

BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 16 JUNE 2011 AT 7.30PM AT TRINITY HALL ST SAVIOURS AVENUE BRIDGWATER

PRESENT: Cllr PGH Parker (Mayor of Bridgwater – in the Chair), Cllrs SB Austen, AM Glassford, GJ Granter, MJ Lerry, DP Loveridge, AJ Moore, Mrs PM Morley, KF Richards, IC Tucker and J Turner (JP)

Apologies: Cllrs Baker, Monteith, Redman, Mrs Slocombe and Smedley

01/11 PUBLIC SPEAKING:

Mrs Linda Brigg spoke to the meeting as a follow up to the proposed disposal of land at Northgate by the District and County Councils, confirming her interest in the provision of a new swimming pool, which she accepted would now be built at Chilton. She emphasised that the pool must be suitable for all, particularly catering for the needs of those with disabilities, in terms of both the nature of the facility and time slots allocated to users. She was still concerned that with a build in this location users would have difficulty getting there and face difficulties in securing transport.

Mrs Sally Jones then addressed the meeting in support of the motion to be considered later in the meeting in relation to Northgate and Tesco, outlining the views she had expressed at the LDF enquiry and referring to a recent Countryfile programme about the impact of large supermarkets. She expressed views about what might be expected from Tesco were they to develop the site.

Mr Bob Cudlip confirmed his support for the same motion drawing particular attention to the need to protect green spaces and the need to retain the natural environment to the benefit of all. He emphasised the need for environmental issues, the natural environment and the economy to be deliberated within the planning system. He also congratulated the Town Council and those associated with Blake Museum on the excellent facility it had now become.

02/11 POLICING IN BRIDGWATER:

Sgt Charmaine Dyne addressed the meeting highlighting current policing issues upon which the force was concentrating its response. This included cycle thefts and thefts from vehicles, both within the town centre and estates, ongoing policing issues at Lakeside which had become a nominal targeted area, measures to deal with the night time economy during the summer, particularly on Fridays and Saturdays with extra resources devoted to it, unauthorised parking in the town centre with some 70-80 tickets issued per month and the action plan supported by funding from several agencies aimed at anti-social behaviour in the town centre.

Members raised a series of issues, which Sgt Dyne and the PCSOs undertook to follow up, including the misuse of the exit from Aldi into Eastover, abuse of disabled parking bays, vehicles parking in the precinct at Fore Street and abusing the loading times. Sgt Dyne also responded to questions about the impact of cuts in the policing budget and the measures designed to deal with that including changing over time the roles of police officers and PCSOs. Cycling on pavements was still an issue although ways of overcoming this problem and providing additional routes for cyclists were being examined by a group involving the local authorities and the police.

The Mayor thanked Sgt Dyne for her report.

03/11 MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meetings held on 14/04/11, subject to a correction in Min 107/10 of the Mayor-Making date to 13/05/11, the Meeting held on 10/05/11 and 13/05/11 (Min 07 only) be approved and signed by the Mayor as correct records.

04/11 MINUTES OF THE TOWN PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON 28/03/11:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 28/03/11 were presented where the following motion had been approved and was submitted for the Town Council's consideration.

"That this town believes that the sale of the Northgate site to Tesco Ltd will be detrimental both to the historic and cultural character of our town, and to the future of retail trading in the High Street and Eastover, where there are already clear and continuing signs of a serious downturn in trade.

This meeting therefore calls upon our elected representatives on the Town Council to join with local traders and electors in formally objecting to the sale and development of a supermarket at the Northgate site, and, in consultation with Sedgemoor District Council and electors, to seek alternative ways to develop this site".

Members considered the motion and **RESOLVED:** That the motion be approved and followed up with Sedgemoor District Council.

(Cllrs Glassford, Granter, Loveridge and Richards declared interest as members of SDC Development Management Committee and took no part in the consideration and did not vote thereon)

05/11 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN PUBLIC MEETING 26/05/11:

The Minutes of the Annual Town Public Meeting were submitted. Members noted the issue that had been raised and those which were being followed up.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes and actions be noted

06/11 REPORT OF THE MUSEUM SUB-COMMITTEE (16/05/11):

The decisions and recommendations arising from the meeting held on 16/05/11 (attached as an appendix) were circulated. Attention was drawn to the issues discussed and the continuing progress being made in the operation of the Museum. All members commended the work being put in to this success.

