

# **BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 10 JUNE 2010 AT 7.30PM IN THE CHARTER HALL TOWN HALL BRIDGWATER**

**PRESENT:** Cllr WJ Monteith (Mayor of Bridgwater – in the Chair) Cllrs DL Baker, MD Cresswell, GJ Granter, DP Loveridge, PGH Parker, DL Preece, Ms JA Raven, KF Richards, and J Turner (JP)

**Apologies:** Cllrs Busby, Downes, Hall, Munn, Mrs Slocombe and Smeed

### **01/10 POLICING IN BRIDGWATER – PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION WITH SGT CHARMAINE DYNE, TOWN CENTRE CLUSTER MANAGER:**

Sgt Dyne gave the Town Council a summary of the new appointments and arrangements operating in the town, following the arrival of Inspector Shane Carey in succession to Inspector Nic Crocker. A full list was circulated to all Members for information and future use.

Members then had the opportunity to raise a series of issues related to individual wards in the town and future policing arrangements and operations. Members welcomed the increase in visible policing and Sgt Dyne noted a number of specific actions, and locations where concerns were raised. In particular these related to the town centre and vehicle speeds, the town centre and miss-use of one-way and pedestrian areas and pavements by cyclists, highway and traffic enforcement and particularly miss-use at traffic lights.

The Mayor thanked Sgt Dyne and welcomed the continuing regular contact and working relationship.

### **02/10 PUBLIC SPEAKING:**

The Council were addressed by Mr Colin Hooper representing Bridgwater Senior Citizens and other groups, raising again the issue of bus shelters, which were now a Town Council responsibility and the need for repairs and replacement glass in certain locations, and the provision of new shelters in others. Mr Hooper had raised this issued previously, and suggested ways in which companies and bus operators may be brought on board to help. Members acknowledged there was already a programme which had been laid down and which would be implemented as soon as the impact of other priorities permitted.

Ms Linda Brigg also spoke to the Council on the subject of swimming availability for those with disabilities and related her comments particularly to an item on the agenda in relation to Quantock Lodge. It was confirmed that the request from Quantock Lodge was for support with a funding application and a not direct funding request to the Town Council.

Mr Bob Cudlipp had also given notice of a desire to speak on several matters and had submitted a written note with an apology at having to attend a meeting elsewhere. The Town Clerk introduced the various items raised by Mr Cudlipp at the appropriate point in the agenda.

### **03/10 MINUTES:**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 29/04/10 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

**04/10 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES 29/04/10:**

- i. **EDF and National Grid (and IPC consultations)** (Min 86/09.i) – EDF had confirmed that they were entering into the next stage of the consultation process and had offered to make a presentation and hold discussions with the Town Council about their plans between 10 August and 30 September. A series of public exhibitions were planned during June and July. Meanwhile, the National Grid had notified a series of update briefings about the Hinkley Point C Connection Project planned in various parts of the area. Members confirmed their desire to meet with EDF at the appropriate time.
- ii. **Future funding and support for SDC** (Min 86/09.ii) – the workshop for Town and Parish Councils had been held on 12/05/10 and the Town Clerk reported the results of the workshop. This illustrated the potential for town and parish councils to work with the district to jointly fund a range of discretionary services, which was to be considered by the executive of SDC. Members acknowledged that there were a significant number of areas where the Town Council already supported SDC and were “ahead of the game”. Concerns were voiced about the impact on the resources of the town and parish councils and the ability of these organisations to manage and administer devolved services, which was the case.
- iii. **Notice of Audit 2009/2010** (Min 89/09) – members noted that the audit date had been deferred to 01/07/10.

**RESOLVED:** That pending completion of the town council accounts for submission by the end of the month, the Mayor and Chairman of the Finance Committee be authorised to sign off the accounts for submission to the external auditors.

- iv. **“Connect 3”, Bridgwater, Taunton and Wellington Transport Strategy** (Min 86/09.v) – Members concluded that the second consultation on this developing strategy, due shortly, may be deferred due to doubts about the availability and position of long-term funding.
- v. **Cluster and PACT meetings** – the Town Clerk reported that as a result of an update meeting with Inspector Shane Carey about various issues it was planned that, although beat surgeries would continue in individual wards in the town, that the full Policing Communities Together (PACT) meetings would be held at the commencement of the formal Cluster Meetings between the Town Council and the District Council.

