

BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14 APRIL 2016 AT 7.30PM AT THE CHARTER HALL TOWN HALL BRIDGWATER

PRESENT: Cllr LP Redman (Mayor - in the Chair), Cllrs M Cresswell, AM Glassford, GJ Granter, P Johnstone, Ms L Leavy, M Lerry, DP Loveridge, and BD Smedley

Apologies: Cllrs Ms Brown, Moore, Ms Pearce, Rodrigues, Turner and Ms Wilson

99/15 PUBLIC SPEAKING (adjournment):

Mr Ian Tucker spoke in relation to the recent meeting of the Transport Forum and Min 7 of the Report relating to bus services. He drew attention to a recent meeting in the Polden villages concerned mainly with alterations to times of existing bus services and a possibility that some routes would be discontinued completely. He hoped that the Town Council would support the rural villages in opposing detrimental changes. Cllr Smedley, on behalf of the Chairman Moira Brown, explained that the Transport Forum had discussed the need for a wider forum, either District or County wide. He would ensure that full details of what was planned would be identified, and action taken to oppose that which was likely to adversely impact on the Town and surrounding villages. Members would consider appropriate action when more information was available.

100/15 POLICING IN BRIDGWATER (Min 75/15):

Sergeant Ryan Edwards was in attendance to advise members on policing issues and apologised for non attendance at the previous meeting. Sergeant Edwards responded fully to questions related to anti-social parking, particularly in St John Street, Eastover and lower Bath Road in the early evening, confirming the limitations on police powers unless parking constituted an obstruction and contravened the law. He responded to requests about reported crime, whether this had increased or not, and whether a base-line figure would be secured with the Hinkley Point project in mind. Sergeant Edwards pointed out that figures could be misleading, and identified particular features of crime which were increasing. Specific questions were also raised in relation to a recent incident in Cranleigh Gardens, responses to drug trafficking and dealing, and the success of Operation Ash. He also updated members on policing numbers and the bedding in of the new operating model. A particular point was made requesting police presence at the Friday and Saturday markets in Fore Street, highlighted by a recent reported incident.

The Mayor thanked Sergeant Edwards for his forthright response to the

questions and issues raised.

101/15 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10/03/16:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10/03/16 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

102/15 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (10/03/16):

i. Annual Meeting and Mayor Making 13/05/16 (Min 88/15) - that Cllrs Ms Pearce and Moore replace Cllr Loveridge in seconding motions 1 and 3.

ii. Report of the Twinning Forum (16/02/16) (Min 89/15) - the notes of the Twinning Forum held on Tuesday 12/04/16 were circulated and members took particular note of the arrangements for the celebration of the Twinning Conference on the weekend of Saturday 23/04/16.

iii. Forward Plan 2015/16 (Tracker) (Min 77/15ii) - members noted the document previously circulated and the items referred elsewhere on the agenda. The Forward Plan had also identified questions from the Annual Meeting in 2015 which would be answered at the Annual Town Meeting on 19/05/16 (*confirmed date*); and a staff and premises report would follow on from a meeting of the Town Hall Working Party being convened.

iv. Creative Centres/Cultural Partners (Min 85/15ii) - the Town Clerk gave a brief follow-up on the meeting held on 08/04/16 and advised that a questionnaire to inform future discussions was being prepared.

v. Sedgemoor CCTV and Radio Links of the Somerset Businesses Against Crime (Min 85/15iii) - the Town Clerk gave a further update on actions which had followed an assessment of the service and system, the review of performance, and improvements which were in hand. The future operations would continue to be monitored.

103/15 REPORT OF THE MUSEUM SUB-COMMITTEE (14/3/16):

The decisions and recommendations arising from the meeting held on 14/03/16 (attached as an appendix) were circulated and introduced. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Museum Accreditation Renewal had been completed successfully.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted and approved and i) all involved with the management and operation of the Museum congratulated on the way in which the Accreditation has been achieved and the hard work rewarded, and ii) plans for the 90th anniversary of the Blake Museum supported.

104/15 REPORT OF THE LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM (21/03/16):

The Report of the Transport Forum was submitted and introduced by Cllr Smedley on behalf of the Chairman. In presenting the report he drew attention to the list of recommendations and sought endorsement as these were taken forward. Concern was still voiced at the lack of an integrated transport system in Bridgwater with the majority of bus routes still not linking to the Bridgwater Railway Station as identified in recommendation iii until necessary improvements to circulation road space were in place.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted, the recommendations adopted as the policy criteria of the Town Council, and appropriate action taken.

105/15 REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (13/03/16):

The decisions and recommendations arising from the meeting held on 13/03/16 (attached as an appendix) had been circulated and were introduced by the Vice-Chairman Cllr Lerry. An updated copy of the earmarked funds referred to in Min 31 were circulated.

RESOLVED: That the Report be approved and adopted.

