**BRADLEY STOKE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

**10th May 2023**

Minutes of the THIRTY FIRST Meeting of Bradley Stoke held at The Jubilee Centre, Savages Wood Road, Bradley Stoke, at 7.00pm on Wednesday 10th May 2023.

A total of twenty two people were present at the meeting.

Current Town Councillors attending: Aleena Aditya, Tom Aditya, Roger Avenin, John Bradbury, Natalie Field, Jenny James, Dayley Lawrence, James Nelson, Kulwinder Singh Sappal, Ben Randles and Jon Williams

Past Town Councillors attending: Tony Griffiths, Angela Morey and Franklin Owusu-Antwi

Staff attending: Sharon Petela (Town Clerk), Rachel Pullen (RFO/Finance Manager), Philip Francis (Activity Centres Manager/Deputy Town Clerk) and Graham Baker (Youth Development & Participation Worker).

Others attending: PCSO Adam Ali and three local residents.

Councillors welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1 Appointment of Chair of the Town Meeting.**

Past Town Councillor Tony Griffiths, as Mayor and Chair of the Town Council for 2022/23, was proposed by Councillor Tom Aditya to chair the meeting, seconded by Councillor Roger Avenin, proposal carried. Councillor Tony Griffiths duly took the chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from current Town Councillors David Addison, Terri Cullen and Brian Mead and past Town Councillor Keith Cranney.

1. **Minutes of the Previous Town Meeting held on 11th May 2022**

The Minutes of the last Town Meeting were taken as read and their adoption was proposed by Councillor Roger Avenin, seconded by Councillor Tom Aditya, proposal carried.

**4 Reports from Committees**

The Annual Report was received *en bloc*. and the full Report is attached to these Minutes.

**4.1 Council**

Past Town Councillor, Tony Griffiths, Chair of the Council (2022/23) invited the Chairs of the three committees to present their reports and said he would give his report after they had completed theirs.

**4.2 Finance Committee**

Councillor Roger Avenin drew attention to his detailed committee report which was included in the Annual Report. He commented that, throughout the tenure of the past Town Council, councillors had treated the setting of the Precept and spending of public money in a responsible/frugal manner and it is hoped that the new Town Council will continue to act in a similar manner.

 **4.3 Leisure, Youth and Amenities Committee**

Councillor Tom Aditya drew attention to his committee report which was included in the Annual Report. He passed thanks to everyone on the Leisure, Youth & Amenities committee and the Bradley Stoke youth work team.

He commented that there are a range of ongoing projects/works in progress such as beginner/taster sessions at the skatepark, beautification of Davis Pond and installation of basketball hoops/court and it is hoped that these projects will come to fruition in the foreseeable future.

He also commented that Avon Pickleball Club make good use of the hardcourts at the Jubilee Centre. It is good to see that the Town Council are fully supporting Hedgehog Heroes initiatives as well.

**4.4 Planning and Environment Committee**

Councillor Ben Randles drew attention to his committee report which was included in the Annual Report and commented that the Town Council has responded to 76 planning applications during the past year. The Town Council is one of a number of statutory consultees on all planning applications submitted to the Unitary Authority, South Gloucestershire Council and town councillors always try to take residents view on board when responding to planning applications. It is nice to hear from residents that they like living in the town.

Another area covered by the committee is the environment and the committee have been involved in the formulation and adoption of a local Nature Action Plan for the Town. Offshoots of this plan were the Free Tree Evet (mentioned in the Annual report) and also the forthcoming Hedgehog Heroes project.

He said that it has been a privilege to Chair the Planning & Environment Committee for the past year.

**4.1 Council**

Past Town Councillor Tony Griffiths, Chair of the Council (2022/23) drew attention to his “Message from the Mayor” article which was included in the Annual Report.

He commented that he had been involved in a number of significant events during his year as Mayor, including the opening of the new Baileys Court Activity Centre Play Area & the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

In addition, and following the sad passing of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, he had the honour of reading the Accession Proclamation for His Majesty, King Charles III, which was an historical, poignant and sobering event to be involved with.

He thanked councillors for electing him to be Mayor/Chair of Council for a second term of office over the past year.

**5 General Discussion**

5.1 Councillor Tom Aditya commented that in Patchway, their Town Assembly identify three or four submissions from the public to focus on for the forthcoming year.

5.2 A resident commented that it would be good if the full three-day Community Festival could be resurrected for 2024.

5.3 Councillor Tom Aditya commented that it would be good to hold a Spring Event in 2024. A local resident said that an Easter Egg rolling/decoration event could be held and possibly also a St George’s Day parade/event. Councillor Dayley Lawrence commented that, speaking as a member of the new town councillor, all ideas will be considered.

5.4 Councillor Tony Griffiths commented that whilst parkrun is a good initiative, he was not convinced that the Three Brooks Nature Reserve was a suitable location for the run in the town.

5.5 Councillor Tom Aditya commented that it would be good to undertake a programme to educate residents on the roles of the Town Council and the Unitary Authority to make residents more constitutionally aware which may help to encourage them to stand in forthcoming elections.

5.6 A resident suggested that it would be good if a picnic could be held on the Jubilee Green to celebrate both the 75 years of the NHS and 75 Years of Windrush as both these commemorations fall quite close to each other (end of June/beginning of July).

Past Town Councillor Tony Griffiths thanked everyone for attending the meeting and, there being no other business, closed the meeting at 7.25pm.