

BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

**HELD ON THURSDAY 14 JANUARY 2016 AT 7.30PM
AT THE CHARTER HALL TOWN HALL BRIDGWATER**

PRESENT: Cllr AM Glassford (Deputy Mayor – in the Chair), Cllrs GJ Granter, P Johnstone, Ms L Leavy, M Lerry, DP Loveridge, AJ Moore, Mrs PM Morley, Ms K Pearce, BD Smedley, and Ms S Wilson

Apologies: Cllrs Redman (Mayor), Ms Brown, Cresswell, Rodrigues and Turner

74/15 POLICING IN BRIDGWATER IN RELATION TO EDF/HPC:

The Deputy Mayor introduced and welcomed Sergeant Steve Crago, who had been leading the Constabulary negotiations in the preparations for the HPC new build. His role had involved assessment of the impacts and obligations which would fall to the police for which through the Section 106 Agreement funding had been secured for a dedicated team. Sergeant Crago explained the make-up of the team and the way in which they would operate, already acting in readiness for the development and in addition to existing Force numbers as the development progressed. He explained in particular actions in relation to traffic and transport and highway issues, anti-nuclear protests, both planned and unplanned, and the impact of workers onto the site, and management of the hostel accommodation. The dedicated team would also support existing Force numbers when and if required for “Hinkley” associated issues.

The process and what had been achieved would also be used as modelling for other nuclear new-build sites across the country.

Sergeant Crago answered a number of questions in relation to highway issues, ability to influence traffic matters, support for extra variable message scheme signage within Bridgwater to aid traffic management, location of police posts on each of the campuses, and intentions to integrate with the workforce. Members remained concerned at traffic impacts and in particular parts of the town where the campus would be concentrated. It was also noted that additional CCTV would be supported by contributions through the Agreement. It was also confirmed that the dedicated officers would be in position to support the regular officers, both police constables and PCSOs, within East Bridgwater.

The Deputy Mayor thanked Sergeant Crago who confirmed that he would supply telephone numbers and contact details for the dedicated team.

75/15 POLICING IN BRIDWATER (Min 61/15):

Sergeant Ryan Edwards gave a follow-up to the discussions with the attendance of the Police and Crime Commissioner reporting on the staffing levels in the Town Centre and Urban Teams, and the operations of the new model. He commented on the police activity through the Christmas period and particular special events which had run quite smoothly. A major anti-drugs operation was continuing. Members raised issues in relation to incidents in the Cranleigh Gardens area, low level anti-social behaviour issues in the Town Centre, noting that reporting options were available through both 101 and the Sedgemoor ASB line, and the ASB diaries distributed to premises in the Town Centre. This emphasised the need to keep reporting such issues to the police and Sedgemoor. Members confirmed the visit to the Express Park Headquarters on the 27/01/16 between 19.00 and 21.00 hrs.

76/15 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 03/12/15:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 03/12/15 be approved and signed by the Deputy Mayor as a correct record.

77/15 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (03/12/15):

i. Ward Grants - Wyndham - St Mary's School and Westover Green School (Min 72/15.5) - the Town Clerk confirmed that in line with the Finance Committee recommendations two Ward Grants had been issued in the sum of £300 each.

ii. Forward Plan 2015/16 (Tracker) (Min 69/15i) - members noted the document as circulated and the items referred elsewhere in the agenda.

iii. Northgate Master Plan (Min 65/15) - a Position Paper was circulated following the Northgate Summit Meeting held at County Hall, Taunton with representatives of the County Council, Town Council and Civic Society. The Civic Society remained unhappy about the demolition of the old hospital/ workhouse building but accepted the inevitability and Cllr Smedley read a comment to this effect from the Chairman. This matter was also itemised within the Community Assets Working Group Report elsewhere on the agenda.

