

BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12 JUNE 2014 AT 7.30PM AT THE CHARTER HALL TOWN HALL BRIDGWATER

PRESENT: Cllr LP Redman (Deputy Mayor – in the Chair), Cllrs DL Baker, AM Glassford, DP Loveridge, AJ Moore, KF Richards, Mrs GJ Slocombe, and J Turner (JP)

Apologies: Cllrs Austen (Mayor), Granter, Lerry, Monteith, Mrs Morley, Parker, Smedley and Tucker

84/13 PUBLIC SPEAKING:

i. **Cycling on Pavements** - Mr Ceri Hatton drew the attention of the Town Council to the epidemic of cycling on pavements. He had contacted the Police and Crime Commissioner and had been passed on to PC Desmond who had relayed action taken by the police. He was particularly concerned that the offenders were both young and old, and on occasions Post Office employees. The particular issue was where terraced houses opened directly onto pavements constituting a danger to both cyclists and residents.

ii. **Civic Enhancement Reserve Fund** - Mr David Preece referred to correspondence and emails following up his comments and letters at the May meeting questioning again the purpose of the Fund, the period over which it had been built up, and the purpose for which it was held. Cllr Turner, Chairman of the Finance Committee responded, drawing attention to the information which had been sent to Mr Preece by the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk also replied to Mr Preece confirming the way in which the Fund had been built up, the only use so far in relation to the over and above works in the West Quay Scheme, matching funding finance from the County Council and the District Council. Suggestions had been made for purposes the Fund may be used for, including match funding on the Celebration Mile Project. It was also explained that the Council held a number of ear-marked funds and that this list, including the Civic Enhancement Fund was regularly updated and presented to members as part of the budget exercise. The Town Clerk would provide Mr Preece with an updated copy of this document.

85/13 POLICING IN BRIDGWATER:

Sergeant Chris Walls, in his new role in relation to policing in the Town, gave members an update on a series of issues. He apologised to Mr Hatton that a more full response had not been given and explained that PC Desmond was obtaining clarity on both the issues of cycling on pavements, and in pedestrianised areas. He would make further contact when a definitive response

was received.

Members explained that this and similar issues had been raised for a long time and appeared no closer to resolution. Attention was also drawn to cycle and particularly car use in New Road, which Sergeant Walls agreed to explore.

Sergeant Walls explained that the move to Express Park had been delayed until the end of July and by September the Town Centre team both PCSOs and Police Officers would be based at the SDC offices. This would involve walking or cycling from the Express Park to the Town Centre. Fortunately Sedgemoor was to see an increase in police officer numbers and the system of manning the Town Centre and estates was to change so that more officers would be available at all times. He also confirmed that priority was being given to Blake Gardens but that this had to be within the defined fine line between anti-social behaviour and criminality. Public Order Offences had to be proven. He also referred to Operation Goodwood which had resulted in action against a number of boy racers and the increase in patrols at Beechwood where contraventions of the 'No Entry' signs continued.

Other issues raised included speeding around the Town Centre, particularly through the Town Bridge, St Mary Street and Cornhill, and at Penel Orliou. Whilst police horses were welcome, the legacy they sometimes left was not and raised questions of who was responsible for cleaning. Concerns were also offered of alleged increases in anti-social behaviour in the Town but especially at South Sydenham. Sergeant Walls in responding expressed the need to be proactive and not reactive.

86/13 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 08 MAY 2014:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 08/05/14 be approved and signed by the Deputy Mayor as a correct record.

87/13 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (08/05/14):

i. **Community Assets: (Min 80/13i)** - members noted that through the Planning Panel the buildings put forward at the Annual Town Meeting and at the Town Council, which were the Magistrates Court, the Hope Inn and the Friends' Meeting House, would be submitted for application on the Register held by SDC.

ii. **Youth Services: (Min 80/13ii)** - it was confirmed that the three tenders received for the provision of services in South Sydenham had been evaluated, including a contribution to the assessment by the user group. The tender had been awarded within budget to Youth Unlimited CIC. The Working Group representatives had met with the company to finalise details and the contract would now be completed. The Equipment Transfer agreement with the Somerset Youth and Community Service had also been signed off. The aim was for a new

service satisfying the needs of the youngsters. The next step was for Youth CIC to conclude agreement with SCC over the use of the Rollercoaster.

88/13 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON 08/05/14:

The Minutes of the Annual Town Public Meeting were submitted. Members noted the issues that had been raised and action which was being followed up. This included an issue about the cleanliness of the toilets at Quantock Road Cemetery where steps had already been taken to improve.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes and actions be noted.

