

BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 7 OCTOBER 2010 AT 7.30PM IN THE CHAIRMAN'S ROOM TOWN HALL BRIDGWATER

PRESENT: Cllr PGH Parker (Deputy Mayor of Bridgwater – in the Chair) Cllrs DL Baker, MD Cresswell, AS Downes, D Hall, DL Preece, KF Richards and Mrs GJ Slocombe

Apologies: Cllr Monteith (Mayor of Bridgwater) and Cllrs Busby, Granter, Loveridge, Ms Raven, Smeed and Turner

36/10 POLICING IN BRIDGWATER – PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION WITH INSPECTOR SHANE CAREY:

Inspector Carey gave the Council a summary of recent activities, particularly those affecting the town centre. He gave particular attention to updates of issues raised at an earlier meeting attended by Sgt Chairmaine Dyne on his behalf.

The issues dealt with vehicles, both action in respect of unroadworthy vehicles and impacts on the highway, including abuse of the one-way system, and parking, and management of mopeds and bicycles, anti-social behaviour particularly the Cornhill, Blake Gardens, Cannon Close and Victoria Park, paying particular attention to Prezzo and the area outside their restaurant on the Cornhill with the suggestion that some of the anti-social behaviour would be removed if the area was roped off, cycling and impact on pedestrians in terms of Bristol Road as well as the town centre, and the action plan which involved daily and weekly reviews. He also gave follow ups on specific properties, including the Withycutter and Newmarket. In terms of detection rates Bridgwater district exceeded the 35% detection rate across the West Somerset area.

Inspector Carey also referred to the recent Bridgwater Cluster meeting and asked members to agree that for a trial period the meeting should include a 20 minute spell at the start for PACT (Partners and Communities Together), for which he would ensure that invitations were issued to the other agencies. Members accepted this on the basis that it would work alongside beat surgeries continuing in the individual wards.

New issues were raised in relation to the Glass Kiln and Blake Gardens and access via St Saviour's Avenue. Reference was also made to the response to EDF where the Town Council had supported the stance being taken by the police.

The Deputy Mayor thanked Inspector Carey for the information provided.

37/10 MINUTES:

RESOLVED:

- i. That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 29/07/10 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record, subject to a correction to Minute 32/10 where the review of maintenance was an SCC highways issue and not SDC; and
- ii. that in relation to Minute 19/10 – Finance Committee Report – as an item for information Cllr Parker reported he had left the meeting before a grant application in respect of the Hamp Action Group had been dealt with. Members requested that similar situations be recorded at future meetings

38/10 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES 29/07/10:

- i. **Finance Committee – Ward grants (Min 19/10)** – the Town Clerk confirmed that a seat and waste bin provided under the ward grant scheme for Bower was available, held by SDC and awaited ward members confirmation of a suitable location;
- ii. **Audit of Accounts 2009/2010 (Min 20/10)** – it was confirmed that the audit had been completed satisfactorily and notice published. Copies of the final accounts had been distributed at the previous meeting and the fidelity guarantee had been increased as recommended. The Finance Committee had confirmed that a review of Financial Regulations would be undertaken at a forthcoming meeting;
- iii. **Town Hall** – the future of buildings and management and cultural partners – the Town Clerk reported on the meeting recently attended which sought to take this forward in line with the resolutions at the previous meeting. From correspondence and the meeting of the SDC Exec., it was clear that SDC was desiring to reach a conclusion before the end of the financial year. The Town Clerk suggested that this timetable was extremely short and appraised members of the position with each of the separate parts of the Resolution in Minute 21/10. The Town Clerk outlined the additional information requested in relation to leases and income from the Town Hall and Island site and requests for heads of terms to be drawn up for the separate elements of the site. The users were confident that nominees would come forward, although it was still necessary to establish what form of lease, what form of trust, and the parameters for day-to-day management that would be necessary. A suitable model had been obtained from the Frome Memorial Theatre Hall organisation and this may provide the best way forward.
- iv. **National Grid – Hinkley Point C connection project** – Cllr Preece had been nominated as representative to the community forums. A Hinkley C connection group had now been formed and enquiries made whether Parish and Town Councils were interested in joining either as members or observers, or happy purely to be kept informed. Members agreed that membership should be requested and Cllr Preece nominated.
- v. **Bridgwater Magistrates Court Closure Consultation (Min 29/10)** – the response to the consultation had been submitted and an acknowledgement received. Members confirmed their satisfaction with the response.

39/10 REPORT OF THE MUSEUM SUB-COMMITTEE 14/09/10:

The decisions and recommendations arising from the meeting held on 14/09/10 (attached as an appendix) were circulated. The Town Clerk drew attention to the issues discussed and the continuing successful operation.

