

# **BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 06 NOVEMBER 2014 AT 7.30PM  
AT THE CHARTER HALL TOWN HALL BRIDGWATER**

PRESENT: Cllr SB Austen (Mayor - in the Chair) Cllrs AM Glassford,  
GJ Granter, MJ Lerry, AJ Moore, Mrs PM Morley, LP Redman,  
Mrs GJ Slocombe, BD Smedley, IC Tucker and J Turner (JP)

APOLOGIES: Cllrs Baker, Monteith (who left for another engagement after the presentation of the Mayor's Cadet Badge) Loveridge and Richards

### **116/13 MAYOR'S CADET:**

Prior to the commencement of the formal meeting proper, the Mayor presented the Mayor's Cadet Badge to Lance Corporal Allissa Goddard (ACF) who had taken on the role following the resignation of James Nash due to other commitments. In presenting the badge the Mayor welcomed Allissa, wished her every success, and took the opportunity to remind all members of the Remembrance Day Commemoration on the up-coming Sunday.

### **117/13 POLICING IN BRIDGWATER (Min 106/13):**

Constable Ian Lamb introduced himself as a member of the Town Team and Acting Sergeant who had transferred to Bridgwater from Weston-Super-Mare. Sergeant Lamb outlined his career. He then reported on a series of issues in the Town in relation to action in Blake Gardens, follow-up to social media in relation to the Islamic Cultural Centre, the introduction of the Police Post and central location for the Town Centre Team at Bridgwater House, and arrangements for the up-coming events.

Sergeant Lamb responded to a number of questions in relation to the social media follow-up, the Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival, police officer numbers and coverage of Blake Gardens, and the re-structuring of the Town Team to give an improved presence when needed. The police were thanked for their services, and for efforts in respect of New Road.

Following correspondence, the Town Clerk noted the public service and local policing review into participation in the PACT process (Police and Communities Together) and requested that the Town Council be kept informed were changes planned for the current arrangements, both in respect of Cluster Group meetings and regular meetings held in specific Wards and parts of Bridgwater.

### **118/13 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2014:**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18/09/14 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

### **119/13 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (18/09/14):**

i. **“Trouble over Bridgwater”** - the Town Clerk reported that despite best efforts Henry Dawe's proposal for the launch of a single to support Flood Relief had not been successful;

ii. **Youth Services (Min 109/13ii)** - the Town Clerk reminded members that the Youth Unlimited Town Youth Club in South Sydenham based at the Rollercoaster was now in operation. Some accommodation use issues continued but had been identified and should be resolved. Cllr Tucker confirmed the efforts being made to deal with any problems.

iii. **Community Assets (Min 110/13)** - the Town Clerk reported that an appeal had been lodged against the decision to add the Hope Inn to the register. An appeal hearing date was due on 10/11/14 and the Monitoring Officer had until 24/11/14 to determine the appeal. In the meantime, the Town Clerk was able to report on a positive meeting in respect of the former Magistrates' Court buildings and possible ways in which the future of the building may be secured. Cllr Smedley commented on the deficiencies of the legislation in protecting Community Assets.

### **120/14 REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (08/10/14):**

The decisions and recommendations arising from the Meeting held on 08/10/14 (attached as an appendix) had been circulated and were introduced by the Chairman Cllr John Turner.

### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the Report be approved and adopted;
2. that the action taken in respect of funding, grants and sponsorship be supported;
3. that the action taken to re-examine the location of a new dog bin on the canal be endorsed; and
4. that Min 20 in respect of Quantock Road Cemetery, the roadway/pathway infrastructure extensions and acceptance of the quotation from N A Haggett Builders Ltd be endorsed.

**121/13 REPORT OF THE EDF/HPC WORKING PARTY (22/10/14) AND THE PRESENTATION ON BRIDGWATER TRAFFIC SCHEMES FROM SCC HIGHWAY OFFICERS:**

The Town Clerk reported on the various traffic schemes in the Town following the presentation by SCC Highway Officers and referred to the plans illustrated on display boards. Further plans were due and the understanding of some 127 schemes varied from major schemes to minor works. Cllr Redman pointed out that a request had been made for a draft programme for comment, and this was awaited together with the additional plans. Cllr Tucker suggested that the Community Scrutiny Committee of the District Council should also examine these proposals. Cllr Mrs Slocombe suggested that filter lights at appropriate junctions were a key issue.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted and the specific actions followed up.

