

BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 10 MARCH 2016 AT 7.30PM AT THE BURGESS ROOM TOWN HALL BRIDGWATER

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

Apology: Cllr Turner

83/15 POLICING IN BRIDGWATER:

No representation - invitation extended to next meeting.

84/15 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14/01/16:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14/01/16 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

85/15 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (14/01/16):

i. Forward Plan 2015/16 (Tracker) (Min 77/15iii) - members noted the document as circulated and the items referred elsewhere in the agenda.

ii. Creative Centres - Bridgwater Cultural Partners Meeting (Min 77/15iv) - the Town Clerk advised that a further meeting of Cultural/Arts representatives had been held, looking broadly at the programming of theatres and creative venues. This included consideration of financial support sourced from a possible joint development of a bid for funding. In this context, views of other linked organisations were being obtained and a questionnaire prepared for consultation and public views.

iii. Sedgemoor CCTV and Radio Links of the Somerset Businesses Against Crime (Min 77/15v) - the Town Clerk confirmed that an independent assessment of the service and system had been completed and following a review of performance improvements were being made which were due to be completed by mid-March. This would be subject to funding promised and to be secured which might imply a further request to the Town Council given the significance of the scheme within the Town Centre.

iv. Fore Street Burger Stall - Kiosk Proposal (Min 77/15iv) - It was noted that a proposal was being worked up, but this would be subject to necessary consents from the Highway Authority (and SDC).

86/15 EMPLOYMENT, SKILLS TRAINING AND LOCAL LABOUR AGREEMENTS:

A position paper prepared by Cllr Lerry was circulated. Members considered the paper and the recommendations. Members supported an amendment to the effect that the specific recommendation should support the creation of more “quality” apprenticeships.

RESOLVED: That with this amendment, the five recommendations be approved and taken forward by the Town Council through appropriate channels.

87/15 THE MAYORALTY REVIEW:

Cllr Smedley introduced the Mayoralty Review paper in the preparation of which he had consulted widely with members and past Mayors and the Town Clerk. This dealt with the history of the Mayoralty and was designed also to provide a compendium of duties and responsibilities for those taking up the Mayoralty and to provide a guide through the term in Office. Members congratulated Cllr Smedley on the document which they considered a support for Bridgwater’s heritage and worthy of inclusion on the Council’s website including, importantly, the history section. The review was supported with a series of recommendations which members examined and agreed.

RESOLVED: That the Report and recommendations be adopted as outlined.

88/15 ANNUAL MEETING AND MAYOR MAKING 13/05/16:

Members discussed detailed arrangements for the Mayor Making meeting following a draft paper circulated.

RESOLVED:

1. That the agenda and programme be prepared as now agreed; and
2. that Cllr Graham Granter be nominated as Deputy Town Mayor for the period ending at the Annual Meeting 2017.

89/15 REPORT OF THE TWINNING FORUM (16/02/16) (Min 53/15):

The Report of the Twinning Forum had been circulated with members noting the Reports from each of the Twinning links and the plans for the Twinning Conference on Saturday 23rd April involving a Twinning “drop-in” at the Charter Hall and events at the Arts Centre in the evening. Members noted a skittles evening at the Bridgwater Squib on the previous evening. It was also noted that 2017 would be the 60th anniversary of the La Ciotat link.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted and approved.

90/15 REPORT OF THE EDF/HPC WORKING PARTY (17/02/16) (Min 64/15):

The Report of the EDF/HPC Working Party was submitted and introduced by the Chairman Cllr Redman. Members noted the presentation on walking and cycling route plans through and across Bridgwater and how this was progressing. Further presentations were planned to the Town Council as the various schemes developed. The Town Clerk commented on items in relation to variable messaging signs, where a working group had been set up, progress with bids for the Community Impact Mitigation Fund and processes for applications and actions in relation to the Sport and Leisure (Section 106) contribution for the greater Bridgwater area.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Report be noted and decisions endorsed; and
2. that the funding bids be taken forward with the variations reported and the support from the consultation exercises.

91/15 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS:

RESOLVED: That the payments including Section 137 payments made during January (month 10) and February (month 11) 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.