**05/10 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON 29/04/10 – MATTERS ARISING:**

The Minutes of the Annual Public Meeting had been circulated for members’ information. These would be available on the website, together with the circulated resume of the year 2009/2010. Members noted the issues that had been raised and in particular the position with allotments, the stated policy of the Town Council to support the Bridgwater Tenants Allotment Association and the plans for provision of future allotments in the town, including the provision of a new allotment site at Kidsbury Road and the relocation of the Bristol Road 1 allotment site to permit residential led development and re-use of brownfield land adjoining.

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting 2010 be noted and the position with regard to allotments maintained.

**06/10 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND INCOME:**

**RESOLVED:** That the payments (including Section 137 payments) made since the last meeting recorded in the town clerk's report dated 03/06/10 and the credit income reported, be approved and confirmed.

*(Cllr Cresswell declared an interest in matters relating to Trinity Hall and took no part in the consideration and did not vote thereon).*

**07/10 QUANTOCK ROAD CEMETERY:**

Arising from the previous item reference was made to the position at the Cemetery where a number of graves appeared to have sunk and not been attended to. This would be followed up.

**08/10 TOWN COUNCIL ASSETS AND CATTLEMARKE T & BRISTOL ROAD LANDS, INCLUDING ALLOTMENTS AND THIS (THERP PROJECT) (MIN 80/09):**

Members were advised that the draft Landowners' Agreement and Lease and the revised Promotion and Development Agreement were nearing completion. The application had been submitted to the Secretary of State under the allotments act, following the decision to progress at the previous meeting. The Town Clerk reported further meetings held to progress the town hall project and the likelihood continued support from the Town Council would be necessary in the way in which this was managed and administered. Members acknowledged this in principle and noted that further detailed discussions would be held. The Cultural Partners were meeting again on 15/06/10 and a further report would be submitted. An opening event celebrating the external refurbishment was due to take place on 18/07/10.

**09/10 KIDSBURY ROAD ADDITIONAL ALLOTMENTS:**

The Town Clerk confirmed that a specialist quotation had been received through the Bridgwater Allotment Tenants Association (BATA) and was well within budget for the first phase.

**RESOLVED:** That the scheme to provide the extra plots be commissioned with the sum of £3500.

**10/10 ELECTORAL REVIEW OF SEDGEMOOR (MIN 76/09):**

The draft recommendations had been published and Members informed of the web-link by e-mail. The proposal was for a total number of 48 councillors for Sedgemoor, with the "Bridgwater" warding proposals being 7 wards, 6 two member and 1 three member. The boundaries of the Bridgwater wards as illustrated included land and new development areas outside the present town boundary. Further information by way of improved plans and lists of streets within wards was being obtained. A recommendation for the Town Council to remain at 16 members was also included.

**RESOLVED:** That the Electoral Review Working party be reconvened to consider a response and all members invited to submit views in advance; and in due course consideration be given to a position of the Bridgwater town boundary for parish purposes, in the light of the draft recommendation supporting the BTC submission for the Town Council to remain at 16 members.

## **11/10 APPOINTMENTS 2010/2011:**

On presentation of the current list of appointments, members were invited to determine appointments for the coming municipal year.

**Finance Committee** – Cllrs. Cresswell, Downes, Granter, Parker, Preece, Richards Mrs Slocombe and Turner.

**Planning Panel** – Cllrs. Downes, Monteith, Munn, Parker, Ms Raven, Smeed and Turner

**Museum Sub-Committee** – Cllrs Granter, Smeed and Turner

**Electoral Review Working Party** – Monteith, Granter, Richards, Mrs Slocombe and Turner

**Blake & Gilbert Charity** – 5 – Mrs Briscombe, Ms Pearce, Mr JRB Taylor for four years from 2008 and Cllrs Richards and Turner for four years from June 2007

**Brent Marshall and Mansfield Charity** – 5 - Mrs Briscombe and Cllrs. Preece & Turner for four years from November 2008, ONE vacancy and Cllr Richards for four years from June 2007

