**MEETING OF BOVEY TRACEY TOWN COUNCIL**

**HELD AT THE RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON**

**23RD JUNE 2025 AT 7.00PM**

**Present:**

Town Mayor, Cllr S Brooke Cllr G Kennedy

Cllr A Allen Cllr H Mills-Brown

Cllr U Arnold Cllr S Oldrieve

Cllr C Burton Cllr L Robillard Webb

Cllr C Day Cllr S Simmons

Cllr M Evans Cllr C West

**In attendance:**

Mr M Wells – Town Clerk

Cllr S Morgan\*/\*\*

Cllr M Smith*\**

*\* District Councillor*

\*\* County Councillor

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Brooke.

**FC.25/26 Apologies for absence**:

 Cllr D Fletcher – Work commitment

 Cllr E Kelly – Personal commitment

**FC.25/27 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations:**

There were no interests declared or requests for dispensations received.

**FC.25/28 Minutes:**

i) The minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 7th May 2025 *(\*copy previously circulated)* were confirmed as a correct record.

ii) The Town Clerk provided a verbal update on the following item:

AM.25/08 – The Town Clerk advised that the Public Toilets at the Recreation Ground were repaired and opened within the same week. In addition, the overgrown hedges that were impeding a footpath in Mary Street were reported to Devon County Council and it appears this work has also been undertaken.

**FC.25/29 Standing Item – Climate and Ecology Emergencies:**

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.

Cllr Burton presented a slide on the climate emergency and highlighted that the 2022 – 2024 period saw the largest three-year loss of glacier mass ever recorded. It is thought that melting of ice in the Greenland Ice Sheet, equivalent to up to 2m of sea level rise, is already irreversible. The slide also referred to the Blatten glacier collapse (a natural disaster that occurred on 28th May 2025 affecting the village of Blatten in the Lötschental valley in the canton of Valais, Switzerland which buried and destroyed large parts of the village).

*The meeting went out of session.*

**FC.25/30 Reports from Key Bodies on Parish related matters:**

 The following reports were received (*where available*) from key bodies, including:

1. **Churches Together** – No report received.
2. **Police** – No report received. Cllr Brooke referred to a recent meeting discussing Anti-Social Behaviour in Bovey Tracey with Cllr Burton, the Town Clerk and the Community Safety and Safeguarding Manager at Teignbridge DC. A further meeting will be arranged to enable introductions with the new area Seargeant Ryan Cooke.
3. **Cllr Morgan** – Advised that the two current key priorities for Devon County Council are to maintain the road network and to focus on SEND Services. A meeting was held last week with DCC Engineers to discuss the access/egress at the Co-operative Store and MAKE SW following their planning application. The cantilever walkway replacement works along Station Road are scheduled to start in June 2026 and access will be maintained to the park via a temporary footbridge. Furthermore, during these works, the current height of the footway will be lowered to aid any future crossing points. The Civil Engineers working on the A382 scheme have advised that there is currently no additional funding available to progress the works between the Ice House and Drumbridges, however the works from the Ice House to Forces Cross will continue to proceed. Cllr Morgan will leave plans of the scheme with the Town Clerk. Cllr Morgan advised that a new members portal has been released, which helps Councillors deal with the correct Officers when community issues are raised. Cllr Simmons advised that communication had been received in relation to the ‘20 is Plenty’ campaign, understanding that the new administration would like to progress more schemes. Cllr Arnold advised that public consultation had been undertaken locally to support the Town Council’s proposal.

 **Cllr Smith’s** report was received by members (*\*copy previously circulated*). Cllr Smith updated members since the report was circulated, advising that Cllr Palethorpe (Teignbridge DC Deputy Leader) has visited Bovey Tracey recently to meet with the Town Clerk and to visit the Swimming Pool Trust who will be applying for prosperity funding. Cllr Smith referred to the current situation around S106 funds and Teignbridge’s aspirations to improve current systems to effectively monitor spend by dates. Cllr Burton referred to the recent communication between the Town Clerk and District Council Officers advising that significant spend amounts had passed their spend by dates and may need to be returned to the developer. Cllr Burton also thanked District Councillors for advocating for Bovey Tracey. Cllr Smith will try to ascertain from Cllr Palethorpe what CiL money has been committed and to quantify what amounts may be available for the Town Council to apply for in the future.