RESOLVED: That the Position Paper be noted and endorsed with the Town Council fully understanding the outcomes and undertakings set out for both the Town Council and the Bridgwater and District Civic Society involvement.

iv. Town Hall Working Party/Creative Centres Meeting (Min 69/15iii) - a further meeting of the Cultural/Arts representatives was due which would include consideration of financial support for the joint development of a bid for funding. Views of other organisations were being obtained on this designed to assist the

programming of theatres, creative venues etc, and Cllr Siobhan Wilson would represent the Town Council and report back.

v. Sedgemoor CCTV and Radio Links through the Somerset Businesses Against Crime (Min 72/15.2) - the Town Clerk confirmed that an independent assessment of the service and system was being undertaken to review performance and objectives and a follow-up report would be submitted.

vi. Fore Street Burger Stall - Kiosk Proposal (Min 72/15.4) - members views had been sought on the diagrammatic illustration and members supported the ideas for a permanent, if temporary, construction provided the exterior finish and materials were in keeping and enhanced Bridgwater's heritage. It was the proprietors intention with this support to take the matter forward through the District and County Councils to achieve the necessary permissions.

78/15 REPORT OF THE MUSEUM SUB-COMMITTEE (14/12/15):

The decisions and recommendations arising from the meeting held on 14/12/15 (attached as an appendix) were circulated and introduced by the Chairman, Cllr Loveridge. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Accreditation renewal application was moving forward and with additional information provided was due to be approved by the end of February.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted and approved.

79/15 COMMUNITY ASSETS WORKING GROUP (06/01/16):

Cllr Smedley, the Chairman of the Working Group, introduced the notes which had been circulated and drew attention to issues in relation to the Hope Inn, the Magistrate's Court, and the Northgate former workhouse and hospital buildings as reported above. He drew attention to the consideration of additional listings and an assessment produced in relation to the Mansion House. The Working Group had agreed to give priority to this building and to prepare a case to take this forward for application as a Community Asset noting that the building was listed on the List of Buildings of Special Architectural and Historic Interest.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted and approved.

80/15 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS:

The Town Clerk responded to questions in relation to the items within the monthly Cost Centre Reports.

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 and bank reconciliations be noted.

81/15 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2016/17:

The provisional calendar for the period from May 2016 had been tabled.

RESOLVED: That the calendar be approved with members requested to advise the Town Clerk should there be any conflicting dates.

82/15 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 07/01/16 (agenda item 10), and decisions taken as follows:

Decisions:

1. Bridgwater Town Team and Christmas Lights and Chamber of Commerce Awards - 1. that the Christmas lights contract, currently held by Robson Electrics, be re-tendered in 2016; and 2. that the sponsorship of the Independent Trader/Retailer of the Year Award at the Chamber of Commerce Business Awards in association with the Bridgwater Town Team be endorsed;
2. Cemetery Fees - revised fee schedules - 1. that the revised fee schedules be approved; and 2. that the Town Council confirm the existing position in relation to double fees, with no exceptions;
3. Trinity Hall - heating boiler - that the replacement of the boiler at a cost of £1,692.00 be confirmed provided from contingency sums;
4. Colley Lane Access Road - formal notification of "The County of Somerset (Colley Lane Southern Access Road) Compulsory Purchase Order 2015 and the County of Somerset (Colley Lane Southern Access Road B3131) (side road and other works) Order 2015 - that the confirmation of "No Objection" be endorsed and emphasis placed on the desire to see works implemented as soon as possible;
5. Grant Applications 2015/16 and Ward Grant Applications - that the application from the Woman's Community Forum be referred to the Finance Committee.

For information:

Items 1 - 15 as circulated and in particular item 6, 20 Year Flood Action Plan appointment of Design Consultants to progress barrier designs, and item 13, Bridgwater Borough Design Project historical information from 1950s presented by HA Derek Gibson - noted.

82/15 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 83/15 on the grounds that this would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Section 1 of the Local Government Act 1972.

83/15 THE BRIDGWATER CUP 2015

RESOLVED:

1. That having considered the worthy merits of eligible nominations, the Cup be awarded to Mrs Jacqueline Manning in recognition of her services to the Youth and Community of Bridgwater and to local charities and groups; and
2. that members recognise the work of others nominated and their invaluable support to the community and charitable work, and all nominees be thanked for their submissions.

The meeting finished at 9.00 pm

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Signed Chairman