

# **BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 04 AUGUST 2016 AT 7.30PM  
AT THE CHARTER HALL TOWN HALL BRIDGWATER**

**PRESENT:** Cllr AM Glassford (Mayor - in the Chair), Cllrs Ms M Brown, GJ Granter, P Johnstone, Mrs P Morley, Ms L Leavy, M Lerry, DP Loveridge, AJ Moore, Ms K Pearce, L Redman, D Rodrigues, BD Smedley, and Ms S Wilson

**Apologies:** Cllrs M Cresswell and J Turner

### **18/16 POLICING IN BRIDGWATER:**

Sergeant Ryan Edwards and PC Colette Ranson were in attendance and Sergeant Edwards gave a brief resume of police activity in and around the town in the previous few weeks. This included reference to four or five incidents of a "hate crime" nature, a fight broken out on town bridge, and a general increase in anti-social behaviour in Blake Gardens and the Town Centre, largely attributed to the on-coming of the summer months. These issues, which also affected other parts of the town to a degree, including Cranleigh gardens, Sydenham, Bower and Hamp, required the support of all agencies including those associated with the homeless, with housing need, with drugs and alcohol and the case management. One or two incidents had occurred in the night-time economy, but generally this had proved much better and some of the anti-social behaviour issues had been dealt with in local villages including Westonzoyland, Cannington and Woolavington.

The Town Clerk drew attention to the recent multi-agency ASB meeting and the key issues which had been identified and the actions planned. A press release would follow but the actions included targeting known individuals, police and PCSO patrols, monitoring in Blake Gardens and consideration of the possibility of additional CCTV to cover one particular blind spot. The concentration had been on the Town Centre and Blake Gardens, whilst the most significant message continued to be the reporting of any incidents or concerns and to ensure that this was recorded. This applied to both the ASB hot line and the 101 police number and in addition businesses in the Town Centre were being invited to complete weekly logs so that these could be used to support action by the police. In response to questions, Sergeant Edwards confirmed that no issues of any significance had occurred at the Docks recently, drug usage and dealing was back on the increase in certain areas, although there was less focus locally due to more on police action across a much wider area. He also responded to questions on the restructuring of the Police and PCSO's management model which members considered had not been particularly helpful noticeably in the Sydenham area.

The Town Clerk also drew attention to the campaign “Bringing Your Voice to Policing” underway by the Police and Crime Commissioner and the need to ensure that responses were submitted with the key message about the needs of towns like Bridgwater. In doing so, members accepted that some of the issues facing the police locally were of major significance on the nation stage in terms of resources and funding.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the officers be thanked for their attendance and report;
2. that the Town Clerk respond to the Police and Crime Commissioner campaign and write formally on the key issues facing the town; and
3. that the Town Council fully support the planned actions arising from the multi-agency ASB meeting, including examination of an option for an additional CCTV camera to focus on the Blake Garden’s location.

**19/16 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 09/06/16**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meetings held on 09/06/16 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

**20/16 REPORT OF THE TOWN DEVELOPMENT FORUM (12/07/16):**

The Report of the Town Development Forum was submitted and introduced by the Chairman, Cllr Smedley. The meeting had concentrated on the regeneration of Bridgwater’s waterways with a presentation from the Inland Waterways Association. This covered ideas for a tidal barrier, the opening of the docks and canal and the navigability of the river. In principle members fully supported the major work streams and not least that future proofing to enable the penning of water should be part and parcel of any barrier scheme.

**RESOLVED:** That the views of the Town Council be recorded in support of the recommendations coming forward from the Forum.

**21/16 REPORT OF THE LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM (19/07/16):**

The Report of the Transport Forum was submitted and introduced by Cllr Ms Brown. In report she drew attention to the actions on SCC Transport Consultation and in particular bus services and the submission to SCC supporting the need for a Countywide Forum which could then work in conjunction with Local Transport Forums, particularly in taking forward a Countywide Transport Policy.

The Town Clerk reported a request from Puriton Parish Council to attend the Transport Forum in future, their specific areas of interest being Junction 23 and

local bus services serving surrounding villages.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the Chairman take forward the request for a Countywide Forum;
2. that the outcomes of the Forum in terms of road, rail, bike and pedestrians be noted;
3. that Puriton Parish Council be invited to send a representative in future; and
4. that the question of fare increases by First Bus (example route Bridgwater to Taunton) be checked out.

**22/16 REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (20/07/16):**

The decisions and recommendations arising from the meeting held 20/07/16 (attached as an appendix) had been circulated and were introduced by the Chairman, Cllr Smedley.

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

**23/16 REPORT ON ISOLATION AND LONELINESS CONFERENCE (25/06/16):**

Cllr Rodrigues spoke to the paper he had produced following attendance at the successful conference. He drew attention to the issues which had been covered and highlighted concerns voiced both on behalf of elderly people and young people on the quality and coverage of public transport. Members agreed to refer this to the Transport Forum which Cllr Ms Brown would follow through.

**24/16 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (09/06/16):**

- i. Forward Plan 2016/17 (Tracker) (Min 10/16i) - Cllr Smedley spoke to the Forward Plan and to relevant items which were referred elsewhere on the Agenda, confirming those items which would be picked up in the coming months.
- ii. Bristol Road Cemetery (Min 11/16) - The Town Clerk reported on the continuing discussions involving the Environment Agency, Wessex Water and SDC in relation to the pollutant issues which had been identified. He confirmed that the work programme for the yew trees was programmed and requested members to consider the painting of the railings and gates at the entrance for which an estimate could be obtained and contained within budget.

