

# **BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 16 APRIL 2015 AT 7.30PM AT THE BURGESS ROOM TOWN HALL BRIDGWATER**

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

Apologies: Cllrs Parker and Richards

### **THE LATE DR PETER ELLYATT CATTERMOLE**

*Prior to the Meeting all stood in silence to the memory of Dr Peter Cattermole, a firm supporter of the Bridgwater Town Council, who had recently passed away.*

*The Mayor acknowledged the work which Dr Cattermole had carried out on behalf of the Town Council and in caring for the historic interests of the Town and suggested that in due course the Council may look at honouring his memory, possibly, in completing the refurbishment of the old Council Chamber, to the specification he had produced, as a reception room for the Town Hall.*

### **153/13 POLICE REPORT:**

PC Colette Ranson and PCSO Danni Castagna were introduced to the Town Council having recently, under new beat arrangements, become part of the Town Centre team. PC Ranson commented on a couple of issues raised by members.

### **154/13 PUBLIC SPEAKING (adjournment):**

Mrs Rhian Childs - Mrs Childs put forward suggestions for taking forward the Northgate development as a “social development” with the possibility that this could incorporate heritage, sport, community cohesion linking appropriately to other projects such as the Celebration Mile and the “Military Boats” displays at the docks (if this became a feasible project). This could be progressed as a social enterprise project with possibilities for regeneration of the whole area which had been the subject of discussion at the recent public meeting, and thereby securing funding from other sources. This would require preparation of a feasibility study and the drawing up of a business case. This may require the leadership of the Town Council but essentially co-operation of the landowners, Somerset County Council and Sedgemoor District Council, in relation to the vacant land recovered from the demise of the Tesco project.

Members welcomed the idea of a community interest project, with possible links

to other projects, for example, the Sea Cadets ambitions in the docks area and in context Cllr Monteith drew similarities with redevelopments in the Cardiff docks area. Members supported the possibility of a feasibility study and agreed that this should be referred on to the new Council post-election.

**155/13 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 24/03/15:**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24/03/15 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

**156/13 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (24/03/15):**

i. **EDF/HPC Working Party and Community Forum at Cannington on 14/05/15 (Min 148/13iii)** - The Town Clerk reported that appointed representatives were unable to attend at this meeting and requested a member to volunteer to attend.

ii. **Police Report (Min 145/13)** - In reply to a question from Cllr Tucker it was confirmed that the operation to deal with issues at New Road was underway and actions against some perpetrators had been taken.

Cllr Smedley referred to actions taken in the summer of 2014 in relation to Blake Gardens and it was confirmed that with the better weather similar response would be offered by the police and other agencies and that a multi Agency Meeting to co-ordinate actions was planned shortly. Concern was also voiced about the impact of legal highs and the need to support police action being taken in this respect.

iii. **Bridgwater Allotment Tenants Association (BATA) (Min 151/13iv)** - The Town Clerk confirmed that the quotation for the replacement of fencing at the Fairfield had been received enabling the grant of £5,000, as agreed at the previous meeting, to be transferred.

**157/13 MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 24/03/15 - FUTURE USE OF LAND AT NORTHGATE, BRIDGWATER (SITE PLANNED FOR TESCO DEVELOPMENT, NOT PROCEEDING) (Min 148/13vi):**

The Minutes of the Special Public Meeting were submitted. Members noted the issues which had been raised and supported the conclusions with the emphasis on the location and importance of the site strategically relating to the Town Centre as existing and as planned in the Core Strategy. This recognised it was essential to ensure developing proposals going forward were jointly processed by County and District, that proposals were not rushed and that most significantly the people of Bridgwater were given the opportunity to engage from the outset so that what eventually emerged was worthy of the Town and engagement was

meaningful. Notes would be referred on to both SCC and SDC in their capacity of landowners and Highway and Planning Authorities.

Members welcomed the conclusions and the opportunities offered through Min 154/13 above so that local people had the opportunity of some “ownership” in the future.

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Special Public Meeting be noted, the conclusions endorsed and referred to the new Council post-election to progress the interests of the Town.

**158/13 COMMUNITY ASSETS WORKING GROUP - MEETING HELD 09/04/15 (Min 148/13v):**

The Council received a report from Cllr Brian Smedley, the Chairman of the Working Group, which had received a follow-up report on applications for additions to the list. The Hope Inn had been confirmed but the application for the Magistrates’ Court declined. The message was the need for more vigilance and to act sooner in the process when properties appeared under threat although it was accepted that this was only one part of the process and that it needed community engagement and support to realise the potential of buildings for community use.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted as referred earlier in the day to the Planning Panel.

**159/13 CLLR WJ MONTEITH:**

Cllr Monteith, in leaving the meeting for another engagement, made a brief personal statement after 16 years as a Charter Trustee, Bridgwater Town Councillor and twice Mayor of the Town. He acknowledged his honour at having served the community through this period, and expressing his thanks to all colleagues throughout that time for their contribution to the life of the Town and support they gave.

