**MEETING OF BOVEY TRACEY TOWN COUNCIL**

**HELD AT THE RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON**

**17TH MARCH 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 C West

Cllr S Simmons

**In attendance:**

Mr M Wells – Town Clerk

Ms A Christie – Assistant Town Clerk

A member of the Neighbourhood Watch Association

A member of the Resident’s Association

Cllr S Morgan\*

Cllr M Smith*\**

Two members of the public

*\* District Councillor*

\*\* County Councillor

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Brooke.

Cllr Brooke highlighted that a period of purdah is approaching, and we must all conduct ourselves appropriately in this period of heightened sensitivity.

**FC.25/16 Apologies for absence**:

Cllr M Evans – Personal commitment

Cllr D Fletcher – Personal commitment

Cllr E Kelly – Work commitment

**FC.25/17 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations:**

There were no interests declared or requests for dispensations received.

**FC.25/18 Minutes**

i) The minutes of the Council meeting held on 20th January 2025 *(\*copy previously circulated)* were confirmed as a correct record.

ii) The Town Clerk provided verbal updates on the following items:

FC.25/03 – The final outstanding policies will be reviewed at Personnel Committee on 18th March, before submission with the remaining updated documents as part of the Local Council Award Scheme application.

FC.25/07 – The request for enclosed bus shelters in the town centre area was sent to the DCC Highways Officer on 3rd February. To date we are yet to receive a reply.

**FC.25/19 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 it is food waste action week, advising amongst other statistics, that the UK throw away 10.7 million tonnes of food each year.

*The meeting went out of session.*

**FC.25/20 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. The Town Mayor thanked the Methodist Church for hosting the Community Fridge in relation to the Climate Emergency and further services provided that support the community, including Citizen’s Advice Service, the Soup club and Social Supermarket initiatives.
2. **Police** – No report received from the Police. The Town Mayor referred to the recent Heathfield Action Team meeting and thanked the Police for their attendance.
3. **Cllr Gribble** - No report received from the Devon County Councillor.

**Cllr Morgan**’s report was received by members (*\*copy previously circulated*). Cllr Morgan answered questions from members.

**Cllr Smith’s** report was received by members (*\*copy previously circulated*). Cllr Smith answered questions from members.

**Cllr Webster** - No report received from the Teignbridge District Councillor.

Cllr Kennedy asked the District Councillors if any grants are available from Teignbridge District Council for eco improvements and adaptions to buildings.

Cllr Simmons asked the District Councillors about the process for enhancing cycle routes locally.

**Cllr Oldrieve** highlighted the dates of the Great Big Green Week (7-14th June 2025) and referred to a range of events that are being held around the town, including a drop-in hub at the Youth Café. Any volunteers that are interested in taking part should contact Cllr Oldrieve.

**Cllr Mills-Brown** referred to the recent Heathfield Action Team Public Consultation Meeting, held on Tuesday 4th March 2025 in Heathfield, stating twenty-three members of the public attended the meeting with one young person. Cllr Mills-Brown provided her thanks to the public and the young person for attending. Cllr Mills-Brown highlighted some pressing issues in Heathfield including parking of business vehicles in residential streets, implications of approved planning applications that can impact on parking and safe pedestrian routes. Cllr Mills-Brown highlighted other concerns which included flooding and anti-social behaviour. The Police attendance at the meeting was welcomed.

**Cllr Brooke** expressed gratitude to Cllrs Robillard Webb and Mills-Brown for their dedicated efforts with Heathfield residents. The residents had highlighted several pressing issues impacting their quality of life, necessitating a collaborative approach involving the Police, Town, District and County Councillors.

**Cllr Robillard Webb** reported that a micro-nursery has been created in Heathfield and tree planting volunteers/sites are needed.

**Cllr Allen** updated members around the Community Award nominations and explained that the Town Council should consider how to engage the community in the submission of awards in future.

**Cllr Brooke** updated members following a meeting with Cllr Robillard Webb and Bovey Tracey Surgery to discuss resident concerns and access to GP Services.

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*). Cllr Brooke referred to the recent submission of the Town’s South West in Bloom application and is waiting to hear this year’s theme, which will be disseminated to all parties shortly.
2. **Other outside bodies or interests**

A representative from Bovey Paradiso referred to the recent grant progress report (*\*copy previously circulated*) and spoke further in relation to the aspirations, objectives and activities of the Community Arts Centre in Bovey Tracey. Cllr Brooke raised a question on behalf of Cllr Kelly, in relation to activities and events that are inclusive and accessible by all. It was stated that the Community Arts Centre needs to fund the running costs of the building to keep it functioning and as such, can only support free or discounted activities where they are managed by volunteers or the activities are funded by grants etc.

Cllr Burton, on behalf of Business for Bovey (B4B), referred to the group’s engagement with the local business community.

**FC.25/21 Questions and Statements by the Public:**

There were no questions or statements raised by the public.

*The meeting went back into session.*

**FC.25/22 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.25/23 Recreation, Parks & Property (RP&P) Committee**:

i) The minutes of the meeting held on 17.02.25 (*\*copy previously circulated*) were received and adopted.Cllr Oldrieve provided a verbal summary of the key items considered and responded to questions from members.

ii) Councillors considered a recommendation to adopt a Management of Dogs Policy (*\*copy previously circulated*) (Item: RP&P 25/06).

**Resolved:** To adopt the policy as circulated, subject to the Town Clerk amending the font to mirror other Town Council policies.

**FC.25/24 Finance, Resources & General Purposes (FR&GP) Committee:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 03.03.25 *(\*copy previously circulated)* were received and adopted. Cllr Kennedy provided a verbal summary of the key items considered and responded to questions in relation to the Capital Programme.

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

i) The minutes of the meetings held on 03.02.25, 17.02.25 and 03.03.25 *(\*copies previously circulated)* were received and adopted. Cllr Simmons provided a verbal summary of the key applications and items considered.

ii) Councillors received a referred item (PL.25/32) and considered forming a Task & Finish Group to review the Council’s Climate Emergency position and make subsequent recommendations on actions to improve the Council’s climate position.

**Resolved:** Following discussion, members resolved to form a Task & Finish Group of Cllrs Fletcher, Kennedy and Simmons to review the Council’s Climate Emergency position and make subsequent recommendations on appropriate way(s) forward.

The meeting closed at 7:57pm.