

BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

**HELD ON THURSDAY 15 JANUARY 2015 AT 7.30PM
AT THE BURGESS ROOM TOWN HALL BRIDGWATER**

PRESENT: Cllr SB Austen, (Mayor – in the Chair), Cllrs AM Glassford, GJ Granter, MJ Lerry, DP Loveridge, AJ Moore, LP Redman, BD Smedley, IC Tucker, and J Turner (JP)

Apologies: Cllrs Baker, Monteith, Morley, Parker, Richards and Mrs Slocombe

128/13 SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL YOUTH SERVICE:

Jeff Brown was in attendance to guide the Town Council through the operation of the Youth Service into and beyond 2015/16. Jeff had kept in touch with Youth Unlimited CIC, in particular Craig Lloyd and Julie Nurton where the new arrangements were making a positive contribution to youth provision in that part of the town. Jeff explained that further savings were due but that changes were being made to the advance programme for the forthcoming financial year with the aim to keep a quality service as far as possible as widely as possible across the County. This resulted from the main player's desire for continuity whereupon the County were proposing to offer three year grants. Three such grants were offered in Bridgwater in relation to Hamp and Victoria and a continuing two years beyond the existing agreement in Sydenham, each covering one night per week. The continuity in Sydenham would be provided with grant for two years as available from 01/04/16 and Mr Brown undertook to communicate with the Town Clerk and other interested parties to set this continuing agreement up.

Cllr Redman suggested that the County Council should be more explicit in publicising their future plans and changes to the grant programme. Cllr Tucker appreciated support for youth workers still offered but the Sedgemoor Youth Forum should be revived which could support a possible bid from the Town for extra resources. Mr Brown agreed to keep the Town Council involved and jointly examine a possible role for the Town Council in leading any such bid. Members undertook to discuss these issues on a Ward basis if requested.

Mr Brown was thanked for his attendance.

129/13 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 06/11/14:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 06/11/14 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

130/13 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (06/11/14):

i. **Youth Services (Min 119/13ii)** - the Youth Unlimited Town Youth Club in South Sydenham had now been operating from the Rollercoaster for some months. This had been successful although some accommodation issues remained. An agreement had been reached to locate a hard standing for basketball etc and a meeting was planned between members of the Working Group, Youth Unlimited and the County Council to resolve any outstanding issues.

ii. **EDF/HPC Working Party and Meeting on Traffic Schemes and, specifically, Broadway/Taunton Road Junction (Min 121/13)** - the Town Clerk reported that the draft programme to examine the timing of all relevant schemes which would take in both EDF related schemes and other schemes in the Town was still awaited. A further meeting was now planned on 22/01/15 to take this forward, to understand work at the junction and the continuing programme. A request for a brief period of evening working not specifically covered in the DCO was being examined to enable works to commence and accommodate some initial statutory undertaker's (BT) involvement.

iii. **CIM Funding (Min 124/13)** - the Working Group were continuing to monitor the operation of the Community Mitigation Fund and application proposals from the Bridgwater area. Bridgwater Academy had submitted an application for an additional gym area on their site and members agreed to submit a letter in support of the application.

iv. **Museum Accreditation (Min 127/13 5)** - the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) managing the relationship between the Town Council, the volunteer curatorial team and the Friends of Blake Museum (FOBM) had been updated to cover current arrangements in readiness for the Museum Accreditation submission.

131/13 REPORT OF THE MUSEUM SUB COMMITTEE (17/11/14):

The decisions and recommendations arising from the Meeting held on 17/11/14 (attached as an appendix) had been circulated and were introduced by the Chairman Cllr Granter and the Town Clerk. Attention was drawn to the renewal of the Museum Mentor Agreement, successful fund raising by the FOBM at their Christmas Fayre, the awaited structural report on the Old Mill, efforts being made to redress school numbers and as in Min 130 (iv) above, the work being put in to secure renewal of accreditation.

