

# BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 08 MARCH 2012 AT 7.30PM AT THE CHARTER HALL, TOWN HALL, BRIDGWATER

PRESENT: Cllr PGH Parker (Mayor of Bridgwater – in the Chair), Cllrs SB Austen, D Baker, AM Glassford, GJ Granter. MJ Leary, Mrs PM Morley, LP Redman, KF Richards, Mrs GJ Slocombe, B Smedley, IC Tucker and J Turner (JP)

Apologies: Cllrs Loveridge, Monteith and Moore

### 78/11 PUBLIC SPEAKING:

The Council was addressed by Mrs Sally Jones raising issues about traffic congestion, reporting and police reaction to accidents, particular concerns about traffic lights at the Taunton Road/Broadway Junction and the further impact of traffic in the event that the Tesco development went ahead. She emphasised the need for up-to-date traffic impact assessment to be carried out prior to the grant of any new planning permissions.

Bob Cudlipp also spoke to the meeting raising questions arising from previous Minutes. The Town Clerk undertook to inform Mr Cudlipp on each of the issues where relevant.

### 79/11 MINUTES:

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12/01/12 (previously circulated) be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

### 80/11 MATTERS ARISING:

- i. **Bridgwater Cup 2011 (Min 77/11)** – the Mayor confirmed that a date had yet to be fixed for the presentation of the Cup;
- ii. **Somerset Youth Service (Min 69/11i)** – it was confirmed that an Option D was now on the table, which would see the retention of the Rollercoaster, but not necessarily the full complement of professional youth workers. Cllr Tucker confirmed that there was a further meeting, at which the aim was to produce a business plan and setup for continuing provision of youth and community services; *(Cllr Austen declared an interest in this matter and took no part in the consideration and did not vote thereon)*
- iii. **CIC for travel choices and access to work (Min 78/11ii)** – further report still awaited;
- iv. **Town Hall – future of buildings and management and cultural partners (Min 69/11iii)** – the Town Clerk confirmed that the freehold transfer of the building had been completed. It was planned to hold a user group meeting towards the end of the month and to now move forward with the development of a trust. Members determined that all options should be examined, taking into account possible uses of other parts of the buildings separate from the Town Hall Theatre, Charter Hall and associated facilities;

Funding due in relation to the transfer and the commercial units had been confirmed. The overhaul of the alarm systems and refurbishment of the toilets had all been completed. Members agreed a review of the hire charges for the Town Hall and Charter Hall (and Trinity Hall) which for 2012/2013 would concentrate on a rationalisation of the charging regime.

- v. **Proposed Northgate/Tesco development (Min 69/11iv)** – the Special Town Council meeting to which the public were invited with representatives of Tesco and SDC had been setup for Monday 19/03/12 at 7.30pm at the Town Hall
- vi. **Local Energy Assessment Fund (LEAF) (Min 74/11v)** – it had been confirmed that the bid submitted in respect of an improvement scheme to reduce energy usage at Trinity Hall had not been successful. This would however be kept on file for possible future development should the opportunity arise, or further bidding rounds be introduced.

**81/11 SOMERSET ELECTORAL REVIEW (Min 58/11/v):**

In the light of draft proposals, which had now been received, and in light of minor changes to the county divisions in the town, notably the Washington Gardens area, members noted that the proposals now proposed significant changes to the warding arrangements of the Town Council. This suggested 10 wards rather than the 7 recently approved for the 2011 elections following the Electoral Review of SDC.

**RESOLVED:** That a Working Party be convened, comprising Cllrs Granter (Chairman), Baker, Lerry, Redman, Smedley and Turner with power to act in view of the closing date for comments; this to be held on Tuesday 27/03/12 at 6.30.

**82/11 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND INCOME:**

**RESOLVED:** That the payments including Section 137 payments, made during January (month 10) and February (month 11) now circulated be approved and confirmed, together with income received in these periods (details of museum expenditure through performance against budget as at 26/02/12 was also received).

**83/11 EDF – PROPOSALS FOR NEW BUILD AT HINKLEY POINT C (Min 71/11):**

The Town Clerk confirmed that registration with the IPC had been completed and notice and timetable, as an interested party on the way in which the process to examine the DCO application would go forward had been received. At this stage no hearing specific to Bridgwater was in the programme. The submission to the preparatory meeting would press for an open floor meeting for the town to enable all the relevant issues to be considered in a joined-up way. The form of representation at the actual hearings with the panel would also have to be determined, based on the representations and key issues identified at each stage of the EDF consultations.