Members sought information on visitor numbers, which had increased, and the need for continuous assessment of accessibility for those with disabilities. It was confirmed that a disability audit had been undertaken, although the fact that it was a listed building meant that the upper floors could never be fully accessible.

(Cllr Cresswell left the meeting at this point)

40/10 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 30/09/10 and the credit income reported, be approved and confirmed.
- ii. that the Council continue to seek publicity in the presentation of grants and the ward grants at Hamp and Sydenham be endorsed.

41/10 EDF STAGE TWO PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION (MIN 27/10):

The Town Clerk confirmed that following various meetings and presentations and separate discussions, the Town Council response to the second stage preferred options proposals had been submitted as a draft to meet the 04/10/10 deadline. Copies had been e-mailed to all members with scope for amendments or additions.

Views expressed by members and those gleaned through the community support programme and themed meetings on transportation and transport, housing and accommodation, associated development and environment and community issues had been incorporated. The submission followed on the phase one response, but also pointed to a number of issues that had not been addressed or been included in phase two, but without the apparent evidential base.

RESOLVED: That the consultation response be endorsed without further amendment and the Mayor and Town Clerk thanked for the work put in to develop the response.

42/10 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF CATTLE MARKET AND BRISTOL ROAD LANDS – BRISTOL ROAD 1 AND 2 ALLOTMENT SITES:

The Town Clerk confirmed that consent from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government had been obtained to the disposal of the whole of Bristol Road 1 and remaining unused portion of Bristol Road 2 allotments to enable development to take place. This was on the basis, as agreed previously, that an equivalent area to Bristol Road 1 would be provided to relocate the allotments alongside the railway line. This would now enable the agreements to be finalised, the process of the allotment relocation to be undertaken, incorporating suitable on-site provision, and respecting the growing season. All this would enable the prospective development company to proceed with application for the comprehensive development of the lands through the formal planning process.

RESOLVED: That this be welcomed and the progress noted, which will enable related matters at the Town Hall to proceed.

43/10 JOINT FUNDING OF LOCAL SERVICES:

Discussions had continued between the District Council and Town and Parish Councils with regard to future funding and the District Council's desire for more services to be funded from local councils' precepts. Details were circulated of the District Council's suggestions for services deemed suitable for "local" funding. It included the draft policy framework on which the Town Clerk had raised a number of comments. Further cost information had also been supplied, particularly in relation to dog bins and public conveniences. The situation with regard to "public halls" was also relevant given the item at Min 38/10(iii). Members acknowledged that they had already undertaken a range of funding support, which had aided the District Council's position.

RESOLVED: That over and above the actions already taken this be referred to the Finance Committee for consideration in conjunction with the budget preparation later in the year.

44/10 BLAKE GARDENS – IMPROVEMENTS:

In conjunction with the Civic Society a survey of Blake Gardens had been undertaken with SDC officers that identified a series of actions to refurbish the Gardens and initiate improvements. Repairs were already in hand by SDC to the bandstand and a temporary measure put in place to accommodate the recent band concert. A programme of works had now been agreed. It was planned to include the refurbishment of the plaque to which the Town Council had agreed to contribute previously. SDC had also offered to contribute and the work would be implemented by the Civic Society who would also provide an interpretation board at the entrance to the Gardens.

RESOLVED: That as previously agreed, the Town Council support the improvements planned and will consider contributing from ear-marked funds, but in the meantime provide up to £1000 towards the refurbishment of the plaque.

45/10 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 30/09/10 and decisions taken as follows, as well as noting the additions recorded below:-

Decisions

1. CAB grant application 2010/2011 – referred to the Finance Committee;
2. Somerset County Guy Fawkes Association – funding request for security operation – referred to Finance Committee;
3. Ward grant applications – Hamp and Sydenham – grants confirmed.
4. Snowflakes and Shopping and lights switch-on programme 24/11/10 – actions confirmed and £3200 allocated to additional lights in Penel Orlieu (noting that North Street and St Mary Street will be next areas considered), together with previously agreed budget for Snowflakes and Shopping activities
5. Bridgwater Town Centre shopping and retail initiative – shop jacket (as approved up to £2000) and contribution to shop grant scheme and initiatives from ear-marked funds up to £10000.
6. Car park charges 2011 – agreed.
7. Bristol Road cemetery – green burial area – approved in principle subject to preparation of guidelines, rules and regulations for burials being accepted.
8. SDC licensing policy – tri-annual review – no further observations

For Information

23. Cluster meeting 06/10/10 – noted with particular regard to PACT part of meeting and continuation of beat surgeries.
24. La Ciotat Link Society – letter of thanks for grant

(Declarations of interest: Cllr Mrs Slocombe item 2, Cllr Baker item 3, Cllr Parker item 3 – took no part in the consideration and did not vote thereon).

The meeting finished at 10pm

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Signed
Chairman