

# **BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 07 FEBRUARY 2013 AT 7.30PM**

**AT THE CHARTER HALL TOWN HALL BRIDGWATER**

**PRESENT:** Cllr DP Loveridge (Deputy Mayor of Bridgwater – in the Chair), Cllrs SB Austen, AM Glassford, AJ Moore, PGH Parker, LP Redman, KF Richards, BD Smedley, IC Tucker and J Turner (JP)

**Apologies:** Cllrs Granter (Mayor), Baker, Lerry, Monteith, Mrs Morley and Mrs Slocombe

### **72/12 THE LATE MR DON WESTERN AND THE LATE MRS DI MONAGHAN:**

At the commencement of the Meeting, all present observed one minute's silence to the memory of Mr Don Western, a former District Councillor and Charter Trustee, and Mrs Di Monaghan, widely respected for her work for local organisations, who had recently passed away.

### **73/12 PUBLIC SPEAKING:**

The Council were addressed by Mr Bob Cudlipp who raised a number of questions about various proposed highway alterations and improvements on locations in and around Bridgwater. The majority of these items were picked up in the presentation from SCC Highways Officers. Mr Cudlipp was promised written replies to those items not specifically covered.

### **74/12 "BRIDGWATER ON THE MOVE" HIGHWAY ALTERATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS – PRESENTATION FROM SCC HIGHWAYS OFFICERS:**

Mike O'Dowd Jones, Andy Coupe and Alyn Jones, were in attendance and gave a presentation on the various highway schemes and improvements planned in Bridgwater based around the significant major developments and the EDF proposals for Hinkley Point C. The presentations used as a guide, the schemes identified in the "Bridgwater on the Move" leaflet and in commentary, updated each of the items explaining the latest position. The Officers then answered a series of questions on the planned schemes and the updates give.

Members noted the various contributions from developers and sources which would bring forward many of the schemes. Most were designed against the background of ensuring the resilience of the network and this was particularly evident in the proposals related to the EDF plans. The intention as soon as, and in the event that the DCO application for Hinkley Point C was approved, was to prepare a sequence and timelines as to the impact of all the various schemes where EDF plans would impact on implementation.

Particular points were raised in relation to Taunton Road/Broadway junction, EDF plans to bring forward the use of the "ex-Somerfield" site at the Huntworth Business Park, the other junctions and routes affected by EDF's proposals, the provision of the Colley Lane Southern access road, the Leggar Link and the LSTF plans for improvement to the cycle routes on the Southern side of the town.

The Deputy Mayor thanked the County Council Officers for their contribution.

### **75/12 MINUTES:**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10/01/13 be approved and signed by the Deputy Mayor as a correct record.

## **76/12 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:**

- i. **Wheeled Sports Facility Action Group (Min 60/12i)** – It was noted that the presentations with the Skate Park representatives had been re-arranged for Saturday 16/02/13 from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm at the YMCA.
- ii **Tesco Planning Application (Min 60/12iii)** – The Planning Application was due to be considered by the SDC Development Committee on Tuesday 12/02/13. The Town Clerk confirmed that SDC had acknowledged that the Town Council had not been party to any discussions with either Tesco or SDC, or jointly with regard to any third party taking over the open space, known as the Brewery Field, when and if the development took place despite what had been stated in the public meeting.
- iii **EDF – proposals for new build at Hinkley Point C (Min 62/12)** – The February 2013 Newsletter had been received. Also noted in the earlier discussion in relation to Highway Schemes and Improvements, the Town Council noted that a submission had been made on the Planning Application for the ex-Somerfield depot at Junction 24.
- iv **Post Office Relocation (Min 63/12)** – Whilst it was understood that plans were progressing, no further update was available.

## **77/12 REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (30/01/13):**

The decisions and recommendations arising from the Meeting held on 30/01/13 (attached as an appendix) had been circulated and were introduced by the Chairman Cllr John Turner.

Particular note was taken of the decisions and recommendations in relation to the Budget and Precept. In presenting the Report it was confirmed that SDC had approved the Local Council Tax Support Scheme and Tax Base levels at their meeting on 31/01/13.

