

# BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 08 AUGUST 2013 AT 7.30PM  
AT THE CHARTER HALL TOWN HALL BRIDGWATER

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

Apologies: Cllrs Monteith, Parker, Richards and Smedley

### **20/13 YOUTH SERVICES:**

The Council received an update from Jeff Brown, Service Manager-Youth Development of Somerset County Council to inform the Council on future provision of Youth Services across the County from 2014, and in particular the impact on provision in the Town. Jeff outlined the significant reductions in the service over the past three years where, in effect, all services had been withdrawn with the exception of Bridgwater, Taunton and Yeovil. Bridgwater provision was based on three night's use of the Rollercoaster. This was shortly to be adapted as a day centre for County Council Social Service use during the day and would be available for youth provision in the evenings, reliant upon the voluntary sector. Current arrangements would be moved to the Sports Centre and the Academy whilst works were carried out. In effect, the cuts would mean the end of youth work delivery in April 2014 and any budget options for 2014/15 would not be known until Sept/Oct and were likely to be built around training support. Somerset was in a similar position to other Counties in virtually ending youth provision, which was not seen as a core subject. Jeff pointed out that the concentration would be on the Sydenham provision but this would still need an organisation to provide the lead. He hoped for further discussions with the Town Council on this.

Members recognised that conversations had been held with discussion on options, for example at Victoria Park, but the dismantling of the Youth Service and consequent staff uncertainty made taking the service forward in any way extremely difficult. With the withdrawal from delivery a new-business model, if money was available, would be in supporting training of volunteers and was likely, again, to be concentrated on the main towns. The prospect of finance to soften the changeover was unlikely though other sources of finance were still being examined. Members put various suggestions forward but all would require a structural organisation to make the provision work. Members indicated their willingness to take part in further discussions on provisions in specific parts of the Town but without commitment to financial resources.

Mr Brown was invited to come back to the next meeting and it was also agreed that a meeting for members directly interested would be set up in the near future.

### **21/13 PUBLIC SPEAKING –**

#### **1. Traffic Noise and Speeding Cars**

Mr Nick Gibson had put forward a submission based on his experiences from his property in Camden Road and the impact of noisy and speeding cars in the vicinity, particularly along Lyndale Avenue and similar problems experienced in Wembdon Road, on the NDR, Bristol Road, The Clink and Wylde Road. He pointed out that apart from the problems of the speeding traffic, this created noise pollution to an unacceptable level. PCSO Georgina Stirling responded, indicating that Town Centre traffic issues were a major concern and would be the subject of a targeted policing operation but the majority of the calls to police examined in the past five weeks had not raised this particular issue.

## **2. Car Parking and Attendance Issues and Parking by Police Officers**

Mr Alec Western addressed the Council on a series of issues related to parking on double yellow lines, on pavement kerbs and in particular on what appeared to be police officers parking with immunity in restricted zones. The Town Clerk agreed to take up these issues with the Police Commissioner, the Chief Constable and local officers.

## **3. County Council Regulation Committee, District Council Development Committee, Cattle Market and Issues**

Mr Bob Cudlipp spoke to the Meeting referring to the County Council Regulation Committee and the Development Committee at Sedgemoor, but was advised that these were not matters for the Town Council. He also noted previous Minutes related to the Cattle Market and the Exempt Item Report. Mr Cudlipp then raised an issue personal to the Town Clerk.

*The Town Clerk withdrew immediately from the Meeting and the Mayor adjourned the proceedings. Mr Cudlipp was invited to leave the Meeting.*

*The Mayor reconvened the Meeting after a short adjournment.*

### **PUBLIC SPEAKING – continuation**

Members confirmed that in accordance with the published Public Guidance, items must be relative to items on the Agenda and that for all future meetings requests in writing, with the topics clearly identified would be required.

### **22/13 POLICING IN BRIDGWATER:**

PCSO Georgina Stiring made a brief presentation to members in which she confirmed that following the retirement of Inspector Roger Tolley, no new Inspector had been appointed. Work planned with EDF, particularly in relation to road safety and the younger population had restricted police availability for this meeting. Georgina then outlined ongoing issues at the Docks, action taken in respect of Public Order Issues at Blake Gardens and similar at Cranleigh Gardens, and confirmed that the 101 number should be used for all such events. Referring to the previous issues, she explained how the CCTV operated and the need for automatic number plate recognition to take action via this source. She would advise on the progress of the proposed Order for the Docks area to deal with problems in this area. Other issues followed up were in relation to BMX bikes on pavements, double yellow line parking and obstruction of gateways – the police were only able to deal with obstruction matters not those related to parking orders – and supported a press release on the use of the 101 number. PSCO Stiring was thanked for her responses.

### **23/13 MINUTES:**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27/06/13 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

### **24/13 REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (17/07/13):**

The decisions and recommendations arising from the Meeting held on 17/07/13 (attached as an appendix) had been circulated and were introduced by the Chairman, Cllr John Turner.

