

BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 28 JULY 2011 AT 7.30PM AT THE CHARTER HALL TOWN HALL BRIDGWATER

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

Apology: Cllr Monteith

14/11 BRIDGWATER COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY FOR TRAVEL CHOICES AND ACCESS TO WORK ADDRESS BY GILL SHORTLAND:

Gill Shortland made a presentation on the possible establishment of a Community Interest Company for Bridgwater, where she set out the key points to enable the Council to assess whether this was something they could support in principle. The prime objective was to set up the company to delivery travel plans in a co-ordinated way so that the whole of Bridgwater and surrounding area would benefit. It appeared that the District and County Councils were prepared to accept the role the CIC could play and the District Council had offered to house employees once established. Procedures would be written into policies for the way in which Section 106 funding would be secured and utilised. It was hoped that through this mechanism the current lack of enforcement by either authority of travel plans submitted by individual applications could be secured.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council accept the principle and to take this further request the submission of a paper detailing advantages and disadvantages for more detailed consideration;
2. that Councillors Austen, Lerry, Moore and Tucker be nominated to work with Ms Shortland in taking this forward.

15/11 PUBLIC SPEAKING:

Mr Tom Courtney addressed the meeting on two topics, the availability of disabled parking spaces in Bridgwater town centre and the management and enforcement of use of existing spaces. This had previously been referred to the Highway Authority in a letter from Mr Courtney, and the indications were that a review would be undertaken, but not completed in time for a proposed consolidated traffic order. (See Min 25/11 i).

Mrs Sally Jones then spoke to the meeting following her representations at a Local Development Framework meeting and a further meeting for those with disabilities, where she had pressed for an independent review and impact assessment on present retail activity in the town centre in the event of a new Tesco coming forward. The requirements that Tesco would have to undertake in the submission of any planning application were noted, and it was also noted that there would be a cost to be incurred were any independent assessment to be conducted.

16/11 TOWN CENTRE POST OFFICE – ANTICIPATED CLOSURE:

Members brought forward a motion concerned about the possible closure of the town centre post office, currently located in Angel Place, and the need to ensure that an alternative was provided.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council explore the fact that with the expected closure of Martins in Angel Place, Bridgwater could be without a town centre post office from September. The Town Council believes a town centre post office is imperative, not only for the inhabitants of the town, but also to help revitalise the centre. It is therefore determined that every effort should be made to find new premises and to establish a working post office therein as soon as possible.

17/11 MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meetings held on 16/06/11 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

18/11 MATTERS ARISING:

- i. **Town Public Meeting 28/03/11 – sale of the Northgate Site to Tesco (Min 04/11)**
– the Town Clerk confirmed that the motion had been duly passed to SDC, but they had not considered it appropriate to raise at the recent Community Scrutiny Meeting held to examine this matter;
- ii. **Bridgwater Heritage Regeneration Partnership (Min 13/11)** – Town Clerk confirmed that Cllr Redman's name had been passed on as the representative for the BHRP and dates of all future meetings would be proffered

19/11 REPORT OF THE MUSEUM SUB-COMMITTEE (20/07/11):

The decisions and recommendations arising from the meeting held on 20/07/11 (attached as an appendix) were circulated. Attention was drawn to the issues discussed and the continuing success of the museum.

RESOLVED: That the decisions be noted and adopted, including the performance against budget as at 05/07/11.

20/11 REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (20/07/11):

The decisions and recommendations arising from the meeting held on 20/07/11 (attached as an appendix) had been circulated and were introduced by the Chairman, Cllr J Turner. The Town Clerk drew attention to specific items concerned with the acquisition of the painting by a local artist, and the request for additional dog bins on Salmon Parade Riverbank and East Bridgwater school footpath links. These would be followed up. Members asked also that the network of footpaths routes from Wilkins Road to Parkway were in need of attention and should be taken up with the Highway Authority.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be adopted and all matters covered in the Finance Committee resolutions be noted and approved;
2. that Minute 11, Town Council Staffing, be dealt with in the confidential part of the meeting

21/11 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND INCOME:

The Town Clerk submitted the report on payment of accounts and income. Copies of the cost centre report and secondary report itemising cheques would be circulated by e-mail.

