

BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 26 MAY 2011 AT 7.30PM TRINITY HALL BRIDGWATER

PRESENT: Councillor Pat Parker (Mayor – in the Chair), 11 other members of the Town Council, and some 17 members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Granter, Lerry, Monteith and Tucker

2. Welcome

The Mayor welcomed members of the public to the eighth Annual Public Meeting of the Town Council since its inception in 2003.

3. Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting 2010

The Minutes of the seventh Annual Public Meeting of the Town Council held on Thursday 29 April 2010 had been circulated to Members of the Council and were available at the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Annual Public Meeting of the Town Council held on 29 April 2010 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record subject to the commencement time of the meeting amended to 7.00pm rather than 7.30pm.

4. Matters Arising

- i. **Allotment provision at Bristol Road and Kidsbury Road (Min 7)** - following a question from Mr Bob Cudlipp – the Town Clerk confirmed that the Promotion and Development Agreement relating to land at Bristol Road was nearing completion, and would provide for the relocation of the Bristol Road I allotments with an equal number of plots. He advised that the Council had worked with BATA to keep existing plot holders informed of progress, largely through the site co-ordinator. At Kidsbury Road, an additional area of land had been cultivated, and again working with BATA, a further 42 plots had been created – most of which had been taken up immediately.

5. Minutes of the Special Town Meeting held on 28 March 2011 – Motion reference proposed sale of land at Northgate to Tesco

The Minutes of the Special Meeting of 28 March 2011 were circulated. The Motion which had been approved at the meeting would be formally considered by the new Town Council at the meeting on the 16 June 2011.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Special Meeting be confirmed.

6. edf – Proposals for New Build at Hinkley Point C

The Town Clerk submitted an update paper which constituted a summary of the current position with the Hinkley Point project, in relation to the edf proposed changes to 'preferred proposals' consultation; to the site preparatory works application; to the Harbour Empowerment Order; to other associated development; the HPC Joint Supplementary Planning Document and its relationship to the LDF Core Strategy and the upcoming Development Consent Order application. Copies of the Town Council response covering each stage of the consultation was also circulated. The Town Clerk drew attention to the key issues, particularly those related to accommodation, highways and transportation and the major community impacts.

A number of those present commented on the edf plans and proposals and in particular opposition was voiced to the carrying out of works in advance of the grant of the various permissions. Some remained opposed to nuclear.

Members of the public were invited to respond to edf, taking into account the wide ranging and overload of consultation which they had initiated. It was essential that the views of the community of the town which was the largest settlement most significantly affected should be heard.

7. Bridgwater Town Council – resume of the year 2010/11

The Mayor presented a list of items that had been dealt with by the Town Council during the past year and previous years, which was circulated. This showed the continuing development of the Town Council's role, which had progressively increased in its commitment and activities during the past four years, in particular. The list would be made widely available and included on the website.

The Report commented favourably on the continuing progress following the transfer of Blake Museum and the Old Mill and the cemeteries and Trinity Hall. The Town Council had also taken over responsibility for the management and operation of the Town Hall and Island Site (excluding the Engine Room) with effect from 1 April 2011 and were now working towards the completion of the formal legal transfer of the freehold. Future key issues were also listed. The involvement of the Town Council in the many aspects of the life of Bridgwater was acknowledged, not least the increasing financial commitment for facility support.

Members emphasised that the Town Council welcomed the views of the public which were ever increasingly important in influencing decisions. Bridgwater Forward Representatives commented favourably on their relationship with the Town Council and its activities.

8. Issues from the Public

Arising from the resume and matters with the purview of the Town Council, members of the public raised a series of issues noting particularly:

- 1 That the plaque commemorating the opening of the Splash by Princess Diana was now at the Museum
- 2 That the capital receipt of £25K recorded in the accounts was in recognition of the transfer of land at Chilton for the BSF project and the provision of the new swimming pool.
- 3 That the appointed Inspector had required considerable additional information from SDC, in conjunction with the Core Strategy and Local Development Framework.
- 4 That the Town Council were a major player within the Bridgwater Retail Initiative working closely with SDC, Chamber of Commerce and traders and had secured a grant of £10K from the Magnox community fund.
- 5 That the Town Council were now contributing increased financial support for the provision of toilets in the town.
- 6 That issues of fly-tipping and slippage of the road surface adjoining Westonzoyland Road and the Railway bridge had been taken up with Network Rail and the Highway Authority and would be followed up again.
- 7 That two solar panel planning applications for land on either side of Westonzoyland Road had received consent.
- 8 That a suggestion by Bridgwater Forward representatives that teach-ins on the structure of Local government and the role of the Town Council would be considered.
- 9 That issues in relation to patrons congregating outside public houses in Eastover and High Street (largely as a result of the smoking ban) had been taken up both with the local authority and the police, and would continue.
- 10 That steps would continue to identify a location for a resource for facilities for people with disabilities, including shop mobility.

9. Public Meeting

The Mayor thanked all those who had participated, for their attendance and contributions, and their interest in the town and the activities of the Town Council.

The meeting finished at 8.55pm

Signed:

Chairman