106/15 REPORT ON THE TOWN CENTRE AND MINUTES OF THE BRIDGWATER TOWN TEAM MEETING (24/03/16):

Cllr Loveridge, the lead member and member of the Town Team submitted the reports for members consideration. He remarked on the hard work and commitment of representatives on the Town Team. Collectively the issues and proposals would be taken forward and as confirmed by the Town Clerk, items would also link in to the bids to the Community Impact Mitigation Fund and the Celebration Mile.

RESOLVED: That the Reports and Minutes be approved and adopted.

107/15 ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT:

Members received a draft Environmental Report setting out the ambitions of the Town Council and the way in which they fitted and were contained within the "Bridgwater Vision" produced by SDC. Cllr Smedley introduced a report on behalf of Cllr Ms Pearce explaining the aspirational nature of much of the document. It was intended to provide a working platform for adaptation and a base to support the range of initiatives within the Town.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Report be approved and adopted and Cllr Ms Pearce be thanked for her efforts in the preparation of the report; and
2. That the best wishes of the Council be conveyed to Cllr Ms Pearce for a speedy return to health.

(Min 102/15iii add staff and premises item to follow meeting of Town Hall Working Party)

108/15 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS:

RESOLVED: That the payments including Section 137 payments made during March (month 12) 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.

109/15 TOWN DEVELOPMENT FORUM (Min 92/15):

Members were informed that the Town Development Forum meeting had been arranged for 19/04/16 at 7.00 pm at the Charter Hall, when the main item would be the follow-up on the LDF/Core Strategy Review with the presentation from Nick Tate. This followed on from the major consultation exercise and examination of the issues raised. This would be followed by consideration and report to the Town Council and/or Planning Panel.

110/15 CEMETERIES - BRISTOL ROAD CEMETERY AND QUANTOCK ROAD CEMETERY:

The Town Clerk reported in respect of Bristol Road Cemetery, the completion of improvements to the drainage and cleaning of the boundary ditches and explained the work which had been necessary to carry out. A specialist report on the yew trees had been obtained and was being used to inform the best way forward.

In relation to Quantock Road Cemetery, he explained the situation which had arisen with the creation of a memorial without consent. Action was already in hand to improve signage and notifications within both cemeteries and the quotation had now been received.

RESOLVED:

1. That the items within the report on both cemeteries be noted;
2. that the quotation from Durleigh Displays in the sum of £1,927.49 excluding VAT be accepted and the signage erected.

**111/15 SOMERSET INNOVATION CENTRE, BRISTOL ROAD,
BRIDGWATER:**

The Town Clerk reported a letter from the Deputy Leader of the SCC, the Cabinet Member for Business Inward Investment and Policy, inviting the Town Council to a tour of the Centre recently opened at the Woodlands Business Park.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk confirm a suitable date and advise all members.

112/15 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 07/04/16 (agenda item 13), and decisions taken as follows:

Decisions:

1. Town Hall - Old Council Chamber Refurbishment - members noted that the programme was now in the decoration phase and that the room could be viewed. The Citizen's Advice Bureau had visited certain of the vacant offices and maintained their interest in a lease subject to terms and conditions and agreement; **Resolved:** 1. That the progress with the refurbishment be noted; and 2. that the interest of CAB be noted in principle and progressed through draft Heads Of Terms and final decision.
2. Zurich Insurance Renewal 2016/17 - **Resolved:** That in accordance with the discount agreement the coverage be renewed in the sum of £12,733.34 (including insurance tax and VAT);
3. Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival Committee AGM - **Resolved:** That Cllr Leigh Redman be nominated to represent the Town Council;
4. EDF/HPC Transport Forum (Corridor Safety Review) and VMS Meeting - the Town Clerk confirmed that both matters were progressing and would be the subject of further report following upcoming meetings;
5. EDF/HPC Sedgemoor Sport and Leisure Fund - members noted the dates of upcoming workshops following a meeting to establish the criteria for funding in the Greater Bridgwater area;
6. Bridgwater Tidal Barrier - identification of seven possible locations

and plans by Environment Agency to reduce to four through the consultation exercise - **Resolved:** That the Town Council consider preferences for the desired location in the light of response to the consultation exercises already carried out;

7. Grant Applications 2016/17 - **Resolved:** That the application of the Bridgwater Flower Show be approved in the sum of £600;

8. Ward Grant Applications 2016/17 - **Resolved:** That the following applications Victoria Ward - Credit Union £200 and Victoria Park Community Centre – community event £250 and Eastover Ward - Bowling Club fencing £750; be approved.

For information:

Items 1 - 13 as circulated.

113/15 MAYORAL YEAR 2015/16:

As this was the last meeting of the current Mayoral Year, Cllr Lerry on behalf of the Town Council thanked the Mayor, Cllr Leigh Redman for his hard work and efforts throughout the year on behalf of the Town and congratulated him on a successful year during which he had helped to enhance the reputation of the Town.

The meeting finished at 8.43 pm

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Signed Chairman