

BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 07 NOVEMBER 2013 AT 7.30PM AT THE CHARTER HALL TOWN HALL BRIDGWATER

PRESENT: Cllr DP Loveridge (Mayor of Bridgwater – in the Chair), Cllrs AM Glassford, MJ Lerry, Mrs PM Morley, LP Redman, KF Richards, Mrs GJ Slocombe, BD Smedley, IC Tucker, and J Turner (JP)

Apologies: Cllrs Austen, Baker, Monteith, Moore and Parker

33/13 POLICING IN BRIDGWATER:

Sergeant Garry Young accompanied by PCSO Jo Farrow, were in attendance and outlined matters with which the police had been particularly concerned in the past few weeks. This covered theft of diesel fuel particularly from vehicles on industrial estates, theft of motor vehicles in and around the town centre and boy racing and joy-riding in the town centre and particularly on the Bridgwater Retail Park and McDonalds. A multi-agency ASB meeting had been convened to examine the latter issues in detail.

Members then raised a number of issues, some related, including vehicles in New Road, cycling in Fore Street, concerns about youth activity in the event that the Rollercoaster was closed, with the curtailment of youth provision. Reference was made to work by Ward members and PCSOs in providing activities for the young people at the Sydenham Community Centre. Further concerns were raised about speeding motorists, particularly on highways such as the NDR, Wills Road and other estate roads, parking on pavements and waiting-limited streets particularly St John Street, Eastover and North Street in the early evenings. Reference was also made to the monitoring of vehicles abusing the pedestrianised area in West Quay although temporary barriers had now been provided pending a more permanent solution.

Sergeant Young mentioned also the move from the central Police Station to Express Park, now expected in January, but with the hope that a drop-in office would still be provided in the Town Centre. Members endorsed the matter in point maintaining that this was essential to benefit the community and Town Centre as a whole.

34/13 PUBLIC SPEAKING – YMCA Access FM Radio

Mr Robert Snelling raised a series of issues about the accessibility of Access FM radio, its services to the community and community involvement, and the need for much improved communications with local people. Mr Tom Copestake, Station Co-ordinator, was due to speak but had sent an apology due to illness. Mr Copestake would be invited to a future meeting when issues raised by Mr Snelling would, hopefully, be addressed.

35/13 MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 08/08/13 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

36/13 REPORT OF THE MUSEUM SUB-COMMITTEE (19/08/13):

The decisions and recommendations arising from the Meeting held on 19/08/13 (attached as an appendix) had been circulated. The Meeting at the Old Mill referred to in Min 11 had been held and a way forward agreed for presentation to the next Sub-Committee Meeting.

The Chairman commented again on the lack of progress in moving to the Museum Trust which had previously been reported. The Mayor expressed an interest in volunteering as a Trustee.

RESOLVED: That the decisions be noted and the Report adopted.

37/13 TOWN HALL WORKING PARTY: Report of Meeting with Town Hall Users (21/08/13):

The Chairman presented the Report of the Meeting of Town Hall Users held on 21/08/13. A further Meeting of the Town Hall Working Party had not been convened but would be arranged shortly. The Users Meeting had been extremely productive and well supported.

Several issues were raised in connection with the plans to redecorate the entrance and foyer of the hall and initiate the works programme.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Report be noted;
2. that the quotation for the redecoration of the entrance way and foyer of the theatre and offices from Colin Wilkins be accepted;
3. that the acquisition of the "Skymaster" ladder be noted;
4. that the work needed to overhaul the sound equipment be put in hand: in terms of the Stage Electrics quote;
5. that the receipt of the cheque from the winding up of the Bridgwater Theatre Trust be acknowledged; and
6. that the Fire Warden training be commissioned.

38/13 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS:

RESOLVED:

That the payments, including the Section 137 payments, made during August, September and October (months 5, 6 and 7) as circulated, be approved and confirmed, and income received during the period and Cost Centre Reports be noted.

39/13 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES :

- i. **Youth Services** (Min 23/13) - Members noted the follow-up meeting with Jeff Brown and the exercise underway to map current provision and services for youth in the Town. The Sedgemoor Community Youth Forum held on 31/10/13 was also noted;
- ii. **Wheeled Sports Facility Action Group** (Min 27/13ii) – Members noted that the construction of the site was nearing completion with an opening date planned for 07/12/13. The Town Council contribution of £20k had been paid;
- iii. **Town Hall** (Min 27/13iii) – this item had been covered under the Town Hall Users Meeting Report.