**Tamlin Charity** – 4 – life term – Mayor and Deputy Mayor (by designation), Mr Adrian Moore and Cllr Richards

**Towell Charity** – 2 – life term – Ms Pearce and Cllr Smeed (commenced June 2006)

**King James Exhibition and Scholarship Endowment Charity** – now wound up

**Bridgwater/La Ciotat Link Society** – 1 – Cllr Richards

**Bridgwater/Homberg Society** – 1 (President) – Cllr Monteith (as Mayor)

**Bridgwater/Marsa Society** – 1 (President) – Cllr Monteith (as Mayor)

**Bridgwater/Czech/Slovak Friendship Society (UH Twin)** – 1 – Cllr Loveridge

**Wyndham Lecture Trust for the Schools of Bridgwater** – 1 – Cllr Cresswell

**Bridgwater Chamber of Commerce and Trade** – 1 – Cllr Parker

**Bridgwater Heritage Regeneration Partnership** – 1 – Cllr Smeed (Deputy Cllr Granter)

**Bridgwater Arts Centre (Board of Directors)** – 1 – (previously BJ Gillard who moved from observer to full Board Member) **Observer Position** – 1 – Cllr Loveridge

**Bridgwater Challenge (Board Member)** – 1 – Cllr Downes (sub Cllr Smeed)

**BCI Partnership** – 2 – Cllrs Downes and Turner

**Somerset Cultural Forum** – 1 – Cllr Parker

**Cluster Group (SDC)** – Cllrs Hall, Parker, Ms Raven and Turner and Town Clerk

**Westover Green Community School** – minor LA Governor – 1 – Mrs EH Hudson

**Bridgwater Transport Strategy Review and 'Connect 3'** (when estab.) – 1 – Cllr Preece

**Internal Auditor** – 1 – Mrs Geri O'Loughlin

**Hinkley Point (ex-Liaison Committee) site stakeholder group** – 1 – Cllr Downes or substitute

**EDF Energy HP new build Community Forum** – 1 - Cllr Monteith

**Building Schools for the Future – Stakeholders' Board** – no longer in existence

**BSF – Strategic Project Board** (if invited) includes representative from Bridgwater Ward SCC

**SDC Standards Committee Town & Parish Member** (1 of 3) – Cllr Monteith (elected by local councils)

**Grievance & Disciplinary Panel** – Cllrs. Cresswell, Ms Raven, Granter, Monteith (Mayor) and Mrs Slocombe

**12/10 MAYORAL ITEMS:**

- i. **Armed Forces Day** – 26/06/10 – the Mayor reminded members of the plans for this event including a service at St Mary's, followed by a concert with the Yeovil Town Band
- ii. **Italian Experience** – charity fund-raising exercise led by the deputy head of East Bridgwater Community School helping disadvantaged children – referred to the finance committee (copies of the correspondence to be circulated by e-mail with request for members' views prior to the finance committee meeting).
- iii. **Civic Service** – 18/07/10 – followed by Town Hall celebrations.

**13/10 PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:**

The Town Clerk reported on correspondence and papers received: those for decision and those for information.

**RESOLVED:** That all items be noted as listed in the report dated 03/06/10 (agenda item 9) and decisions taken as follows, as well as noting the additions recorded below:-

**Decisions**

1. Snowflakes, shopping and Christmas lights switch on 24/11/10 – draft proposals supported within allowance of £1000 budget;
2. Town centre sign boards either end Fore Street – adoption and management accepted;
3. Team Somerset 500 Club – request for recipes and healthy living tips for fund-raising book – actions agreed;
4. Provision of bus shelters in Bridgwater – correspondence noted, together with issues raised at public speaking and programme authorised subject to priorities;
5. Quantock Lodge Leisure Ltd – support request for Quantock Lodge Pool funding application noting purpose of application designed to improve low carbon emissions;
20. Town council Meeting Room – identification of cruck beams and refurbishment – expenditure authorised up to £1000 for lighting feature;
23. Old Mill works to flooring and insertion of shelving – expenditure of up to £2000 authorised to enable move of stored items and artefacts for museum from Colley Lane Store;
25. Land adjacent to Friarn Avenue fencing - quotations obtained with further quotation expected and referred to Finance Committee;

**For Information (added)**

18. Declarations of Interest – advice paper issued to members to notify where any changes have taken place;
19. Hallam land planning application – confirmation not to be called in by secretary of state.
21. Wessex Water Authority relining of mains – notice in relation to St Matthew's Field allotments;
22. Clean Sweep campaign – Victoria Ward (July);
24. Town Life monthly magazine (new publication) – support within advertising budget;
26. Museum Trustees planning and education session;
27. Blake Gardens band concerts.

The meeting finished at 9.32pm

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Signed  
Chairman