**160/13 EDF/HPC WORKING PARTY AND TRAFFIC SCHEMES - ADVERSE IMPACT ON TOWN CENTRE TRADE AND BUSINESSES REPORT (Min 148/13iii):**

Following two Bridgwater Traders’ Meetings held to consider the adverse impact on trade attributable to the EDF/SCC roadworks, principally the Taunton Road/Broadway junction, the Council received a report outlining the conclusions and recording a traders’ impact survey undertaken by Westover Ward Cllr Brian Smedley. Members considered the conclusions and possible measures, some which needed to be considered urgently, some thereafter and some longer term proposals. These would also require examination of a possible bid(s) to the

Community Impact Mitigation (CIM) Fund arising from the EDF/HPC planning approvals.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the Town Council follow up the issues once the new Council is in place post-election and all efforts to pursue items covered in the report be supported in principle and noted, and the Bridgwater Town Team be invited to consider moving forward such action as is appropriate straightaway;
2. that actions relating to securing the speeding up of the roadworks in the shortest timescale possible and an alternative location for the compound be requested; and
3. that in relation to the latter the issue related to Trinity Gardens as a burial site be noted and taken into account.

**161/13 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS:**

**RESOLVED:** That the payments including Section 137 payments made during March (month 12) as circulated be approved and confirmed, and income received during the period together with the Cost Centre reports and bank reconciliations be noted.

**162/13 ENGINE ROOM - EXTENTION AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECT - PARTY WALL (Min 151/13):**

In view of the complexities of the planned works and possible impacts on the end wall of the Town Council owned properties leased to Victoria Hair and Sanctuary Housing, the Lyndon Brett Partnership had been engaged to handle the Council's and Tenants' interests. The Town Clerk advised that the Engine Room (and their agents and consultants) had been informed and were aware of their responsibility for any costs incurred by the Town Council. He reminded the Council that a grant of £10,000 had been assured to the Engine Room in support of their applications for funding which had been successful to enable the project to proceed.

**RESOLVED:** That the action taken be confirmed.

**163/13 NOTICE OF ANNUAL AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2014/15:**

The Town Clerk reported that Messrs Grant Thornton, the external Auditors, had given notice of audit and had notified 08/06/15 as the date for submission of the Annual Return.

**164/13 FIRST MEETING OF NEW TOWN COUNCIL AND MAYOR MAKING PROGRAMME (DRAFT):**

**RESOLVED:** That consideration of the draft programme for Mayor Making be

deferred to the first meeting of the new Council, to be convened on 12/05/15.

### **165/13 MAYORAL ITEMS:**

The Mayor took the opportunity to thank all members, those re-standing and those stepping down from the Town Council, for their support so far during his term of office. He expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to become Mayor and how much he and the Mayoress valued the Town and the opportunity to contribute to community life. He wished all members, candidates and retiring members, every success.

Cllr Turner then gave a vote of thanks to the Mayor acknowledging the service which he and the Mayoress had given.

Cllrs Mrs Gill Slocombe and David Baker, neither of whom were standing for re-election, also took the opportunity to reflect upon their times in office and expressed their appreciation for their involvement with the Town Council and offered "best wishes" to all.

The Mayor then presented Certificates of Recognition of Service to the seven members of Council not standing for re-election. The Certificate for the Mayor himself had been signed by the Mayor Elect.

### **166/13 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 09/04/15 (agenda item 9) and decisions taken as follows:

#### **Decisions:**

1. Sydenham One Project - **Resolved:** That Kristy Blackwell, the SDC lead for the project be invited to attend a meeting of the Town Council in due course to give members an insight into the community project and in the meantime a letter of support for CIM bid purposes be agreed and the Town Clerk's contribution to the Project Blueprint community consultation noted;
2. Renegades Carnival Club - **Resolved:** That a licence for the location of a storage container adjoining the Bristol Road Carnival site be approved in accordance with the terms and conditions agreed by the Town Clerk;
3. SDC - legal advice, drafting and representation scheme for Parish

and Town Councils - **Resolved:** That this scheme offered on a fixed fee or pay-as-used service be noted;

4. Bridgwater Town Team - **Resolved:** That the update on activities be noted included the extension of Christmas lights to trees at Penel Orlieu and the location of two motifs on the Nationwide building at Binford Place;

5. Bridgwater Chamber of Commerce - **Resolved:** That the request for financial support for marketing through the employment of an Administration Assistant be not approved and a further report submitted to the new Council regarding the sum included in the budget for Chamber support;

6. Grant Applications - **Resolved:** That the following grants be approved for 2015/16:

Holy Trinity Church - improvement project £2,500  
Sedgemoor CAB - Core Funding £2,500  
Bridgwater Buoy Heritage - docks buoy refurbishment £1,300  
ACTS Theatre School - senior production £2,500;

7. Ward Grant Applications - **Resolved:** That the following grants be approved:

Hamp - Hamp Community Association - community engagement £1,000  
Dunwear - Rollercoaster – youth activities provision £600  
Dunwear – St Francis Church – community building refurbishment £600  
Bridgwater Food Bank – Ward residents support - £650  
Dunwear – Bucaneers Basketball Club – funding training and coaching - £600

And that the completion of grant awards in term 2011/15 be noted.

**For information:**

Items 1-16 as circulated, 17. Bridgwater Heritage Regeneration Partnership Minutes 14/04/15, and 18. Care Act 2014 (fact sheet) - noted.

The meeting finished at 8.50 pm

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Signed                      Chairman