

BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN PUBLIC MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 8 May 2014 AT 7.30PM
AT THE CHARTER HALL TOWN HALL BRIDGWATER

PRESENT: Cllr Steve Austen (Dep Mayor – in the Chair), 11 other members of the Town Council, and some 4 members of the public.

These constitute a summary of the meeting – more detailed minutes will follow.

01. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Cllrs Loveridge (Mayor), Monteith, Parker & Redman

02. WELCOME:

The Dep Mayor welcomed members of the public to the 11th Annual Public Meeting of the Town Council since its inception in 2003. He welcomed guest speakers Sergeant Gary Young accompanied by PO Jasmine Desmond & PCSO Rachel Ashton.

03. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2013:

The Minutes of the 10th Annual Town Meeting held on 09/05/13 had been circulated to members of the Council and were available at the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 09/05/13 be confirmed and signed by the Dep Mayor as a correct record.

04. MATTERS ARISING: no specific matters were raised.

05. POLICING IN BRIDGWATER:

Main issues raised were: Move to the new police centre at Express Park: Range of services on site: Future location for town team beat managers and PCSOs (likely SDC offices): local issues – Blake Gardens and town centre ASB and alcohol consumption: setting up of multi-agency group: youth facilities on Sydenham estate: targeting boy racers in specific traffic operation: speeding traffic through town centre.

Points raised by members – vehicle use in New Road: ASB deterrents: general noise and bad language at the docks: similar issues in other locations.

By the public - use of quad bikes on highway: cycling on footpaths and pedestrianised areas.

Invitation to the town council to visit the new police centre.

06. BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL – RESUME OF YEAR 2013/14

Updated copies were issued and presented by the Dep Mayor. The resume was available on BTC's website.

The Dep Mayor also read a statement from Cllr Loveridge on his term of office.

One issue was raised in relation to Quantock Road cemetery and improvements in the upkeep and tidiness, but an issue affecting the standard of cleanliness of the toilets to be followed up with SDC under terms of SLA.

07. ISSUES FROM THE PUBLIC:

Address from Dave Chapple – Chair of the B&DCS – in relation to localism and the community right to bid. This noted that a working group and been established but expressed disappointment that this had not been fully attended. Cllr Smedley and Town Clerk responded. There was a need for care in raising aspirations. Buildings identified would be picked up by the planning panel, with a view to application to the SDC register.

08. PUBLIC MEETING:

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

The meeting finished at 7.45pm

Signed – Chairman