92/15 TOWN DEVELOPMENT FORUM AND LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM - REQUEST FROM SENIOR CITIZENS FORUM FOR PLANNED PROGRAMME OF DATES:

Members noted the request and that the Town Council when establishing the Forums, had decided that they should be convened as and when required to provide the most effective manner of consultation. Members agreed that the absence of pre-arranged dates had no bearing on the Town Council commitment to the processes.

RESOLVED:

1. That the procedures for meetings continue as previously agreed;
2. that the Local Transport Forum be convened on 21/03/16 and an agenda issued; and
3. that the Town Development Forum to concentrate on the LDF/Core Strategy Review be moved back one week to the 13/04/16, due to other commitments and provided SDC representation available on that date – (note by Town Clerk – revised date to be arranged).

93/15 BRISTOL ROAD CEMETERY:

The Town Clerk gave an update on continuing works to improve drainage and the cleaning of the ditch along the boundary linking to the run past the allotments. This had involved the removal of a tree and roots which were impeding the drainage run and the replacement of pipes.

It was still planned to undertake the most appropriate work to the yew trees on the access and to aid this process a report from a tree specialist had been commissioned. This should determine the best way to proceed.

RESOLVED: That the position with the drainage works be noted and completed, and action to be taken in respect of the yew trees, dependent upon the specialist report, be endorsed.

94/15 WEBSITE - SOMERSET WEB SERVICES:

Members noted that the web suppliers had recently upgraded platforms, as a consequence the Town Council website had also been upgraded without any additional costs.

95/15 TOWN HALL REDECORATION AND REFURBISHMENT PROGRAMME:

The Town Clerk reported on the continuation of the programme agreed through the Town Hall Working Party and approved in the Finance Committee Report following the Budget meeting, with the refurbishment of the former Council Chamber. This had been activated before the expiry of the Listed Building Consent giving the most convenient outcome. In conjunction with the works, the need for some emergency repairs to roof timbers above the old Chamber had been identified and corrected as part of the works.

The Town Clerk reminded members of the interests in accommodation from the BOS cafe and as a possible wedding venue, and further enquiries from the Citizens' Advice Bureau. In connection with the Registrar's requirements, the Town Council had also taken part with SCC and SDC in an accommodation review across the town.

RESOLVED:

1. That the progress in each area be endorsed;
2. that the meeting of the Town Hall Working Party with invites to view the works of refurbishment be arranged; and
3. that the Town Clerk continue the investigations in terms of interests and optional uses and report in the first place to the Town Hall Working Party,

particularly in relation to location, adaptation and accessibility.

96/15 MAYORAL ITEMS:

1. Civic Service – the Mayor thanked those members who had supported the event, and remarked upon the excellent way in which the whole service had been conducted and illustrated all that was best about Bridgwater;
2. Town Hall Defibrillator - the Mayor confirmed the enquiries that he had made and would take forward to the Town Hall Working Party.

97/15 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 03/06/16 (agenda item 12), and decisions taken as follows:

Decisions:

1. Bridgwater Town Team and Christmas Lights and Chamber of Commerce Awards - 1. That the work on the re-tendering of the Christmas lights contract be noted; 2. that the purchase of replacement strings and ceiling lights to replace and further enhance the display through the end of season/early year sale be confirmed; and 3. that the arrangements for the Chamber of Commerce Business Awards be noted;
2. Town Hall - That following the annual boiler service and the need to replace a mechanical seal unit and pressure relief valves on both boilers, this work at cost of £1,012.88 including VAT be approved and the assessment of the checks of the water temperature controls on the public accessible system confirmed;
3. That the grant applications for 2015/16 for Quantock Orienteers - Bridgwater Project production of Town Maps in the sum of £200, and for St Mary's Church clock servicing in the sum of £312 be approved, and all other items remaining for consideration in 2015/16 listing and for 2016/17 be referred to the Finance Committee with power of decision with the objective of a meeting in the last week of March.

For information:

Items 1 - 19 as circulated and in particular item 1, update on situation with residents' parking scheme introduction in Westover Ward - noted.

98/15 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

1. Bridgwater Tidal Surge Barrier - report on stakeholder meeting;
2. BTC/SDC Budget Issues - request for list of achievements by the Town Council and contributions to SDC expenditure.
3. 55 High Street, Bridgwater - notice of planning application for change of use from shop to hot food takeaway (notice received as property owners).

RESOLVED: That all items be noted and actioned.

The meeting finished at 8.55 pm

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Signed Chairman