RESOLVED: That the decisions be noted and adopted, including the performance against budget as at 31/03/11.

07/11 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND INCOME:

RESOLVED:

1. That the payments (including Section 137 payments) made since the last meeting recorded in the Town Clerk's Report dated 09/06/11 and the Cost Centre Reports for months 1 and 2 and the credit income report be approved and confirmed;
2. that the comments on the possible future impact on precept and council tax in the number of facilities and services now operated by the Town Council, or supported by the Town Council, be acknowledged

09/11 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES 14/04/11:

- i. **Closure of Bridgwater Magistrates Court** (Min 105/10i) – the Town Clerk reported that the SLJ (Sedgemoor) Ltd’s claim for judicial review of the decision to close Bridgwater magistrate’s court has been abandoned. The Town Council had lodged a claim to recover the “borough” chair at the courthouse;
- ii. **National Grid – Hinkley Point C connection project** (Min 105/10ii) – a further report from the town and parish representative on HPCG had been circulated. Preferred proposals were expected in the Spring;
- iii. **Somerset/North Somerset/North Devon Broadband Bid** (Min 109/10 4) – members noted with satisfaction that the bid had been successful with some £31M awarded by the Government for the coverage of the super-fast broadband scheme that the Council had supported;

10/11 TOWN HALL – FUTURE OF BUILDINGS AND MANAGEMENT & CULTURAL PARTNERS (MIN 106/10):

The Town Clerk gave an update on the operation of the town hall since responsibility had been taken over by the Town Council with effect from 01/04/11. Continuity for hirers had been achieved, terms had been finalised and in the meantime the legal work to complete the freehold transfer was in-hand. Minor issues in resolving the title, which required a statutory declaration was being dealt with so that the acquisition could be completed.

11/11 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2010/2011 – OUT TURN AND GOVERNANCE (MIN 07):

Preparation of the accounts and audit had been completed by the due date and papers had been submitted to Moore Stephens the external auditors. This included, in addition to the governance statement, copies of the balance sheet, year end return and working details which had been signed off by the Mayor and Town Clerk. Details were circulated.

RESOLVED: That the confirmatory report be approved as submitted and adopted.

12/11 EDF – PROPOSALS FOR NEW BUILD AT HINKLEY POINT C (MIN 105/10 iii):

The Town Clerk referred to the Minutes of the Annual Town Public Meeting (Min 06) that recorded the update given on the EDF proposals. Since that meeting the response from Somerset Highways to the additional information provided by EDF to assist the preliminary works application decision by West Somerset Council had been received. 30 items had been completed, although there was still more detail required on another 19. This would be reflected in the town council’s comments. EDF had also written in relation to the Harbour Empowerment Order (temporary jetty plans) where the Marine Management Organisation dealing with the application and the licences had decided to convene a public local enquiry. It was anticipated that this would also hear the application for the Order under the Transport and Works Act 1992. Confirmation had been received that statements of case were required by 29/07/11 and the MMO would prepare a statement for matters for consideration at the inquiry by 26/08/11.

Representations from the Town Council continued at the Community Forum and the Transport Forum emphasising the impact on the town. As stated at the town meeting the Council encouraged residents to engage in the consultation process at each and every stage where the views of the local community were critical in ensuring the interests of the town were paramount.

Members also noted EDF’s commitment to the recommendations of the Weightman Report based on the interim findings following the events at Fukushima in Japan.

13/11 APPOINTMENTS 2011/2012:

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

Finance Committee - Cllrs Glassford, Granter, Lerry, Moore, Parker, Richards, Mrs Slocombe and Turner.

Planning Panel - Cllrs Parker (Chairman) and Baker, Lerry, Monteith, Mrs Morley, Tucker and Turner

Museum Sub-Committee - Cllrs Granter (Chairman) Richards and Turner

Electoral Review Working Party - Monteith, Granter, Richards, Mrs Slocombe and Turner
(retained in case needed for SCC Electoral Review due in year)

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 2011

Brent Marshall and Mansfield Charity - 5 - Mrs Briscombe and Mr Preece & Cllr Turner for four years from November 2008, Cllrs Richards for four years from June 2011

Tamlin Charity - 4 - life term – Mayor and Deputy Mayor (by designation), Cllrs Adrian Moore and Richards