Members noted an acknowledgement of the Grant awarded to the Third Bridgwater (Westfield) Guides.

**RESOLVED:** That the Report be approved and adopted.

*(Declarations of interest – dispensations completed and signed off by Town Clerk in accordance with scheme for Code of Conduct by all members present)*

## **78/12 BUDGET PAPER 2013/14 AND DRAFT ESTIMATES:**

Based on the Report of the Finance Committee, the Town Clerk presented the draft Budget prepared by cost centre and based on the high level principles established at the earlier meeting and which followed from the approval of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme and assessment of the Tax Base and grant from SDC.

This had produced as a base line a continuation budget to meet everyday expenditure on administration and level of service in support to the community provided by the Town Council. It sought to ensure the continued development of services, taking into account the broadening of the Town Council's role and additional facilities taken over as well as addressing some of the continuing funding issues in the District Council affecting Bridgwater. In principle this would enable the Precept to be maintained at the current level with the benefit of additional income and a small use of balances. In addition, a sum had been earmarked by way of matched funding to be sourced from the Civic Enhancement Fund for the West Quay Pedestrianisation Project should this proceed.

Full details were presented and the Budget and Precept recommended.

**RESOLVED:** That the Budget and Estimates as now submitted be approved, totalling £639,610 and with estimated income of £99,000 and drawing on reserves of £21,742, thus requiring for Town Council purposes including cemeteries, facilities and service support, and earmarked funds with grant of £95,812 to secure funding from the billing authority of £518,868, thus requiring a Precept of £423,056 equating to £49.80 per band D property.

#### **79/12 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS:**

**RESOLVED:** That the payments, including Section 137 payments, made during January (month 10) now circulated, be approved and confirmed and income received during the period be noted.

#### **80/12 TOWN HALL:**

The Mayor and Members had proposed that a small sub-committee be established to examine the future options for the former office accommodation now vacant, and longer term plans for the Town Hall Theatre as well as providing a sounding board for day-to-day management and operations. Nominations were sought.

In the meantime, Listed Building Consent had been obtained for the refurbishment of the old Council Chamber and a preliminary estimate obtained. The Listing particulars of the Town Hall and Municipal Buildings had also been reviewed and additions recommended to English Heritage.

The Town Clerk also reported that the annual servicing of the boilers and heating system had been completed and some faults needed to be addressed which with other items held over was likely to be in the region of £2,000.

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That a Town Hall Sub-Committee be established, comprising Cllr Granter (Mayor), Cllrs Austen, Moore, Mrs Morley, Redman and Smedley and one conservative nomination;
2. that proposals as per the estimates for works to the old Council Chamber be referred to the Sub-Committee to be taken into account with a forward programme;
3. that the necessary urgent works to the boiler system be approved and implemented.

#### **81/12 EDF/HPC SUB-COMMITTEE:**

**RESOLVED:** That a meeting of the Sub-Committee be arranged as quickly as possible (*arranged for 18/02/13*).

#### **82/12 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 31/01/13 (Agenda item 10) and decisions taken as follows:

#### **Decisions**

1. Community Benefit Contributions (CBC) in relation to Nuclear New Build – Members endorsed the representations to Government in support of an early decision on this matter which had been acknowledged: questions had also been raised in Parliament.
2. Interest Forms and Code of Conduct – AGREED: to require outstanding forms within 7 days, whereupon these will be placed on the SDC and BTC websites.

3. Consolidated Traffic Regulation Order – members endorsed representations in relation to Wellington Road, Bath Road, Chilton Trinity, Watson’s Lane and Polden Street.
4. Grant Application – Food Bank (£1,500) - AGREED: to defer to next available meeting and invite applicants to speak to Scheme.

**For information:**

Items 1/21 as circulated and NHS John Ware Ltd, pharmaceutical application for Stockmoor Village – written representations noted; and Trinity Pool Community Transport - cost of journeys noted.

**83/12 MAYOR AND MAYORESS:**

The Council recorded their best wishes to the Mayor and Mayoress for a speedy recovery from recent incapacity.

The Meeting finished at 9.25 pm

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Signed  
Chairman