In this context, the report examining the Bridgwater bypass issue against the planned and enhanced mitigation package of highway improvements had been produced and considered by the Community Scrutiny Committee at SDC. Town Council views were again highlighted stressing the inadequacy of the company's investigations into the assessment for the need for a northern bypass for Bridgwater and the apparent absence of an evidential base for evaluation. These conclusions had been supported by the Scrutiny Committee and together with the request for an open floor hearing for the town of Bridgwater were being recommended to the District Council.

Further meetings of the Transport Forum had also taken place and indicated, already, significant highway impacts at the preparatory stage and as the preliminary works approval had begun; this was about to be fully implemented.

**RESOLVED:-**

1. That the Town Clerk take forward the representations to the IPC seeking an open floor meeting for the town;
2. that the actions proposed through SDC within the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee be fully supported;

3. as discussed at the recent Bridgwater Cluster Meeting pressure be maintained on all fronts to ensure maximum community benefit is achieved for the town; and
4. that a session for members of the Town Council with the EDF 3D modelling and so-called CGI “fly through” illustrating the development and local impacts be arranged.

**84/11 NATIONAL GRID –HINKLEY POINT C CONNECTION PROJECT (Min 72/11):**

Cllr Redman reported upon his attendance at the HPC Strategic Community Forum as the newly appointed BTC representative and reported on the discussion and outcomes in relation to overhead lines and the planned routes. This would significantly increase the height of the pylons carrying the grid links. Area specific forums had now been established with the next meeting for the Bridgwater area on 28/03/12 at the Exchange.

**85/11 WHEELED SPORTS FACILITY ACTION GROUP:**

The Town Clerk confirmed that this group had now been established to move forward the quest for a major skate park/BMX facility in the town, for which the Town Council had earmarked funds of £20K. Proposals were being examined for a possible location at the YMCA grounds with the land being provided by the association. This was seen as a positive move given the long-standing situation holding back other sites examined, but taking note of issues previously raised; full consultation with users was essential and was proposed soon rather than later.

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council note the position and endorse the need for early consultation with users.

**86/11 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT CATTLE MARKET AND BRISTOL ROAD LANDS (Min 56/10):**

The draft sketch master plan for the site had now been received, which subject to a necessary amendment, would enable the completion of the Promotion and Development Agreement already approved to be completed and the agreement between SDC and the Town Council to be signed off. This would then allow the submission of a planning application for the comprehensive development and requirements for consultation to go forward. The surrender agreement with BATA had been finalised, thus permitting the relocation of the allotments, as approved by the Secretary of State to be implemented. A timetable respecting the allotment growing season was being completed.

**RESOLVED:** That this be noted.

**87/11 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 01/03/12 (Agenda item 8) and decisions taken as follows, as well as noting the additions recorded below:-

**Decisions**

1. Bridgwater Retail Initiative and application to Town Team Competition (Portas Review Pilots) – Springtime and Shopping event and continuing BRI work noted, together with town team application: **Agreed** to support within allocated budgets;
2. Office photocopier – authorisation granted for renewal of lease on preferential terms;
3. Arts Centre – funding offer - position with match funding from other sources noted in light of additional sum included in budget and to be further considered whether to be applied in 2011/2012 or 2012/2013. **Agreed** to invite Arts Centre representative to meeting on 19/04/12 to explain forward proposals;

4. Bristol Road Cemetery – thanks to staff acknowledged by Town Council for improvements in the Cemetery and **Agreed** costing for seats, tree planting and hedging in sum of £2665.00 approved;
5. Bridgwater Parish Cluster Group Wednesday 27/03/12 – items considered noted and support of cluster for RLT2/3 money for skate parks/wheels development endorsed. Issues relating to bus travel to Chilton Trinity pool, raised by Cllr Tucker, noted;
6. Pharmaceutical applications to NHS by ASDA for 100 hours per week at Bridgwater store – confirmed no objection, provided not at expense of current provision within the town centre;
7. See Minute 88/11;
8. SALC membership – declined in view of cost;
9. Manchip Portrait refurbishment – payment to Talbot in sum of £948.00 confirmed

**For information:**

Items 1/13 as circulated - noted.

*(Cllr Mrs Morley declared an interest in item 3 and took no part in the consideration and did not vote thereon)*

**88/11 GRANT APPLICATIONS AND WARD GRANT APPLICATION:**

**RESOLVED:** that the applications as listed be approved:  
BGFCC Bristol Road site £1192.20  
Bridgwater schools football association - £1000  
Sedgemoor Citizens Advice Bureau - £2500  
Sydenham Community Centre - £15,000  
Victoria Park Community Centre - £15,000  
Westover/West Quay Action benevolent fund - £500

*(Cllr Mrs Slocombe declared an interest in item in relation to BGFCC and took no part in the consideration and did not vote thereon).*

The meeting finished at 9.17pm

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Signed  
Chairman