

BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

**HELD ON THURSDAY 03 AUGUST 2017 AT 7.30PM
AT THE CHARTER HALL TOWN HALL BRIDGWATER**

PRESENT: Cllr GJ Granter (Mayor - in the Chair), Cllrs AM Glassford, T Heywood, L Leavy, MJ Lerry, DP Loveridge, P Morley, K Pearce, LP Redman, and BD Smedley

Apologies: Cllrs Cresswell, Johnstone, Moore, Rodrigues, Wilson and Turner JP

11/17 POLICING IN BRIDGWATER AND REPORT OF THE TOWN DEVELOPMENT FORUM (29/06/17):

Cllr Smedley introduced the Report of the Town Development Forum which had been attended by Sue Mountstephens - Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Lisa Simpson - Chief Inspector, Neighbourhood Policing, and Joe Piscina - Town Centre Neighbourhood Sergeant. Members accepted and noted the Report and approved the recommendations set out therein.

Neighbourhood Sergeant Joe Piscina then gave an update on actions and progress which had been made in dealing with issues, particularly those in the Binford Place area and Blake Gardens. He specified the actions in relation to Public Order Offences, Section 35 Orders and proposals for licensing reviews. The police continued to build cases against a number of individuals which, together with action against drugs, had seen a general improvement. This had resulted in a 20% reduction in ASB calls and Sergeant Piscina explained the hierarchy of responses to 101 calls. Action had also been taken against anti-social behaviour by youths in the town centre to the extent that following disturbances the Fever Night Club had cancelled under 18 party nights on Thursdays for the time being. The Wednesday night events would continue, which could be patrolled by the police.

At this point in the meeting, the Mayor adjourned proceedings to enable members of the public to address the issues. Mr Adrian Fisher, Mr Steve Coram and Mr Jason Kirk outlined the impacts of anti-social behaviour on their individual businesses and residences and emphasised the significant benefits of police presence. Reference was also made to speeding cars and motorcycles, particularly through the one way system. Mr John Parker emphasised the issues in managing toilets in the Town Centre when police or CCTV coverage was not available.

Sergeant Piscina then took questions from the floor, emphasising the major issues as outlined in the Forum Meeting and also the need to involve other

agencies in combating alcohol and drug issues. Sergeant Piscina was reminded that a written report on issues in New Road was still outstanding.

RESOLVED:

1. That Sergeant Piscina be thanked for his Report;
2. that the appreciation of the Town Council be passed on to the police for their presence and for the way this had contributed to the success of the Bridgwater Quayside Festival; and
3. that the specific recommendations set out in the Report of the Town Development Forum be adopted and appropriate actions taken, including consideration of a single telephone response number.

12/17 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15/06/17

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15/06/17 be approved subject to the replacement of Cllr Redman with Cllr Moore as the Town Council Representative on the Hamp Community Association, amended and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

13/17 REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (19/07/17):

The decisions and recommendations arising from the meeting held on 19/07/17 (attached as an appendix) were circulated and introduced by the Chair - Cllr Smedley and the Town Clerk. In approving the Report, particular note was taken of the work on the Fixed Asset Register.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Report be noted and approved ; and
2. that in relation to the Fixed Asset Register, the following actions be taken and policies adopted:
 - i. The referencing system be approved for records and identification;
 - ii The policy for asset categorisation be approved in line with the prepared register;
 - iii. A programme for revaluation of all relevant assets be put in place, initially silver collection and buildings, and further advice taken on regularity of review periods;
 - iv. Nominal value be maintained as now where assets passed to BTC without cost at nil value;
 - v. From the commencement of the financial year 2017/18 all new assets acquired be recorded at value for register and accounting purposes and depreciation on an annual basis at market rate be implemented; and
 - vi. Location of documentation relevant to each section and category of the register be identified in an appendix to the register.

14/17 REPORT OF THE MUSEUM SUB-COMMITTEE (24/07/17):

The decisions and recommendations arising from the Meeting held on 24/07/17 (attached as an appendix) were circulated and introduced by the Chair - Cllr Loveridge. In approving the Report, particular note was taken of the planned actions in relation to the Old Mill (Min 10) and the attached detailed Report prepared by Mr Stewart Richards.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Report be noted and approved;
2. that the project be pursued as outlined in the Report on the Old Mill;
3. that Stewart Richards be nominated and appointed voluntarily as Agent and Co-ordinator for the BTC/Blake Museum/Old Mill project;
4. that this include researching available funding sources; that Cllr Smedley pursue enquiries with SDC reference the Museum Association (Old Mill) Trust; and
5. that examination of the deeds to determine the position with the boundary wall be pursued.

15/17 REPORT OF THE LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM (04/07/17):

Cllr Heywood introduced the Report having taken over as Chair.

At this point the Mayor adjourned the meeting to enable Mrs Sally Jones, a member of the public, to speak on issues relating to transport, in particular bus services and impact of changes on services in the Kendale Road to Town Centre areas, and other issues related to problems with overgrowth on Westonzoyland Road Bridge which had partly been addressed.