89/13 REPORT OF THE MUSEUM SUB-COMMITTEE (17/03/14):

The decisions and recommendations arising from the Meeting held on 17/03/14 (attached as an appendix) had been circulated and were introduced by the Town Clerk. Attention was drawn to Min 37 and the outcome of an attempted break-in; and Min 40 from the Friends of Blake Museum where the sum of £4,000 had been handed over through significant fund raising activities.

RESOLVED: That the decisions be noted and the Report adopted and FOBM be congratulated on their efforts.

90/13 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS:

RESOLVED: That the payments, including Section 137 payments, made during April and May (months 01 and 02) as circulated, be approved and confirmed and income received during the period together with the Cost Centre Reports be noted.

91/13 NOTICE OF AUDIT:

The Notice of Audit had been reported at the Meeting of 08/05/14 when year-end papers were distributed. The Year-End Statement had been revised in the light of an amendment which excluded the Council Tax Grant from the precept figure. This meant a change on the form to boxes 2 and 3 following Government advice.

RESOLVED: That the amendment be noted and submitted.

92/13 APPOINTMENTS 2014/15:

Members were invited to consider appointments for the coming year, including representation on outside bodies.

Finance Committee - Cllrs Turner, Glassford, Granter, Lerry, Moore, Parker, Richards and Mrs Slocombe.

Planning Panel - Cllrs Austen, Baker, Lerry, Mrs Morley, Smedley, Tucker & Turner

Museum Sub-Committee - Cllrs Granter, Richards & Turner

Town Hall Working Party - Cllrs Granter, Austen, Mrs Morley, Redman, Mrs Slocombe, Smedley & Turner

Town Hall Users Group – Cllr Granter (as Chairman) & Town Clerk & users representatives

EDF / HPC Working Party – Cllrs Redman, Austen, Baker, Granter & Moore

Electoral Review Working Party – *to be re-appointed when and if needed*

Blake & Gilbert Charity - 5 - Mrs Briscombe, Ms Pearce, Mr JRB Taylor (for four years from 2013) & Cllrs Richards & Turner (for four years from June 2011)

Brent Marshall and Mansfield Charity - 5 – Cllrs Granter & Richards (four years from June 2011). Mrs Briscombe, Loveridge & Turner (four years from June 2014)

Tamlin Charity - 4 - life term – Mayor & Deputy Mayor (by designation), Cllrs Moore & Richards

Towell Charity - 2 - life term - Ms Pearce and Mr Smeed (commenced June 2006)

Bridgwater/La Ciotat Link Society - 1 - Cllr Smedley

Bridgwater/Homberg Society - 1 (President) - Cllr Austen (as Mayor)

Bridgwater/Marsa Society - 1 (President) - Cllr Austen (as Mayor)

Bridgwater/Czech/Slovak Friendship Society (UH Twin) - 1 - Cllr Lerry

Twinning Forum – Mayor (Chairman), Cllr Smedley (Secretary) BTC reps on twinning groups above & reps from Twinning Groups and any prospective twinning interests

Wyndham Lecture Trust for the Schools of Bridgwater - 1 - Cllr Lerry

Bridgwater Chamber of Commerce (and Trade) - 1 - Cllr Loveridge

Bridgwater Town Team (Committee)– 1 – Cllr Tucker

Bridgwater Heritage Regeneration Partnership - 1 - Cllr Redman (Deputy Cllr Parker)

Bridgwater Arts Centre - Observer Position - 1 - Cllr Austen

Bridgwater Challenge (Board Member) - 1 - Cllr Moore (sub Cllr Austen)

BCI Partnership (Victoria Park Community Centre) - 2 - Cllrs Lerry & Richards

Ivy House Luncheon Club – 1 - Cllr Richards

Hamp Community Association -1 - Cllr Turner

Sydenham Community Centre - 1 - Cllr Loveridge

Sedgemoor Youth Forum – (if invited) – 1 – Cllr Tucker (ward members)

Kings Down Pavilion – 1 – Cllr Redman

Cluster Group (SDC) - Cllrs Monteith, Parker, Mrs Morley, Turner & Town Clerk

Westover Green Community School - minor LA Governor - 1 - Mrs EH Hudson

Bridgwater Transport Strategy Review and 'Connect 3' and LSTF (*if convened*) - 1 - Cllr Moore

Internal Auditor - 1 - Mrs Geri O'Loughlin

Hinkley Point (ex-Liaison Committee) site stakeholder group - 1 - Cllr Moore or substitute Cllr Monteith

EDF Energy HPC Community Forum - 1 - Cllr Moore (sub Cllr Redman) & Town Clerk

EDF Energy HPC Transport Forum -1 – Cllr Moore (& Town Clerk)