**Cllr Webster** - No report received from the Teignbridge District Councillor. Cllr Arnold enquired as to the lack of any contact with Cllr Webster. Cllr Smith advised members of his personal circumstances.

1. **Town Mayors Interests** – Cllr Brooke referred to a list of Town Mayor’s interests and activities/events attended since the last meeting (*\*copy previously circulated*).
2. **Other outside bodies or interests:**

**Cllr Simmons** advised of her attendance at the recent TDC Planning Forum and notified members that the final version of the Local Plan (amendments only) were to be consulted upon during the summer of 2025. Furthermore, members were advised that Town Council’s will be unable to call applications to committee for determination in future.

**Cllr Burton** advised that Business 4 Bovey (B4B) have raised concerns with a drop in footfall for town centre businesses and will be meeting again to discuss what can be done to improve the situation.

**Cllr Robillard Webb** advised that there had been rumours circulating in relation to the future of the Dolphin Hotel and that it may be used to accommodate asylum seekers, however there was no truth in this rumour. Cllr Simmons advised that a recent planning application had been submitted to refurbish various aspects of the hotel.

**Cllr Robillard Webb** advised that a litter pick has been arranged to take place in Heathfield on the morning of Saturday 5th July.

**Cllr Oldrieve** thanked Councillors and Staff for their help and support with Great Big Green Week. Thanks also go to Bovey Businesses for their support.

**Cllr Arnold** advised that a full 9 days of events and activities are planned for Bovey Tracey Carnival Week, starting on 26th July with Picnic in the Park and running daily throughout the week following, ending on the Sunday with the Grand Summer Fete.

**FC.25/31 Questions and Statements by the Public:**

 Cllr Brooke referred to a statement made by the Chairman of the Neighbourhood Watch Group who was unable to attend this evening but wished to report concerns that there is a sign on the external elevation of the Dolphin Hotel seeking tenants, however it appears that there has been no interest and it is of key importance to retain the listed building as a local business for our town.

*The meeting went back into session.*

**FC.25/32 Business Raised by the Public:**

There was no requirement to refer any business raised in public discussion or any other matters of information from Councillors.

**FC.25/33 Recreation, Parks & Property (RP&P) Committee**:

The minutes of the meeting held on 27.05.25 (*\*copy previously circulated*) were received and adopted.Cllr West provided a verbal summary of the key items considered and responded to questions from members.

**FC.25/34 Finance, Resources & General Purposes (FR&GP) Committee:**

 i) The minutes of the meeting held on 09.06.25 *(\*copy previously circulated)* were received and adopted. Cllr Burton provided a verbal summary of the key items considered.

ii) Members received and considered a recommendation to re-adopt the Treasury & Investment Policy (*\*copy previously circulated).*

**Resolved:** To adopt the Treasury & Investment Policy as circulated, without further amendment.

**FC.25/35 Planning & Environment (P&E) Committee**:

The minutes of the meetings held on 12.05.25, 27.05.25 and 09.06.25 *(\*copies previously circulated)* were received and adopted. Cllr Simmons provided a verbal summary of the key applications and items considered.

 Following a discussion about historical applications, the Town Clerk will seek a list of any historical applications that are yet to be determined.

**FC.25/36 Personnel Committee:**

 i) The minutes of the meeting held on 06.06.25 (*\*copy previously circulated*) were received and adopted.

ii) Members received and considered a recommendation to approve an Annual Leave Policy (Item P.25/28).

**Resolved:** To approve additional policy guidance as follows:

* Staff members to book annual leave as far in advance as possible.
* The shared calendar must be used to record annual leave.
* Any conflicts which will result in a need to close the Council office must be approved by the Town Mayor & Chairperson, or in their absence, the Deputy Town Mayor.

**FC.25/37 Annual Council Meeting (07.05.25):**

 Members received the following deferred item and considered agreeing membership as appropriate:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Sub-Committee/Steering Group** | **Number of Members** |
| Appeals Committee | Minimum of 3 |

 **Resolved:** To appoint Cllrs Kelly (Chair of RP&P Committee), Simmons (Chair of Planning & Environment Committee) and West (Vice Chair of Planning and Environment Committee) in addition to Cllr Brooke as Town Mayor.

The meeting closed at 8.03pm.