

# BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9 DECEMBER 2010 AT 7.30PM IN THE CHAIRMANS ROOM TOWN HALL

**PRESENT:** Cllr PGH Parker (Deputy Mayor – in the Chair), Cllrs MD Cresswell, AS Downes, DP Loveridge, JR Munn, DL Preece, KF Richards & J Turner (JP)

**Apologies:** Cllrs WJ Monteith, DL Baker, D Busby, GJ Granter, D Hall, Ms J Raven, Mrs G Slocombe & P Smeed

### 61/10 MINUTES:

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 November 2010 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to Min 46/0 recording the BRI and not Frenchay.

Cllr Loveridge expressed his appreciation to the Council for their good wishes

### 62/10 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES 11 Nov 2010

- i **Town Hall - future of buildings and management and cultural partners** (Min 52/10) - the Town Clerk confirmed that draft heads of terms related to the possible lease of the Town Hall Island site and the draft Schedule 5 covering interior works had been received, and were under consideration with a number of comments and now would be the subject of further discussion. This would be pursued in line with the principles already agreed by the Council.
- ii **NATIONAL GRID – HINKLEY POINT C CONNECTION PROJECT –** (Min 53/10 – Cllr Preece confirmed that he would be attending on behalf of the Council; the meeting at Cross on the current stage of the connection project and would report to the next meeting of the Council.

### 63/10 POLICING IN BRIDGWATER

Presentation and discussion with Sergeant Chairmaine Dyne; Sgt Dyne gave the Council an update on the issues which had been raised at previous meetings attended by herself and by Inspector Carey. In particular this dealt with anti-social behaviour on the Cornhill, incidents in Blake Gardens, Cranleigh Gardens and Victoria Park and the increased policing which had been put in place. An Action Plan had been formulated to deal with particular problems at Cannon Close. Invitations had been handed out to try to establish a Local Action Team in the Cranleigh Gardens area.

Other issues related to cycling in Fore Street, along St John Street, Bristol Road, Bath Road and Union Street and Taunton Road where various measures were in hand to deal with cycling on pavements etc, and County Council highways and cycling officers and Sustrans were assisting. Reports were also given on cases of violence against the person which was at a relatively low level, although police were now targetting increased visibility in the run up to Christmas. Parking and other vehicle issues were also being highlighted, amongst other things through the vulnerable vehicles scheme. Members drew attention to specific issues where parking and waiting in streets, contrary to yellow lining was taking place - St John Street, Eastover, West Quay, St Mary Street and Victoria Road. It was also confirmed that a review of the licence of The Palace was due to be heard next week.

The Deputy Mayor thanked Sergeant Dyne for the fullness of the report.

## **64/10 REPORT OF THE MUSEUM SUB-COMMITTEE (16 NOV 2010)**

The decisions and recommendations arising from the meeting held on 16 Nov 2010 (attached as an appendix) were circulated. The Town Clerk drew attention to the issues discussed, and the continuing successful operation of the Museum which would shortly close for the winter.

Members were delighted to learn that the Museum had maintained full accreditation under the Museums, Libraries and Archives Scheme for Museums and Galleries. Three minor areas for improvement had been identified.

**RESOLVED:** That the award of full accreditation be noted, all those involved with the Museum be congratulated and a press release be issued to acknowledge the award.

## **65/10 REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (17 NOV 2010)**

The decisions and recommendations arising from the meeting held on 17 November 2010 (attached as an appendix) had been circulated and were introduced by the Chairman Cllr John Turner. This was supported by a budget paper 2011/12 prepared by the Town Clerk, together with draft estimates designed to secure the precept and based on the principles established by the Finance Committee. The base line was a continuation budget designed to meet everyday expenditure on administration and the level of service and support to the community, and also the continuing development of services and broadening of the Town Council's role, as well as addressing the funding issues within the District Council likely to affect the Town. Supporting information was also provided in relation to the District Council budgets and those of the County Council highlighting impacts these might have and representations in relation to the financial position of the Bridgwater Arts Centre and the Hamp Community Association (ReCreation Centre). The Town Clerk explained the way in which this had been addressed in the budget paper and the draft budget – for example, in relation to community centres in the town. Members endorsed the budget paper and the recommendation.

### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the estimates as now submitted be approved for the purpose of securing the precept for 2011/12 of £514640.00 for Town Council purposes including cemeteries and facility and service support and ear-marked funds equating in total to 49.79 per band D property equivalent; 2. that the Town Clerk be authorised to take the facility support issues forward on this basis with the District Council including the future of the Town Hall and 3. that the issues in terms of funding impact be raised at the upcoming Cluster Meeting for reference to the parishes immediately surrounding Bridgwater.

*(Cllr Parker declared an interest in relation to the Arts Centre and took no part in the consideration, decision and vote on that specific item).*

## **66/10 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

**RESOLVED:** That the payments (inc. Section 137 payments) made since the last meeting recorded in Town Clerk's report dated 2 Dec 2010 be approved & confirmed, together with income (details of Museum expenditure having been appended to the Museum Sub-Committee report)

## **67/10 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

- i) **National Grid – Hinkley Point C Connection Project** (Min 53/10) – the HCCG had agreed improved consultation arrangements rather than increased membership for town & parish councils.
- ii) **Joint funding of local services** (Min 54/10) – the Town Clerk had referred to further correspondence in the Finance Committee report and the budget paper. A budget briefing arranged by SDC had been deferred, still awaiting essential information from government on the level of grant funding.
- iii) **edf stage 2 pre-application consultation** (Min 55/10) – the Town Clerk reported that the preliminary works planning application had been submitted to West Somerset District Council. It was anticipated that BTC would be a consultee and that representations would be required by about the 10 Jan 2011. Arrangements may be made in early January to review the plans jointly in

association with the District Council to ensure a coordinated reply.

- iv) **Electoral review of Sedgemoor – final recommendations** (Min 57/10) - the Town Clerk had received confirmation that the order had been laid before Parliament. Assuming this was approved the new warding arrangements would be effective for the May 2011 elections to the Town Council. This would constitute 16 members in 7 wards – Hamp(2), Wyndham(2), Westover(3), Victoria(2), Eastover(2), Dunwear(2) and Fairfax(3).

**RESOLVED:** That this be noted with the Town Clerk's response to the Boundary Commission.

**68/10 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 2 December 2010 and decisions taken as follows, as well as noting the additions recorded below:

**DECISIONS**

- 1 Cycleways and use of footways in Bridgwater – outcome of meeting to discuss possible actions held on 8 December 2010 endorsed and prospect of cycle review of Bridgwater by County in preparation for application for sustainable funds in 2011 – noted
- 2 SLCC membership 2011 – renewal fee 50% of £168 – approved
- 3 Somerset Floating Support – request to make presentation to the Town Council declined on basis more appropriate to talk to other organisations/agencies, but with proviso to come back if there is anything specific within the Town Council's purview.
- 4 Priverno- Italy - agreed to receive power point presentation

**FOR INFORMATION:**

- 6 Somerset Future Transport Plan 2011-2026 – deadline for comments 7 Jan 2011 – express dissatisfaction with timings of consultation over the Christmas period.
- 9 Somerset Highways – correspondence from 'Bridge Office' re: Christmas Lights on Town Bridge - Town Clerk to respond appropriately & inform Cllr Loveridge as County Councillor ward member.
12. Northgate site - SDC decisions expected on 19 January Executive and 28 January Council.
15. Bridgwater College Annual Report 2009/10 and AGM
16. Wessex Water -continuing operations on cleaning and re-lining through High Street and West Quay area.
17. Community Council for Somerset – summary of parish/town plan process survey 2010
18. Fire extinguisher inspections and annual certificate completed.

**69/10 WARD GRANTS – VICTORIA**

**RESOLVED:** That the application from the Bridgwater Area Association for the Elderly and grant of £500 towards cooker and kitchen equipment be approved.

**70/10 SEASONS GREETINGS** - at the conclusion of the meeting the Deputy Mayor wished all members of the Council and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The meeting finished at 8.40pm

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Signed  
Chairman