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

132/13 REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (03/12/14):

The decisions and recommendations arising from the Meeting held on 03/12/14 (attached as an appendix) had been circulated and were introduced by the Chairman Cllr John Turner.

Cllr Turner made particular reference to Min 30 in relation to the budget and setting of the precept which was in line with the high level overview taken at a previous meeting and would achieve a continuation budget.

RESOLVED: That the report be approved and adopted.

133/13 BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2015/16:

Based on the Report of the Finance Committee (Min 30) and the information supplied in relation to the tax base, the anticipated shortfall grant and the principle of a continuation budget a recommendation was submitted for a precept requirement at the same level as in the past four years. The detailed budget had been considered by the Finance Committee on a cost centre basis. The recommendation took account of the proposed precept, the level of grant, anticipated income and additional reserve to be secured from balances in order to achieve a balanced budget.

RESOLVED:

1. That the budget be adopted designed to maintain the precept at the current level - a Town Council precept of 49.80 per band D (the same level as 2011/12/13/14 and /15) for 2015/16;
2. that the detailed budget paper for 2015/16 as presented to the Finance Committee be approved with the funding requirements for the year at £694,155 including the additional allocation of £12,500 to cemeteries with estimated income at £111,305, earmarked allocation to Town Hall at £30,000 and allocation from reserves of £16,049;
3. that the earmarked funds report including restricted reserves be approved; and
4. that on this basis precept income of £445,767 be requested together with grant payment of £91,043 giving a total from these sources of £536,810 as the billing requirement.

134/13 REPORT OF THE PLANNING PANEL (18/12/14):

The Planning Panel Report had been circulated to enable the Chairman Cllr John Turner to draw attention to three specific items. The first was the report of the Community Assets Working Group in relation to the listing of the Hope Inn and the intention to carry out an inspection of the Magistrates' Court; secondly acknowledgement that the Conservation Officer post within the District Council

was awaiting confirmation of external advert; and finally to draw attention to the consultation on the Development Brief and Design Principles for Bristol Road North (previously termed Northern Gateway) Phase 1 adoption and the public notice of Phase 2 to which all members were invited to respond.

RESOLVED: That the Report be approved and actioned accordingly.

135/13 REPORT OF THE TWINNING FORUM (26/11/14):

Cllr Smedley, as Secretary, drew attention to the Town Twinning conference planned for the Bridgwater Arts Centre on Saturday 07/03/15.

RESOLVED: That the report as presented be approved and the further meeting held on 14/01/15 be noted.

136/13 BRIDGWATER CLUSTER MEETING (21/01/15):

Members noted the proposed agenda for this meeting and supported a recommendation for the use of RLT3 funding for Eastover Park Bowling Club car parking. Clarification would also be sought on any proposed revisions to Police attendance arrangements resulting from what appeared to be a review being carried out, having regard to any impact on present community ward meeting arrangements.

137/13 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2015/16:

The Town Clerk circulated a provisional calendar for meetings in 2015/16 and requested that members raise any matters for comment before approval for circulation.

138/13 EDF/HPC - BRIDGWATER HIGHWAY ISSUES AND RESOLUTION RELATED TO BYPASS TO NORTH OF THE TOWN:

Arising from Min 130(ii) above and previous discussions and continuing concerns about highway impacts within Bridgwater, the Council considered a resolution proposed by Cllr Redman and seconded by Cllr Granter with a further call aimed to secure a bypass to the north of the Town. Members discussed this fully and **RESOLVED:**

“Bypass Resolution - This Council notes the planned road works associated with the Hinkley Point C Power Station development and the proposed modifications to a number of major road junctions in Bridgwater. Evidence shows that Bridgwater is approaching gridlock, adding in 2-3 years of major disruption while junctions are modified for minimal benefit cannot be accepted, throughout the negotiations and inspector sessions the Town Council's position was to press for a major bypass for the North of our town, taking traffic around Bridgwater. The

recently published detail of EDFe's junction modifications has made a number of points clear, although supported in the Development Consent Order the duration, negative impact and minimal benefit the works will provide was not apparent. With a proposed barrage now a realistic possibility the bypass is a more viable option that needs considering. Bridgwater Town Council calls on EDFe and SCC to pause the current programme of HPC roadworks (including junction modifications) and carryout an urgent review, the review would seek to consider plans that can include recent developments and provide Bridgwater with a bypass that will allow construction supplies better access, reduce an increasingly negative impact on Bridgwater and leave a legacy that will truly benefit the Town and our community for many years."

