

# **BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12 JANUARY 2017 AT 7.30PM AT THE CHARTER HALL TOWN HALL BRIDGWATER**

**PRESENT:** Cllr AM Glassford (Mayor - in the Chair), Cllrs GJ Granter, P Johnstone, Mrs P Morley, Ms L Leavy, M Lerry, DP Loveridge, Ms K Pearce, L Redman, D Rodrigues, BD Smedley & Ms S Wilson

Apologies: Cllrs Cresswell, Moore and Turner

### **64/16 POLICING IN BRIDGWATER (Min 32/16):**

PC Rich Smith was in attendance and presented a report which had been prepared by Sergeant Joe Piscina highlighting actions and plans in relation to ASB in the Town and begging. This recorded actions completed and also referred to a planned day of action on 20/01/17 where the police would be in attendance to secure witness statements on the various aspects and problems which had become apparent over recent months. Locations had been identified and those premises would be visited to support further action.

A number of issues were raised and recorded for police action. Points were made in response to these actions, not least highlighting the sharing of information and how this appeared not to be as joined up, as it should be. This would be reviewed and relayed again at the next multi-agency ASB meeting.

A local resident, as a member of the public, during an adjournment highlighted a number of issues and these were recorded for police attention related to Blake Gardens, the Library, toilets, and actions of individuals.

Attention was also drawn to difficulties raised by residents in Fairfax Road from anti-social parking by students from Bridgwater College and related issues.

### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the police action to date and planned 'day of action' be welcomed;
2. that an up-to-date list of the Town Centre Team both Police Officers and PCSOs be requested;
3. that an invitation be extended to the Police and Crime Commissioner to attend the next, or subsequent meeting of the Town Council, particularly in the light of the email circulated to Local Councils concerning police attendance at Town and Parish Council meetings.

**65/16 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 08/12/16:**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 08/12/16 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

**66/16 REPORT OF THE MUSEUM SUB-COMMITTEE (12/12/16):**

The decisions and recommendations arising from the meeting held on 12/12/16 (attached as an appendix) were circulated and introduced by the Chairman - Cllr Loveridge. He highlighted the work which had been done over the shut-down period and the success of events targeted at the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Cllr Loveridge suggested that a visit for all members should be arranged once the Museum was open again and up and running.

**RESOLVED:** That the Report be noted and approved, including the follow-up on the Bridgwater History Day 2016.

**67/16 REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (05/01/17):**

The decisions and recommendations arising from the meeting held on 05/01/17 (attached as an appendix) were circulated and introduced by the Chairman - Cllr Smedley and the Town Clerk.

**RESOLVED:** That the Report be noted and approved, and the budget detail set out in Min 68/16 below.

**68/16 BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2017/18:**

Based on the Report of the Finance Committee (Min 23) and the information supplied in relation to the tax base, the anticipated shortfall grant and the high-level principles established, it was:

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the high-level principles previously established be confirmed including the intention to focus on Youth & Community event support, to revive the Youth Forum and those matters concentrated in the budget paper;
2. that the budget be approved and adopted requiring a Town Council precept of 54.00 per Band D, raising £503,092;
3. that the detailed budget paper for 2017/18 as presented be approved with funding requirements for the year at £737,981 with grant at £45,130, estimated income at £153,584, and earmarked allocations from all sources at £36,175;
4. that the updated earmarked funds report, including restricted reserves, be noted and approved; and
5. that the decision by Government not to introduce limitations on Town and Parish Council precepting be noted.

**69/16 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS:**

**RESOLVED:** That the payments including Section 137 payments made during November and December (months 8 and 9) 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.