Towell Charity - 2 - life term - Ms Pearce and Mr Smeed (commenced June 2006)

Bridgwater/La Ciotat Link Society - 1 - Cllr Richards

Bridgwater/Homberg Society - 1 (President) - Cllr Parker (as Mayor)

Bridgwater/Marsa Society - 1 (President) - Cllr Parker (as Mayor)

Bridgwater/Czech/Slovak Friendship Society (UH Twin) - 1 - Cllr Lerry

Wyndham Lecture Trust for the Schools of Bridgwater - 1 - Cllr Lerry

Bridgwater Chamber of Commerce and Trade - 1 - Cllr Loveridge

Bridgwater Heritage Regeneration Partnership - 1 - Cllr Redman (Deputy Cllr Parker)

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

Bridgwater Challenge (Board Member) - 1 - Cllr Moore (sub Cllr Austen)

BCI Partnership (Victoria Park Community Centre) - 2 - Cllrs Lerry and Richards

Hamp Community Association -1 - Cllr Turner

Sydenham Community Centre - 1 - Cllr Loveridge

Cluster Group (SDC) - Cllrs Monteith, Parker, Mrs Morley 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 Moore

Internal Auditor - 1 - Mrs Geri O'Loughlin

Hinkley Point (ex-Liaison Committee) site stakeholder group - 1 - Cllr Moore or substitute Cllr Monteith

EDF Energy HP new build Community Forum (and Transport Forum) - 1 - Cllr Monteith (and Town Clerk)

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

Bridgwater Memorial Homes - Cllr Moore

Friends of Wembdon Road Cemetery - 1 - (President) Cllr Parker (as Mayor)

SDC Standards Committee Town & Parish Member (1 of 3) - Cllr Turner (to be nominated)

Grievance & Disciplinary Panel - Cllrs Loveridge, Moore, Parker (Mayor), Smedley and Turner

Appeals Panel - Cllrs Austen, Granter (as Deputy Mayor), and Redman

Cheque Signatories - Cllrs. Parker, Richards, Mrs Slocombe and Turner and Town Clerk

Museum Trust - (provisional) - Pat Morley/Ian Tucker

Town Hall Trust - (provisional) - Pat Parker/Leigh Redman

RESOLVED: That all the above be confirmed

14/11 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 09/06/11 (Agenda item 11) and decisions taken as follows, as well as noting the additions recorded below:-

Decisions

1. Review of County Council land holdings – woodland and walking area at Saltlands – further investigation to continue, including intentions for the disposal of adjoining land holdings possibly to the Wessex Water and to the Environment Agency;
2. Retail Initiatives (BRI) – progress noted including launch of town guide for 2012 – contribution to various schemes at £7K to date, together with the Magnox grant of £10K;
3. Portraits of early Mayors – Reed painting removed and cleaned as example by House of Talbot at confirmed cost of £510 plus VAT.
4. Painting by local artist Jay Anthony Burgess (feature cover on town guide) – Town Clerk authorised to negotiate for purchase of painting by Bridgwater Town Council, subject to reference to Finance Committee.
5. Clearing of vegetation intruding onto Piggy Lane from adjoining allotment at Sidcot – work completed by Avalonion at cost of £60 – approved.
6. Wessex Water – notice of work at Friarn Lawn and St Matthew’s field allotment – Town Clerk authorised to submit claim under compensation arrangements in association with the BATA if required.
7. Emergency rest centres – information circulated to all members – to be followed up to assist, subject to no cost to the Council.
8. Grant applications – Mind in Sedgemoor; Arts Centre; Somerset County Guy Fawkes Carnival Association; ACTS Theatre School; Katie Richards; Bridgwater Cricket Club; and Bridgwater Flower Show – referred to Finance Committee for consideration.
9. Ward grant application – HAMP – referred to Finance Committee for consideration.
10. Bridgwater Bus Station – waiting room and toilets – agreement in principle in offering funding of up to £5K with possible contribution from other sources to maintain availability of toilets pending proposal for conversion to café and retention by that means.
11. Proposed public place alcohol designation funds – no objection to be raised, subject to examination of the intention to include the Parks, Bridgwater Cricket Club and to request the addition of the Wembdon Road cemetery.

(Cllr Mrs Morley opposed this proposal and requested that this be recorded)

For information:

Items 1/18 as circulated – noted.

The meeting finished at 9pm

Signed Chairman