**122/13 BTC TWINNING FORUM HELD ON 01/10/14:**

The Council had received a report on the Twinning Forum which had been chaired by the Mayor, and for which Cllr Smedley as Secretary had prepared the report. Items were noted together with the plans for a further meeting of the Forum and a Town Twinning Conference on 07/03/15.

**123/13 BRIDGWATER PRIVERNO TWINNING:**

Arising from the previous item and the establishment of the various links with Priverno, the Council received a paper recommending that a Twinning Link between Bridgwater and Priverno should be formalised. This was proposed by the Mayor and seconded by Cllr Lerry and was based in a number of links both civic, through the local college and other groups.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the Twinning between Bridgwater and Priverno be adopted and arrangements made to formalise the arrangements early in 2015; and
2. that this Twinning be adopted on the basis that there be no costs over and above budgeted amounts, and in terms of funding the Priverno Link be dealt with in the same way as the Town Council support to the four Link Societies already in place.

*(Cllr Smedley declared an interest as a member of Bridgwater International in both Mins 122/13 and 123/13, took no part in the deliberations and did not vote thereon.)*

**124/13 EDF/HPC WORKING PARTY - COMMUNITY IMPACT MITIGATION FUND (CIM):**

The Town Council noted that the Group would continue to monitor the operation of the Community Impact Mitigation Fund, and in particular the applications and proposals for the Bridgwater area. Additional schemes would be welcome and would then need to be worked up, and it was AGREED that a list of all present proposals would be circulated to all members.

**125/13 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS:**

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

**126/13 BRIDGWATER CLUSTER MEETING - 22/10/14:**

The Town Clerk reported that the Minutes of the Bridgwater Cluster Meeting had not yet been received. Items covered included police priorities, RLT2 and 3 payments for agreement, a budget update, the sports pitches action plan and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) tariff and receipts. An update was also presented on the EDF proposals and work in response to the Flood Relief Plans, in particular impact on the Parrett through Bridgwater of works carried out upstream, the establishment of trigger points for implementation of flood relief and any specific impact on the Town, and proposals being worked out for a Somerset Rivers Authority and in particular funding proposals.

**RESOLVED:** That these matters be noted and followed up upon receipt of the Minutes of the Cluster Meeting.

**127/13 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 30/10/14 (agenda item 11) and decisions taken as follows:

**Decisions:**

1. Friends of Bridgwater Station - strategy for Bridgwater Rail Station -  
**Resolved:** That the reference from the Planning Panel to support the aspirations for the future development of public transport facilities in the Bridgwater area, in particular train services, station facilities and integrated transport be endorsed;

2. Defibrillators offered to Town and Parish Councils - **Resolved:** That the suitability of providing a defibrillator for the Town Hall be further examined;
3. Community Pay-Back in Bridgwater - availability of working groups in the Bridgwater Town area noted;
4. Ward Grant Applications - **Resolved:** That the four applications (Fairfax) for four clubs operating within the Sydenham Community Centre to receive £500 each be approved;
5. Museum Accreditation - **Resolved:** That the Museum Sub-Committee in conjunction with the Town Clerk be delegated to deal with the accreditation application, and authorised on behalf of the Council to institute such action as is necessary to secure renewal under the new arrangements as advised by the Curatorial Mentor and Museum Development Officer;
6. Somerset Libraries Services Consultation - Bridgwater Town - **Resolved:** That members be requested to submit such observations as may be relevant to their Wards;
7. Bridgwater Heritage Regeneration Partnership - 04/11/14 - the issues raised were noted.

**For Information:**

Items 1 - 10 as circulated - noted.

The meeting finished at 8.37 pm

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Signed            Chairman