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

**25/13 REPORT OF THE TOWN HALL WORKING PARTY (25/07/13):**

The decisions and recommendations arising from the Meeting held on 25/07/13 (attached as an appendix) had been circulated and were introduced by the Chairman, Cllr Graham Granter. Members noted that in addition to the matters recorded, a limited disability access audit had been conducted which had confirmed the acknowledged difficulties in significant improvements given the Listed Buildings status and the various differential floor heights throughout the building and the largely redundant and vacant offices. Reference was made to a paper from Dr Peter Cattermole, which would be circulated to members and a request to proceed with actioning some items was noted.

**RESOLVED:** That the Report be noted and welcomed.

**26/13 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS:**

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the payments, including the Section 137 payments, made during June and July (months 3 and 4) as circulated, be approved and confirmed, and income received during the period be noted; and
2. that the Town Clerk respond to members directly on the specific issues raised in relation to the Museum (201-4700) Archival Materials and Town Hall (115-4496) Miscellaneous Expenses.

**27/13 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (27/06/13):**

- i. **Planning Panel – Eastover SPD Consultation** (Min 09/13) – Members noted that the Planning Panel at the Meeting on 15/08/13 would receive an update on the progress of the SPD to which all members were invited;
- ii **Wheeled Sports Facility Action Group** (Min 10/13ii) – Work had commenced on site at the YMCA with the agreement covering the SDC and BTC contributions completed. An invoice for the BTC payment was expected shortly.
- iii **Town Hall** (Min 10/13iii) – Report of the Working Party (Min 25/13 above);
- iv **St Mary’s Church Corporation Pews** (Min 10/13v) – The fabric had been renewed and treatment of the pews was in hand. Quotations had been obtained for the repairs to the Palimpsest Panels (4) for which there was currently no budget allocation.

**RESOLVED:** That Dr Cattermole be thanked for his work in this regard and the repair of the Palimpsest Panels be referred to the Finance Committee.

**28/13 POST OFFICE RELOCATION (Min 12/13):**

The Town Clerk confirmed that work on the establishment of the new Post Office in Eastover at the corner of New Road was well underway. Detailed information on the Business Plan had been received and approved and the Agreement enabling the support funding from SDC and BTC to be released had been completed.

*(Note by Town Clerk: Since consideration of this item confirmation has been received that the new Post Office will open on 11/09/13).*

### **29/13 BUS SERVICES IN BRIDGWATER:**

Members had been circulated with the information on the transitional arrangements for the provision of services in Bridgwater since the announcement that First Bus were discontinuing three of their routes. It was now understood that some alternative provision and variation to existing routings had been implemented. Members expressed differing views about the way in which different parts of the Town had been treated, where some routes had been maintained or replaced and others discontinued. Members regretted that communication by the Company in the process had been virtually non-existent with the local Councils and customers.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the whole situation and process and service provision was to be an item on the agenda for the District Council Community Scrutiny Committee, to be held shortly.

### **30/13 TOWN COUNCIL ASSETS AND BRISTOL ROAD LANDS (Min 19/13):**

The Town Clerk gave an update on the position with the land at the Cattle Market, which SDC had agreed to sell to the Housing Guild following the decision to rescind the Promotion and Development (draft) Agreement. Positive interest had been expressed in the development of the Town Council land, together with adjoining land in the ownership of Notaro, with the prospect that an agreement subject to the Grant and Planning Permission might be concluded.

**RESOLVED:** That in pursuit of the best interests of the Council in terms of the interest(s) expressed, the Resolutions to Min 19/13 continue to be pursued.

### **31/13 MAYORAL ITEMS:**

- 1. Sponsorship – Bridgwater Town (1984) Football Club** – re-arranged date from 2012/13, now Saturday 26/10/13; and
- 2. Town Clerk Vote of Confidence** – in the light of the earlier adjournment of the Meeting, the Mayor called for a Vote of Confidence in the Town Clerk, which was **RESOLVED** in favour. (*Vote - unanimous*)

### **32/13 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 01/08/13 (Agenda item 10) and decisions taken as follows:

#### **Decisions:**

- 1. Bridgwater Retail Initiative** – Town Team: Snowflakes and shopping and Christmas lights switch-on 22/11/13 – **AGREED** to note the preparations in hand, approve the replacement of the Cornhill Christmas lights and overhaul of strings, and the proposed treatment of the frontage of the former Hooks building with street art following agreement of the owners;
- 2. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Closure of the Somerset and Dorset Railway** – **AGREED** in principle to support the proposals of the Somerset and Dorset Railway Trust, including a travelling exhibition without commitment to any monetary consideration;
- 3. National Salary Award 2013/14** – **AGREED** implementation;

4. **Grant Applications – AGREED** Bridgwater Arts Centre £10,000 (application for £3k referred to Finance Committee for further examination); BGFCC Bristol Road Site Rental; BATA – asbestos removal up to £1,580: Ward Grant – Wyndham – Friends of Wembdon Road Cemetery – memorial refurbishment £216;
5. **West Quay – Pedestrianisation and Road Works – AGREED** to support the representations of Bridgwater Heritage Group to secure reduction in the number and amount of signage proposed.

**For information:**

Items 2/16 as circulated – noted.

The Meeting finished at 9.15pm

.....  
Signed