RESOLVED:

1. That the position be noted;
2. that the credit income report be approved and confirmed

22/11 TOWN HALL - FUTURE OF BUILDINGS & MANAGEMENT AND CULTURAL PARTNERS (Min 106/10):

The Town Clerk confirmed that legal work to complete the freehold acquisition was progressing. The Statutory Declaration in respect of the title issue had been received and would now be referred to the Land Registry in conjunction with the registered title which formed the remainder. Minor outstanding issues, but including the premium payment, were being resolved so that the transaction could be completed.

23/11 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2010/2011 – OUTTURN AND GOVERNANCE:

The report on completion of the accounts was awaited.

24/11 EDF – PROPOSALS FOR NEW BUILD AT HINKLEY POINT C (Min 12/11):

The Town Clerk confirmed that representations on behalf of the Town Council had been made at the West Somerset Planning Committee meeting earlier in the day, where the preliminary works application had been considered. Representations related solely to the highway issues and the network of the town, and routes to Hinkley as outlined in the submission and highlighted in the subsequent reports produced by Somerset Highways. The application had been approved with one vote against, subject to a range of conditions including those dealing with highway issues and requirements for the completion of a Section 106 Agreement.

Members then considered a response to the most recent amendments to the pre-application consultation covering the preferred proposals, including M5 Junction 24 and the Somerfield site and the highway improvements affecting the junctions in the Bridgwater area. A response had been prepared based on the issues raised in discussion with EDF representatives at the recent briefing, and the information provided by the Transport Forum. Members maintained their support for the growing campaign in relation to a northern by-pass, the stated first preference of the Town Council, which was also to be examined by the SDC Community Scrutiny Committee on 10/08/11.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk be authorised to respond to the further pre-application consultation based on the draft, and series of issues highlighted.

25/11 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 21/07/11 (Agenda item 11) and decisions taken as follows, as well as noting the additions recorded below:-

Decisions

1. Disabled parking in Bridgwater town centre – request for review by SCC highways – press for review to be carried out and additional places provided prior to the submission of a consolidated traffic order
2. Request to support move for additional new bus stop in the vicinity of Hanover House – Town Council support given, subject to there being no cost to the Council
3. BSF – Bridgwater swimming pool – key decision by SCC Cabinet Members for high value change to BFI project agreement – representation endorsed including request for BTC representation on Community Advisory Group and invitation to Project Manager to give progress report to next Town Council meeting - agreed
4. Quantock Road and Bristol Road Cemeteries – review of internment arrangements – addition to clause 11 requiring confirmation and notice of internment by e-mail at least 48 hours prior to internment taking place - approved

For information:

Items 1/10 as circulated – noted.

26/11 EXEMPT ITEM – EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC:

RESOLVED: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the business recorded in Minute 27/11 on the grounds that this would disclose exempt information as defined in Section 100.1 of the Local Government Act 1972.

27/11 SALARIES AND HOURS OF WORK OF BOTH TOWN CLERK AND MAYOR'S SECRETARY AND PA:

The Chairman of the Finance Committee presented a report on additional hours over and above the contracted term undertaken by the Town Clerk in 2010/2011, the hours of the Mayor's Secretary and PA and the re-grading of the post.

RESOLVED: That an honorarium as set out in the report dated 26/07/11 by Cllr Turner be approved and awarded to the Town Clerk and the increase in hours, backdated payment and re-grading of the post with effect from 01/07/11 of the Mayor's Secretary and PA be approved.

(The Town Clerk left the meeting during the consideration of this item)

The meeting finished at 9.20pm

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Signed
Chairman