

BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18 APRIL 2013 AT 7.30PM AT THE CHARTER HALL TOWN HALL BRIDGWATER

PRESENT: Cllr GJ Granter (Mayor of Bridgwater – in the Chair), Cllrs SB Austen, AM Glassford, DP Loveridge, MJ Lerry, WJ Monteith, AJ Moore, Mrs PM Morley, LP Redman, KF Richards, Mrs GJ Slocombe, BD Smedley, and J Turner (JP)

Apologies: Cllrs Baker, Parker and Tucker

84/12 PUBLIC SPEAKING – MATTERS RELATING TO BRIDGWATER RAILWAY STATION:

The meeting was addressed by Ms Glen Burrows, raising a series of issues in relation to Bridgwater Station on behalf of the Friends of Bridgwater Station. This group had been formed following publication of the Macnulty Report, and among other things to oppose the closure of the ticket office at Bridgwater Station.

Particular issues related to the rights of access for those with disability, particularly crossing from platform to platform, and how this might be addressed by pursuing funding through Network Rail and the Department of Transport and Access for All. First Great Western were supportive of this and now sought endorsement from Public Office and the community at large. A second issue related to road signage, particularly advance signage in St John Street, to prevent heavy vehicles missing the A372 route and having to use the Station car park and verges to turn around. The third issue sought to support progress with the move of Dave's Diner into the listed Station buildings and delays caused in the legal process. The move would enable the temporary cabin to be removed and achieve a "Civic Pride" initiative.

Cllr Monteith responded to the points raised.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Town Council take whatever action appropriate to support issues raised and in particular:
 - i. write to Network Rail and the Department of Transport supporting First Great Western;
 - ii. seek the support of disability groups, in particular Compass, to help secure improved access; and
2. That the Bridgwater Challenge be invited to lend their support and to place these issues high on the agenda in pursuit of the Celebration Mile.

85/12 MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 07/02/13 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

86/12 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

- i. **Wheeled Sports Facility Action Group** (Min 76/12i) – an update was given confirming that an application for Planning Permission for the YMCA site had been submitted and that a scheme was proceeding to tender stage with the choice of supplier soon to be made based on consultation with the user group;
- ii. **EDF – proposals for new build at Hinkley Point C** (Min 76/12iii and 81/12) – it was confirmed that the "Strike Price" negotiations were continuing and would have to be concluded before the final investment decision. A consultation programme had been advised for the HPCC Connection project and details would be circulated. Action by

the Town Council in respect of the new build proposals were recorded in the Minutes of the Sub-Committee (Min 89/12 below) and mitigation would be pursued both in respect of the EDF proposals and the Connection proposals, including pursuing the undergrounding of pylons in Parkway;

- iii. **Post Office Relocation** (Min 76/12iv) – the Town Clerk reminded members that the consultation expired today. Written support on behalf of the Council for the Eastover location had been submitted and it was understood that a decision would be made known in four weeks.

87/12 REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (27/03/13):

The decisions and recommendations arising from the Meeting held on 27/03/13 (attached as an appendix) had been circulated and were introduced by the Chairman Cllr John Turner. Members noted that in Min 35 the Rollercoaster Ward Grant was in the Dunwear Ward and noted a letter of thanks from the Bridgwater Food Bank.

RESOLVED: That the Report be approved and adopted.

88/12 REPORT OF THE MUSEUM SUB-COMMITTEE (18/03/13):

The decisions and recommendations arising from the Meeting held on 18/03/13 (attached as an appendix) were circulated.

RESOLVED: That the decisions in the Minutes be noted and adopted.

89/12 REPORTS OF THE EDF/HPC SUB-COMMITTEE (18/02/13 AND 19/03/13):

The decisions and recommendations arising from the Meetings held on 18/02/13 and 19/03/13 (attached as an appendix) were circulated.

RESOLVED: That the actions and decisions in the Minutes be noted and adopted, and that with effect from the Annual Meeting 2013, the Sub-Committee be re-established as a Working Party.

90/12 REPORT OF TOWN HALL SUB-COMMITTEE (10/04/13):

The decisions and recommendations arising from the Meeting held on 10/04/13 (attached as an appendix) were circulated.

RESOLVED: That the actions and decisions in the Minutes be noted and adopted and with effect from the Annual Meeting 2013, the Sub-Committee be re-established as a Working Party.

91/12 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS:

RESOLVED: That the payments including Section 137 payments made during February and March (months 11 and 12) as circulated be approved and confirmed, and income received during the period be noted.

92/12 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2012/13:

The Town Clerk reported that Notice of Audit had been received with 01/07/13 appointed as the date for submission of returns. This would be the first year of external audit undertaken by Messrs Grant Thornton. In the usual way, accounting information would be submitted to the Internal Auditor prior to submission.

93/12 ANNUAL MEETING AND MAYOR MAKING 17/05/13:

Members discussed detailed arrangements for the Mayor Making Meeting following a draft paper circulated.

RESOLVED: That the agenda and programme be prepared as now agreed.

94/12 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2013/14:

RESOLVED: That the draft Calendar as submitted be approved, acknowledging that the dates may be varied due to circumstances including the change in the Planning Panel to Wednesday 12/06/13 from Thursday 13/06/13.

95/12 BRIDGWATER ARTS CENTRE:

The Council noted a report from Cllr Austen following his recent attendance as the Town Council's observer at a meeting of the Arts Centre Committee/Board.

96/12 MAYORAL ITEMS:

The Mayor announced an approach to the York Herald following up a proposal to secure the transfer of the Coat of Arms utilised by the former Borough and its transfer to the Bridgwater Town Council. This would also endorse the use of the Seal used as a motif by the Town Council.

RESOLVED: That this be pursued provided that costs are minimal, subject to further report.

97/12 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 11/04/13 (agenda item 11) and decisions taken as follows:

Decisions:

1. Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue draft plan – Cllr Redman had prepared a draft response – to endorse representations and submit on behalf of the Town Council;
2. Zurich Insurance Policies – AGREED renewal in the sum of £14,322.86;
3. St Mary's Church Corporation Pews – report on condition of pews and cushions and remedial work required – to undertake the remedial work within the earmarked funds allocated in budget subject to quotations obtained within requirements of Financial Regulations;
4. Somerset Association of Local Councils – advice of affiliation for 2013/14 at £2,366.62 including NALC component of £1,440.58 - not to pursue membership unless discounted affiliation fee offered.

For Information:

Items 1/27 as circulated - noted

The Meeting finished at 8.30pm

.....
Signed
Chairman