Cllr Heywood responded to the comments, highlighting problems with funding and the requirement of routes F. Cllr Redman explained the impact of reductions in funding and his pursuance of the lack of detail in information provided by the County Council.

Cllr Heywood referred to the possibilities of additional Community Transport services and referred to a meeting he had arranged with County Cllr John Wadham on the related public transport issues and needs. He also relayed the action being taken in investigating the desires for 20 mph limits across the Town and estimates of cost that could be involved with comprehensive introduction.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Report be noted and various actions confirmed; and
2. that Cllr Heywood and Cllr Redman report back on the related public

transport issues.

16/17 BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL TWINNING FORUM (18/07/17):

Cllr Smedley submitted a Report on the Forum Meeting and the activities of each of the Twinning Groups as well as the report on the 2017 Twinning Week.

The Mayor drew attention to documents celebrating the 60th anniversary of the twinning with La Ciotat, France, and the 25th anniversary of the twinning with Homberg, Germany. He also referred to intentions for anticipated visits to England by parties from La Ciotat, from Homberg and from Uherske Hradiste, Czech Republic during the carnival period.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted and approved, and plans for the carnival period 2017 and the Bridgwater Together Week planned at the Engine Room be specifically noted.

17/17 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS:

RESOLVED: That the payments, including Section 137 payments made during June (month 3) as submitted to the Finance Committee, and July (month 4) as circulated, be approved and confirmed, and income received during the periods together with the cost centre reports and bank reconciliations and investments be noted.

18/17 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

i. **Forward Plan 2017/18 (Tracker) (Min 06/17i)** - Cllr Smedley introduced the updated version of the Forward Plan and references elsewhere in the Agenda, and confirmed a meeting with the interim Chief Executive of SDC, Allison Griffin, to be held at 4pm on Monday 14/08/17.

ii. **EDF/HPC and North Bridgwater Junction Improvements (Min 06/17ii)** - Members noted that work had now been completed earlier than originally programmed and in advance of the revised completion date. Attention would now turn to the Bath Road works for access to the "BRIA" (Sedgemoor) Campus and Cllr Loveridge confirmed actions he had taken in preparation. The Town Clerk confirmed that a replacement bus shelter would be provided and a maintenance sum in perpetuity pursued.

iii. **Bridgwater Summer Event - "Fuse" and Bridgwater Cultural Partners and the Bridgwater Quayside Festival (Min 06/17iii)** - Members congratulated all those involved in this very successful event and the significant contributions made by local people and organisations.

iv. **Sedgemoor West Cluster Group (Min 10/17.4)** - Reference was made to the meeting held on 20/06/17 and the issues which had been raised.

19/17 BRIDGWATER LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM - ITEMS:

The Town Clerk confirmed items in relation to Durleigh Road (speeding), disabled parking bays in High Street, the Docks Bascule Bridge, and the Westonzoyland Road Bridge, which would be referred to the next Forum.

20/17 BRIDGWATER HOSPITAL – MIU, MARY STANLEY UNIT AND RHEUMATOLOGY DEPARTMENT (Mins 73/16 and 82/16iii):

The Town Clerk reported on updates received from the Somerset Partnership via Norma Coombes, the Senior Hospital Matron. This confirmed that the impact on changes through the hours of operation of the MIU had been minimal, that from August the Mary Stanley Unit would benefit from a 24 hour service, and that Rheumatology Clinics were continuing to be held in Bridgwater.

Members had supported the extra operations at the Mary Stanley Unit and considered this a major boost to local facilities.

RESOLVED: That the Reports be noted and the Town Council continue to monitor each of the activities as well as the position with the Endoscopy Unit.

21/17 REPORT OF THE TOWN HALL WORKING PARTY (31/07/17):

The decisions and recommendations arising from the Working Party held on 31/07/17 were circulated and introduced by the Chair, Cllr Redman.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Report be approved and adopted; and
2. that the Old Council Chamber be officially named “The Bridgwater Room” and the availability of the room be promoted, examining decor with pictures etc representing the old and new Bridgwater.

22/17 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 27/07/17 (agenda item 13), and decisions taken as follows:

Decisions:

1. Quantock Road Cemetery - Request for Additional Notice Board on Extension Area - **Resolved:** That the request be approved, matching existing

notice boards at an estimated cost of £500 approx;

2. St Matthews Field Allotments - Contribution to Regrading of Access Way across FairField - **Resolved:** That in light of the obligations a sum to a maximum of £540 be contributed;

3. Soroptimists International Bridgwater - Request to store Regalia in Town Hall Safe - **Resolved:** That the request be approved based on the estimated valuation of £3500 and Soroptimist International invited to present a short history of the Club and silver for future reference

4. Grant Applications 2017/18 - **Resolved:** 1. That the application by SPARK (a project of SSBCA) for work in and around Bridgwater, be approved in the sum of £1000; 2. that the application from Wassail Theatre be referred to the next meeting of the Finance Committee; and 3. that the letter of thanks from the Victoria Park Community Centre be noted.

For Information:

Items 1 - 19 as circulated - noted.

The meeting finished at 9.10 pm

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Signed Chairman