**

Members considered the deferred item to agree membership of the Appeals Committee.

**Resolved:** To elect Committee Chairs and the Town Mayor (Cllrs Kelly, Burton, West and Brooke) to form the Appeals Committee.

**FC.23/39 Representatives on Outside Bodies:**

Members considered nominations for a Town Council representative on the Heathfield Rail Link Project.

**Resolved:** To appoint Cllr Kennedy as the Council representative on the Heathfield Rail Link Project.

**FC.23/40 Communications Sub-Group**

i) Members received a report to consider forming a Communications Task & Finish Group, along with approving Draft Terms of Reference and agreeing membership.

**Resolved:** To form a communications Task and Finish Group in accordance with the Terms of Reference (*\*copy previously circulated*) with the amendment of adding ‘business representation’ to the group. The Council membership will be: Cllrs Burton, Fletcher and West. Ex Officio will be Cllr Evans.

**FC.23/41 Mill Marsh Park – Play Area Redevelopment**

Members considered delegating authority to the Recreation, Parks & Property Committee to select and appoint the successful tenderer.

**Resolved:** Following discussion, it was agreed to delegate authority to the Recreation, Parks & Property Committee to select and appoint the successful tenderer at its meeting on 10th July 2023.

*Cllr Kelly left the meeting at 8.14pm.*

**FC.23/42 Councillor Co-Option (Heathfield Ward)**

i) Members consideredproceeding with co-option based on applications received or to agree any other action as appropriate.

**Resolved:** Members resolved to proceed with the co-option.

ii) Members consideredco-option applications (*\*copies previously circulated*) to fill the Heathfield Ward Town Councillor vacancies.

**Resolved:** Members resolved to co-opt applicant 1 and applicant 2 as members of the council serving the ward of Heathfield.

*Cllr Kelly returned to the meeting at 8.17pm.*

**FC.23/43 Hedgehogs R Us Highway Project**

Members received and considered a request on behalf of the Hedgehogs R Us Highway Project (*\*copy previously circulated*).

**Resolved:** Following discussion members rejected the offer from Hedgehogs R Us and referred an item to the Recreation, Parks & Property Committee to obtain further information from ELM Wildlife Hedgehog Rescue and Rehabilitation and Devon Wildlife Trust to consider any alternative project/support locally.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.