40/13 POST OFFICE RELOCATION (Min 12/13):

The Town Clerk confirmed that work to establish the new Post Office in Eastover, at the corner of New Road, was nearing completion and support from the Councils had been released. Opening was intended for 13/11/13 with a formal opening ceremony to be arranged in due course.

41/13 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT CATTLE MARKET AND BRISTOL ROAD LANDS (Min 30/13):

The Town Clerk gave an update on the implementation of the resolutions adopted at the previous two meetings. He reported on the effect of the decision by Sedgemoor District Council to enter into an agreement with the Housing Guild for the Cattle Market site, the effect on the development of the Town Council land together with adjoining land in private ownership, and the positive interests from two sources in the acquisition and development of the Town Council land. This would still necessitate the relocation of the allotments where two options appeared possible, dependent upon whether the Town Council and adjoining land was developed separately, or as part of a more substantial Phase 2 of the current proposals for the Cattle Market. This matter would be subject to further report at the next meeting.

42/13 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2012/13 – OUTTURN AND GOVERNANCE:

The Town Clerk reported that the annual Audit for the year ended 31/03/13 had been completed by Messrs Grant Thornton satisfactorily, and in accordance with the Audit Commission requirements, and no matters had come to attention which affected the satisfactory outcome of the Audit. Attention had been drawn to one point relating to internal financial controls, although copies of the adopted Financial Regulations had not been requested by the Auditors. Notice of the Audit had been published.

RESOLVED: That this be noted and the payment of the Audit fee of £1,560, including VAT, acknowledged.

43/13 BRIDGWATER ALLOTMENTS TENANTS ASSOCIATION (BATA) AGREEMENT:

The Town Clerk reported that the new Agreement covering the 10 sites for the 10 years to 2023 had been completed and signed as approved by the Council.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

44/13 MAYORAL ITEMS:

The Mayor drew attention to two items:

- 1. New Hospital - Birthing Unit** – Members hoped that the new unit would retain the traditional name of the Mary Stanley Unit and considered that the ward containing the unit could more appropriately be named the “Irene” ward rather the “Waverley” ward;
- 2. Chamber of Commerce Representatives Visit to China** – copies of the letter sent by the Mayor were circulated and Members agreed to request Mr Steve Leahy as Chairman who had undertaken the visit, to attend the next Meeting and present a report on the visit.

RESOLVED: That both these matters be pursued as requested by Members.

45/13 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 31/10/13 (Agenda item 11) and decisions taken as follows:

Decisions:

1. Bridgwater Retail Initiative – Town Team - Snowflakes and shopping and Christmas lights switch-on – **RESOLVED:** That the preparations and plans for the event be noted and in particular, the arrangements for Christmas lighting reflecting upgrading and developments in the Town including the possibility of some additional motif lighting in West Quay be endorsed;
2. Charitable Collections – Policy Review – **RESOLVED:** That the additions being suggested to the existing Policy to be presented to the Licensing and General Purposes Committee of Sedgemoor District Council be endorsed but that the Council do not agree to Sedgemoor entering into a Site Management Agreement for the Town of Bridgwater;
3. St Mary's Church Clock – request from SDC for BTC to take over the maintenance – **RESOLVED:** That notwithstanding the discretionary power available to Town/Parish Councils (and estimated budget cost of £1,350) the Town Council decline to take over this responsibility;
4. EDF/HPC Community Forum and Transport Forum – **RESOLVED:** That the position with regard to “Strike Price” Agreement be noted together with the update report from the Transport Forum on the Delivery Management System (DMS) and improvements to Wylds Road junction, and the request to be consulted on the locations for the signs for traffic management control be noted and endorsed;
5. Code of Conduct Training 21/11/13 – **NOTED:** The names of Cllr Mrs Morley and Cllr Turner (if available) be put forward;
6. Annual SDC Town and Parish Meeting 06/11/13 – **NOTED;**
7. Cemetery Fees – **RESOLVED:** That the increases and amendment to the Fee Schedules be approved, together with the plans for the creation for a new “Child's” Section at Quantock Road Cemetery;
8. Car Park Charges Review – **RESOLVED:** That the Schedules as presented be approved;
9. Bridgwater Cluster Meeting – **RESOLVED:** That the necessity for continuation of the Cluster Meetings be questioned;
10. Grant Applications and Ward Grant Applications – **RESOLVED:** That the applications be referred to the Finance Committee for decision, noting views expressed in relation to the Wyndham Ward Grant Application.

For information:

Items 1/18 as circulated – noted.

The Meeting finished at 9.30 pm

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Signed
Chairman