

BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL

**HELD ON THURSDAY 08 DECEMBER 2016 AT 7.30PM
AT THE CHARTER HALL TOWN HALL BRIDGWATER**

PRESENT: Cllr AM Glassford (Mayor - in the Chair), Cllrs Ms M Brown, M Cresswell, P Johnstone, Mrs P Morley, Ms L Leavy, M Lerry, DP Loveridge, AJ Moore, Ms K Pearce, L Redman, and BD Smedley,

Apologies: Cllrs Granter, Rodrigues, Turner and Ms Wilson

53/16 TOWN CENTRE:

Sergeant Joe Piscina was in attendance and gave an update on police activity in and around Bridgwater. He confirmed the membership of the Beat Team now established and would supply contact details for all members of the team. Recently there had been examples of low level anti-social behaviour in the Town Centre largely at the Cornhill and through the congregation of groups of youngsters. A project had been put in place to deal with these issues and Sergeant Piscina highlighted the action to date and action which had been taken at varying levels. The police planned to issue a press release outlining these actions in the next couple of weeks. He also outlined other actions centering on public houses and the drive in restaurant locations being given more attention possibly resulting from the increased activity through the Hinckley Point C project. The dedicated force were part of this response. Sergeant Piscina emphasised the need to continue to report anti-social behaviour and misdemeanours a message delivered to all residents and proprietors of premises.

The police had plans in place for the upcoming Rag Day.

Sgt Piscina then dealt with a number of questions from members with views expressed on criminalising offenders and various levels of action. He confirmed the position in relation to road traffic accidents, and agreed to review traffic issues in New Road (continuing) and Quantock Avenue with parking at school times and at the next meeting to give an update report on the work of the EDF/HPC dedicated team.

54/16 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27/10/16:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27/10/16 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

**55/16 EDF/HPC TRANSPORT FORUM - NORTH BRIDGWATER
JUNCTION IMPROVEMENTS PLANNING (Min 44/16):**

The Town Clerk responded to issues raised by Cllr Redman following the submission of Resolutions from Min 44/16 to EDF. This confirmed that plans were being produced for consultation processes and timely updates during the duration of the project and recorded the EDF response to the request related to business compensation.

**56/16 REPORTS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL TWINNING FORUM
(08/11/16):**

The Report of the Forum was received by members and introduced by Cllr Smedley. This confirmed plans for a Twinning Conference in 2017 and the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Marsa Twinning and other twin town anniversaries going forward. The Mayor commented on his recent trip to Malta, and Cllr Lerry mentioned a request to the Chamber of Commerce to support a trade delegation to Proverno-Italy and a planned visit.

RESOLVED: That the Report be accepted and adopted.

57/16 REPORT OF THE LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM (06/12/16):

The Chairman, Cllr Ms Brown reported on the Transport Forum held the previous day, copies of which had been circulated. She particularly drew attention to her meeting with County Cllr Fothergill and a generally positive response despite the County Council not being willing to set up a countywide transport forum. The UNITE community had circulated a petition in support of a community transport forum and members agreed to support this. Cllr Ms Brown detailed the issues discussed in relation to bus, rail, bicycle and pedestrians and other actions planned by the Forum. Members also agreed to support the case for more trains to stop at Bridgwater Station, particularly in light of Cross Country timetable changes, based particularly on the continuing expanding population, the level of economic activity in and around Bridgwater and the impact of the Hinkley Point C development. The Forum had been successful in bringing together providers and users.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Report be noted and the various actions confirmed;
2. that the Town Council lobby cross country for new services to call at Bridgwater siting the reasoning put forward by members;
3. that the plans to replace bus service routes C and F under threat be welcomed; and
4. that the emergence of the Forum and the issues being addressed be commended and the Working Party previously set up be requested to report

back on features for a "Use It" campaign.

58/16 BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2017/18:

Members noted the draft budget papers for 2017/18 which had been circulated.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the budget based on the draft papers circulated be submitted to a meeting of the Finance Committee on 05/01/17 for conclusion of the budget and recommendation to the meeting of the Town Council to set the precept on 12/01/17

59/16 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS:

RESOLVED: That the payments including Section 137 payments made during October and November (months 7 and 8) itemising all cheques and DDRs and receipts, be approved and confirmed, and specific income received during the periods together with the cost centre reports and bank reconciliations and investments be noted.