**RESOLVED:** That the Report be noted and that the painting of the railings and gates be undertaken.

iii. SDC Cluster Group Arrangements (Min 13/16) - The Town Clerk confirmed that the Council's response had been submitted and further consideration was awaited. It was understood that a number of Parishes to the South and West of the town shared the view that they should remain a separate entity from the suggested re-organisation which proposed Bridgwater's inclusion with 17 other Parishes to the South and West.

iv. Community Impact Mitigation (CIM) Bids - Town Centre and Walking and Cycling South Bridgwater and North Petherton Link (Mins 07/16 and 16/16.5) - The Town Clerk reported that the CIM bids had been assessed and had gone forward to the POB. Both bids had been scored, one at 94% and one at 83% and both had received approval to go forward to the West Somerset Cabinet on 08/09/16 and the West Somerset full Council on 21/09/16 in accordance with the procedure. The Chairman of the EDF/HPC Working Party confirmed his willingness to represent the Town Council as the bidders on these two occasions.

**RESOLVED:** That the information be welcomed.

v. Bridgwater Community Hospital (Min 17/16) - The Town Clerk reported information which had now been received in response to the enquiries about beds and staffing levels. The situation was explained and the full explanatory letter was expected which would be circulated. This meant that although the number of beds available was reduced to 18 during the summer months, the full complement of 30 would be available from November through February if required and in this way best use of funding in agreement between the Somerset Trust and the CCG confirmed. During discussion further issues were raised about the absence currently of maternity services in the Mary Stanley ward and this would be followed through. Further questions would be raised about this situation both by the Town Clerk and County Cllr Redman at SCC. Cllr Ms Pearce also undertook to follow this through the SDC Scrutiny Committee in relation both to the beds and the Mary Stanley unit.

#### **25/16 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS:**

**RESOLVED:** That the payments including Section 137 payments made during June (month 3) as circulated, be approved and confirmed, and income received during the period together with the Cost Centre Reports and bank reconciliations and investments be noted.

#### **26/16 TOWN HALL - OLD COUNCIL CHAMBER - REFURBISHMENT PROGRAMME:**

The Town Clerk confirmed progress with the continuing programme and invited members to view the room. A quotation had been obtained for the chandelier replacement together with LEDs at rail levels. Pews from the reordering of St Mary's Church had already been obtained as a feature and the next stage would also see completion of decorations.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the programme be noted and classic style pendants (Blenheim) be obtained in the sum of £3,616.73 9 (ex VAT); and
2. that the Town Hall Working Party be convened with a further invite to view the building in its entirety.

**27/16 COMMUNITY SAFETY (ASB) MULTI-AGENCY MEETING  
(27/07/16):**

Issues arising from this Meeting had been picked up in Min 18/16 above. Cllr Loveridge requested that the next meeting should also review matters in Eastover and Cranleigh Gardens within the Eastover Ward. This was agreed.

**28/16 RIVER PARRETT BANK AND FOOTPATH AT SALMON PARADE:**

The Town Clerk reported an approach from Sustrans about the position of an IBC designed to prevent vehicles driving down onto the riverbank and its use as an unofficial litter bin which was derogatory to the image of the town for those cycling that route.

**RESOLVED:** That this be followed up with a view to improving the visual impact.

**29/16 BROADWAY CLOCK - DEMOLITION OF CONCRETE COLUMN:**

The Town Clerk reported that the concrete column had been deemed unsafe and was to be demolished and not replaced. SDC had offered the clock to the Town Council. In the past the Town Council had provided funding in association with Innovia for the repair of the clock. Suggestions were made for possible uses in conjunction with the new Eastover Bridgwater Hotel, or Asda and the bus station site.

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council accept the clock and explore options for a future location.

**30/16 PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:**

The Town Clerk reported on correspondence and papers received, those for decision (Min 26/16 - 29/16 above) and those for information.

**RESOLVED:** That all items be noted as listed in the Report dated 29/07/16 (agenda item 12), and further decisions taken as follows:

**Decisions:**

1. Grant Applications 2016/17 - **Resolved:** That the application for Hamp Community Association Core Funding (£13,000), Victoria Park Community Centre Core Funding (£13,000), Victoria Park Community Centre Project Funding (for refurbishment) (£5,000), BATA - Kidsbury Road Allotments (Meadowlands) Fencing and Hedge Planting (£2,500) and St Mary's Bell ringers - Bells "And 5 Makes 13" (£2,500 subject to confirmation of remainder of funding) be approved.
2. Youth Unlimited CIC - Rollercoaster Contract - **Resolved:** That the meeting of the Working Group planned for 10/08/16 be noted together with the Youth Service Reports received and the Working Group power to act in pursuing the provision within the budget already provided (£10k remaining).
3. Bridgwater Post Office Eastover - **Resolved:** That the action taken in pursuing the refurbishment of the frontage be welcomed and a further report on planned action be requested.
4. Bicycle Stand and Post Box - **Resolved:** That the action being pursued by Cllr Loveridge be noted.

**For information:**

Items 1 - 24 as circulated.

**RESOLVED:** That in relation to item 5, the Meads Eco Park Management Plan the Council write to Pete Grainger in appreciation of the work he has put into the preparation of the document and its projected outcomes be supported.

The meeting finished at 8.55 pm

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Signed                      Chairman