National Grid HPC Connection Project South Local Community Forum – 1 – Cllr Redman

BSF – Strategic Project Board (if invited) **includes representative from SCC Bridgwater Ward**

Bridgwater Memorial Homes - Cllr Moore

Friends of Wembdon Road Cemetery - 1 - (President) Cllr Austen (as Mayor)

SDC Standards Committee Town & Parish Member (1 of 3) - Cllr Turner

Grievance & Disciplinary Panel - Cllrs Austen (Mayor), Baker, Moore, Parker, Smedley & Turner

Appeals Panel - Cllrs Redman (as Deputy Mayor), Cllrs Mrs Morley & Mrs Slocombe and 1 vacancy

Cheque Signatories - Cllrs. Granter, Loveridge, Mrs Slocombe, Turner & Town Clerk

Community Assets Working Party – Cllr Smedley (Chairman), Austen, Mrs Morley & Mrs Slocombe & Town Clerk

Youth Services Working Group – (with power to act on South Sydenham project) – Cllrs Loveridge (Chairman), Baker, Redman, Tucker & Town Clerk

Museum Trust - (provisional) – Ian Tucker

Town Hall Trust - (provisional) – Graham Granter/Pat Parker/Leigh Redman/Mrs Gill Slocombe

RESOLVED: That all the above be confirmed, including the addition of Kings Down Pavilion and Ivy House.

93/14 MAYORAL ITEMS:

The Deputy Mayor took the opportunity to refer to the retirement of Val Colwill, the Cemetery's Officer who, although employed by SDC had taken prime responsibility for the operation of the Service Level Agreement and had been outstanding in her co-operation and work towards partnership working.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council place on record their appreciation to Val Colwill for her major contribution to the seamless transfer since the takeover of the cemeteries by the Town Council.

94/13 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 05/06/14 (agenda item 10) and decisions taken as follows:

Decisions:

1. Christmas Tree, Cornhill - **RESOLVED:** That authority be given for application for highway licence.
2. East Quay Medical Centre, application by Great Bear Healthcare Ltd - **RESOLVED:** That no objection be raised to the application as Dispensing Appliance Contractor, subject to the location being confirmed.
3. Town Hall - Hall and Municipal Buildings - 150 year anniversary - 06/07/15 - **RESOLVED:** That this be referred to the Town Hall Working Party to consider a suitable celebration event.
4. Bridgwater Charters (13) completion of conservation - **RESOLVED:** That a suitable public exhibition be considered, possibly in conjunction with item 3 and an approach be made to Notaro Windows for sponsorship.
5. Multi-pitch Complex - Chedzoy Lane Feasibility Study - **RESOLVED:** That the draft report be noted and efforts continue to achieve the optimum solution for pitches at all levels in Bridgwater.
6. Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner - **RESOLVED:** That the Police and Crime Plans 2014/17 (Sedgemoor area) be noted and members invited to comment directly.
7. Bus Shelter - prospective site at Homberg Way - **RESOLVED:** That the Town Council confirm their willingness to take over the maintenance of a shelter on this site provided by EDF on route to HPC provided a commuted sum of £1,000 (£100 x 10 years) is secured.
8. CIM (Community Impact Mitigation Fund) issue of application forms and project eligibility details - **RESOLVED:** That this be referred to the EDF/HPC Working Party.
9. Somerset Wildlife Trust & Hawk and Owl Trust, installation of barn owl boxes - **RESOLVED:** That a site at the Meads be suggested.
10. Dog Bin Request, Bridgwater and Taunton Canal between bridges 6 and 7 - **RESOLVED:** That this be referred to the Finance Committee to be examined with other requests and assessment of budget.
11. Grant Applications - that the following applications be approved:
 1. Victoria Park CC - core funding - £10,000;
 2. Victoria Park CC - project funding - £5,000; and that application
 3. Sydenham and Bower Manor Flower Show - request for £500 be referred to the Finance Committee for determination.

12. Ward Grant Applications: **RESOLVED:** That the application (Hamp) for ReCreation roller blinds - £560 - be approved

For Information:

Items 1 - 12 as circulated - noted. In doing so the Town Clerk gave members an update on Item 1, land adjoining 330 Bristol Road where interest in land and access had been deferred pending a planning application being determined; and Item 4, the follow up from the EDF Community Forum and Transport Forum in relation to Junction 23 improvements and TIMP/VMS (Traffic Incident Management Plan/Variable Message Signing). The location of signs on the outskirts of Bridgwater had been confirmed but two originally planned within the Town had been excluded. Assurances had been received that contingency sums were available for these to be provided if required and warranted.

The meeting finished at 8.40 pm

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Signed Chairman