

BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2010 AT 7.30PM
IN THE CHARTER HALL TOWN HALL BRIDGWATER

PRESENT: Cllr W J Monteith (Mayor of Bridgwater – in the Chair), Cllrs DL Baker, D Busby, MD Cresswell, AS Downes, GJ Granter, D Hall, JR Munn, DL Preece, KF Richards, Mrs GJ Slocombe, P Smeed and J Turner (JP)

Apologies: Cllrs Loveridge, Parker and Ms Raven

46/10 CLLR DAVE LOVERIDGE:

The Council was advised of the apology from Cllr Loveridge who was receiving treatment at Frenchay following diagnosis of a serious illness. The Council recorded their best wishes to Cllr Loveridge for a full and speedy recovery.

47/10 PUBLIC SPEAKING:

The Council were informed of a series of questions raised by Mr Bob Cudlipp directed at Julia Ridge in connection with her presentation giving an update on progress with Building Schools for the Future Project.

48/10 BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE (BSF):

The Council received the presentation from Julia Ridge, Project Director, in which she confirmed the progress with the development of the three schools where contracts had now been let. She reminded the meeting of the origins of the scheme aimed at improving standards across the piece and securing this through new build and the introduction of modern teaching methods and new technology whilst at the same time improving facilities available to local communities. Julia explained in detail the plans for Chilton Trinity Technical College and the Robert Blake Science College, together with the new Elmwood school. BAM, the successful contractor, had also made available a fund of £50,000 for assisting other students.

BSF were still optimistic about the three other schools East Bridgwater, Haygrove and Penrose, although these would now have to go through another bidding process.

In addition to the responses to the series of questions from Mr Cudlipp, Julia also responded to comments about the numbers of places to be provided in both the schools now being built and the second phase, should this go ahead, particularly in relation to the potential increase in residential development. Confirmation was also given about community use and control of the affordability of facilities.

On behalf of the Council the Mayor thanked Julia Ridge for her presentation and for responding so fully to the series of questions raised with an invitation to attend the Town Council again as schemes developed.

49/10 MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 07/10/10 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

50/10 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES 07/10/10:

- i. **Policing in Bridgwater** (Min 36/10) – the Town Clerk confirmed as a result of a recent meeting, the action plan in hand by the police, which was particularly concerned with cycling on footpaths in Bristol Road and Bath Road where houses in the terraces opened directly onto the footways. The Town Council were supporting SDC in representations to the County Council as highway authority and to Sustrans on the best ways these issues could be dealt with. Similar action was being taken in the town centre and emphasis on the need for constant vigilance through law enforcement was emphasised;
- ii. **Bridgwater town centre Shopping and Retail Initiatives** (Min 45/10.5) – the Mayor responded to a letter in the Bridgwater Mercury, from which it was clear the action being taken by the authorities, including the Town Council, was not getting across in the reality of the messages. He drew attention to further discussions with retailers including Mrs Sally Jones and suggestions being explored for an information point and possibly a second shop-mobility point in conjunction with Angel Place

51/10 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND INCOME:

RESOLVED:

- i. That the payments (including Section 137 payments) made since the last meeting recorded in the Town Clerk's report dated 04/11/10 and the credit income reported, be approved and confirmed;
- ii. that the detailed Income & Expenditure report by budget heading to 30/09/10 be noted.

52/10 TOWN HALL – FUTURE OF BUILDINGS & MANAGEMENT AND CULTURAL PARTNERS (MIN38/10.iii):

The Town Clerk confirmed that meetings continued to take this forward in line with the report at the previous meeting. Further information was awaited from SDC to make further progress and the Finance Committee would be invited to take the position from 31/03/11 into account in considering the Town Council budget for 2011/2012.

RESOLVED: That the actions be endorsed.

53/10 NATIONAL GRID - HINKLEY POINT C CONNECTION PROJECT (MIN 38/10.iv):

Further correspondence had been received from National Grid confirming that responses to the consultation were being examined and that all the different system options, including underground and sub-sea cables as well as overhead lines were being reviewed. They anticipated an announcement on the preferred route corridor in the early part of 2011.

54/10 JOINT FUNDING OF LOCAL SERVICES (MIN 43/10):

The Town Clerk referred to the continuing discussions with SDC and to further correspondence received from the County Council following the recent decisions relating to the impact of funding cuts. Again, this would be taken into account by the Finance Committee in the budget preparations.

(Cllr Mrs Slocombe declared an interest as a member of the Arts Centre because of the reduction in "Arts" funding and with Cllr Baker as employees of the County Council and Cllr Hall as a Portfolio Holder took no part in the consideration and did not vote thereon).

55/10 EDF – STAGE TWO PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION (MIN 41/10):

An acknowledgement of the Town Council's submission on phase two had been received. Over 800 responses had been received and were being dealt with. A further report from a Stakeholder's meeting held on 16/09/10 was recorded.

56/10 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT CATTLE MARKET & BRISTOL ROAD LANDS – BRISTOL ROAD 1 & 2 ALLOTMENT SITES (MIN 42/10):

It was expected that the Promotion and Development Agreement would shortly be completed and the agreement between SDC and the Town Council had been finalised and should be available for signature at the same time. Members would then be notified of the programme for the development and timetable, which would include the relocation of the allotment site Bristol Road 1.

57/10 ELECTORAL REVIEW OF SEDGEMOOR – FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS (MIN 26/10):

The Local Government Boundary Commission had now issued their report and final recommendations, which would be the subject of the draft order to be laid before Parliament, details were available on the website. Basically, the draft recommendations had been confirmed with a number of wards being re-named, together with boundary changes to the Bridgwater wards. Members indicated that there was a possibility of a Judicial Review currently being examined by the District Council.

58/10 QUANTOCK ROAD AND BRISTOL ROAD CEMETERIES – FEES 2011/2012:

The Town Clerk reported that the current fees had been examined against budget and income and the Service Level Agreement payments and it was recommended that apart from the increase in VAT due from 01/01/11, fees and charges should be held at the current level.

RESOLVED: That the recommendation be approved.

59/10 MAYORAL ITEMS:

The Mayor drew attention to the following items:-

1. Carnival Fireworks – confirming that this had again been successful although some of the sequence had not acted properly but had not affected the overall impressions and success;
2. a reminder about the Remembrance Day Service and plans for the day;
3. in light of illness of the Mayoress to record a wish from the Council for a speedy recovery

60/10 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 04/11/10 and decisions taken as follows, as well as noting the additions recorded below:-

Decisions

1. Bridgwater Heritage Regeneration Partnership – walkway proposal – deferred pending consideration of future maintenance liability and options;

For information:

3. Snowflakes and shopping – Wednesday 24/11/10 – update including Xmas lights switch-on.
5. SDC Standards Committee – issues of decision notice
7. Bridgwater Forward Campaign – circular on the Northgate site
8. Guide to winter service in Somerset.
9. Meeting discussing industrial awards for 2011 to showcase the economy
10. Authorisation on preparatory work on second site at Kidsbury Road allotments
11. Sedgemoor Economic Development conference 29/11/10 “Transforming the Economies – Local growth”
12. Carriageway maintenance M5 junction 24 – 15/11/10 for 4 weeks
13. Sedgemoor Citizens Advice Bureau – finalists in ITV People’s Millions with vote on 23/11/10.

(Cllr Smeed declared an interest in item 1 and Mrs Slocombe in item 5 and the Mayor in item 5 took no part in the consideration and did not vote thereon).

The meeting finished at 9pm

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Signed
Chairman