60/16 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (27/10/16):

i. Forward Plan 2016/17 (Tracker) (Min 50/16i) - Relevant items were referred elsewhere on the agenda noting items to be picked up in the coming months.

ii. Bridgwater Tidal Barrier Scheme (Min 50/16v) - Arising from the Stakeholder consultation and in preparation for the preferred site decision, a Stakeholders Opportunity Sub-Group had been proposed and draft terms of reference issued with an invitation to the Town Council to be represented.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Lerry be nominated to represent the Town Council with Cllr Loveridge as substitute.

61/16 PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

The Town Clerk reported on correspondence and papers received, including supplementary items, those for decision and those for information.

RESOLVED: That all items be noted as listed in the Report dated 01/12/16 (agenda item 11), and the supplementary agenda, and the decisions taken as follows:

Decisions:

1. New Rating Lists for 01/04/17 and Small Business Relief Changes From That Date - **Resolved:** That notices in respect of all BTC ownerships be noted and accepted subject to checking of impact on 2017/18 bills;

2. Snowflakes and Shopping, and Christmas Lights Switch-On - **Resolved:** That all those involved be congratulated on the successful event and the debrief and Bridgwater Town Team meeting of 10/11/16 be noted;
3. SDC Offer of Code of Conduct Training for Councillors and Clerks in 2017 - **Resolved:** That this be supported;
4. Bridgwater Station - Station forecourt and service improvements - **Resolved:** That the continuing issues over improving disabled access be noted, the extended hours of the ticket office opening welcomed and the Council continue to press the case for the improved pedestrian access to the college;
5. EDF/HPC Community Impact Mitigation Fund (CIM Bid Processing) - **Resolved:** That the plans for implementation of the proposals for the scheme linking North Petherton and South Bridgwater through Stockmoor, Hamp to Broadway and through Cranleigh Gardens be welcomed and the Council confirm the contributions, financial arrangements and process for SCC, in their role as Highway Authority, to act as scheme designer and procurement body for the construction works;
6. Cemetery Fees - SDC (as Service Level Agreement Operators) proposals for increases in 2017/18 - **Resolved:** That this be referred to the Finance Committee for confirmation;
7. Bridgwater and Albion Rugby Club - New Year luncheon invitation - **Resolved:** That this be referred to the Mayor and Mayoress for attendance or substitutes;
8. Grant Applications and Ward Grant Applications - none;
9. Bridgwater History Day – **Resolved:** That the report be referred to the Museum Sub-Committee for preliminary consideration;
10. SDC Move to Three Weekly Refuse Collections and Additional Recycling Proposals - **Resolved:** That the Town Council maintain opposition to the three weekly collections, particularly in the centre of the urban areas where terraced properties and HMOs abound but do not oppose the extra recycling plans;
11. Cluster Group Arrangements - response from SDC - **Resolved:** That the Town Council continue their opposition to the planned changes in the Cluster Group arrangements;
12. YMCA Skate Park Users - **Resolved:** That Cllr Diogo Rodrigues be nominated to the user group and to attend the first meeting on 12/01/17.

For information:

Items 1 - 21 as circulated.

62/16 EXEMPT ITEM - EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC:

RESOLVED: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of business recorded in Min 63/16 on the grounds that this would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Section 1 of the Local Government Act 1972.

63/16 PENSION AND SALARY REVIEW (TOWN CLERK REPORT 01/12/16 ITEM 3):

The Report of the specially appointed Personnel Sub-Group was considered.

RESOLVED:

1. That the services of DFP Wealth Management Ltd be employed and pension offered from the staging date depending upon eligibility and take-up, based on a 3% contribution rate from 01/10/17 subject to recommendation on the specific scheme to be determined;
2. that minimum salary level be increased to £8.04 per hour from 01/12/16 and to living wage commission rate from 01/04/17; and
3. that the differentials be maintained by raising salary points by 2 for each member of staff effective from 01/04/17.

The meeting finished at 9.05 pm

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Signed Chairman