- this resolution to be circulated by the Town Clerk with a formal request to all interested parties to consider how best this may be taken forward.

(Unanimous)

139/13 MAYORAL ITEMS:

The Mayor drew attention to the position in relation to the planned Tesco development at Northgate on the land owned by Sedgemoor District Council and Somerset County Council.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council take a lead in suggesting alternative uses for this site and for this purpose the Town Clerk be requested to set up a public meeting which should be fully informed to enable residents to bring forward their views, both in the planning context and the land ownership.

140/13 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS:

RESOLVED: That the payments, including Section 137 payments, made during November and December (months 8 and 9) as circulated, be approved and confirmed and income received during the period together with the Cost Centre Reports be noted.

141/13 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 08/01/15 (agenda item 12) and together with additional items 5 – 7 decisions taken as follows:

Decisions:

1. Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2 (SCC) - **RESOLVED:** That members be invited to respond to the consultation expiring on 10/03/15 by email to rightsofway@somerset.gov.uk;
2. Christmas Lights and Snowflakes & Shopping and Bridgwater Town Team - **RESOLVED:**
 - i. That following another successful year and the display of the Christmas tree, the scheme be repeated in 2015 with picket fencing around the tree;
 - ii. that the contract for the lighting scheme be re-tendered in 2015 provided within budget;
 - iii. that confirmation of the Town Team budget be noted; and
 - iv. that the Town Council in association with the Bridgwater Town Team sponsor again the award for Independent Trader/Retailer at the Chamber of Commerce Business Awards in March.
3. Grant Applications - **RESOLVED:** that the following grants be approved 2014/15:
BGFCC - site rental contribution £1192.20 (in & out); Sydenham Community Centre - contribution to replacement building £5,000;
Bridgwater Schools Football Association – funding for representative teams
2015/16
Bridgwater Arts Centre and
Sedgemoor CAB - referred to Town Council or Finance Committee for decision in new financial year;
4. Ward Grant Applications - **RESOLVED:** That the following grants be approved
Eastover PTA - out of school activities £500
Victoria Bowling Club - shortmats £300
Hamp Friends of School - Library Support Bid £500;
5. Bristol Road Sewage Pumping Station - possible relocation of site - **RESOLVED:** That the release and disposal of the area of land required by Wessex Water Authority at the Bristol Road site be agreed in principle, subject to satisfactory negotiations and necessary approvals and the proposed temporary use of BATA ex-allotment land for a work compound, subject to terms being agreed, be endorsed.
6. Cemeteries - request for solar lights as part of memorials - **RESOLVED:** That as set out in the current regulations, these be not permitted;

7. Durleigh Road Closure and Diversionary Route related to Sewer Connections - **RESOLVED:** That the action taken to maintain traffic flows as far as possible be endorsed.

For Information:

Items 1 - 21 as circulated - noted.

142/13 EXEMPT ITEMS - EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC:

RESOLVED: That the press and public be excluded from the Meeting during the consideration of business recorded in Min 143/13 on the grounds that this would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Section 1 of the Local Government Act 1972.

143/13 THE BRIDGWATER CUP 2014

RESOLVED:

1. That having considered the worthy merits of eligible nominations, the Cup be awarded to Mr Keith Barnard in recognition of his services to the people and community of Bridgwater in the establishment of the Bridgwater Food Bank and community work in association with St George's Newtown Hall; that a presentation on the most suitable occasion be arranged; and
2. that members recognise the work of others nominated and their invaluable support to the community, and all nominees be thanked for their submissions.

The meeting finished at 9.20 pm

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Signed Chairman