**70/16 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (08/12/16):**

i. Forward Plan 2016/17 (Tracker) (Min 60/16i) - relevant items were referred elsewhere on the agenda noting items to be picked up in the coming months and variations in the latter part of the municipal year. This included the coverage of an environmental report, further examination of the core strategy and local plan review associated with CIL Payments and Neighbourhood Planning. Following a recent meeting it was also planned to review Flood Planning arrangements and Evacuation Planning on which some preparation work had already been done by the County Civil Contingencies Unit. A pre-meeting was planned for 01/03/17.

ii. EDF/HPC and North Bridgwater Junction Improvements (Min 55/16) - the Temporary Traffic Regulation Order for Wylde Road, A38 Bristol Road and A39 The Drove had been published and would become effective on 23/01/17. Following representations EDF had promised enhanced communications throughout the period of the works for businesses and householders but in the view of members had not accepted what should be their responsibility by not offering support to individual businesses who may struggle through the impact of the roadworks. EDF had recited the availability of the CIM funding, in various sources, and there may also be the possibility of some business rates relief but members were adamant that the Town Council's point of view should be addressed.

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council's views be restated.

iii. Bridgwater Tidal Barrier Scheme (Min 60/16ii) - the Town Clerk gave a brief report on the Stakeholders Opportunities and Enhancement Sub-Group which had met for the first time and from which notes of 14/12/16 had been circulated. In this context and future flood prevention measures a second report from the House of Commons had also been circulated. Cllr Lerry, as the nominated representative, and Cllr Loveridge, as nominated deputy, had confirmed their availability for the follow-up meeting.

**71/16 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2017/18:**

A provisional calendar for the period from May 2017 had been tabled.

**RESOLVED:** That the calendar be approved with members requested to advise

the Town Clerk should there be any conflicting dates.

**72/16 TWINNING FORUM (10/01/17):**

Cllr Smedley reported on the Forum meeting which had been held and the successes reported through the year's activities. He confirmed the milestones reached by La Ciotat - 60 years, Homberg and Uherske Hradiste - 25 years. Arrangements were being put in place for a Twinning Conference and event on 22/04/17.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

**73/16 BRIDGWATER HOSPITAL - REDUCTION IN OPENING HOURS OF THE MINOR INJURY UNIT:**

The Mayor reported on the response he had given in the press to the reduction in the opening hours. The Town Clerk reported that this had resulted in an approach from the Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust offering to meet with the Mayor and colleagues to talk through the clinical and management changes and to explain more fully the proposals and the rationale for the changes being planned.

**RESOLVED:** That the Mayor take up this offer and a delegation be invited to attend an appropriate meeting.

**74/16 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 05/01/17 (agenda item 11), and decisions taken as follows:

**Decisions:**

1. Snowflakes and Shopping/Christmas Lights Switch-on - members commented on the successful event and the number of accolades for the outstanding lights display. - **Resolved:** That those involved be congratulated and matters arising from the de-brief on 08/12/16 be noted.
2. Sedgemoor CCTV and Lifeline Review and Radio Links of the Somerset Businesses Against Crime - **Resolved:** 1. That the outcome of the SDC executive decision to establish a new scheme and arrangements from 01/04/17 be noted; and 2. that these plans be followed up with representation from the Town Clerk and Cllrs Lerry and Smedley.
3. Safe Pedestrian and Cycle Routes, Bath Road along frontage of

BRIA Development (former BCL Site) and rear of terrace dwellings - **Resolved:** That this be referred to the Planning Panel for consideration in conjunction with the application for Discharge of Requirement (App No. 08/17/03).

4. Grant Applications and Funding Requests 2016/17- **Resolved:** That the requests in relation to the cleaning of the painting in St Mary's Church, the 999 Academy request for equipment, Wassail Theatre funding and the application from the Fund Raising Team at St Mary's Church in relation to floor tiles and chairs be referred to the Finance Committee; and that the Ward Grant application for Victoria Ward in the sum of £200 be approved subject to completion of the application form; and the proposal via the HPC Heritage Fund to support improvements on the frontage of Quantock Road Cemetery be confirmed as previously discussed and processed through the Finance Committee as and when the revised scheme is brought forward.

**For information:**

Items 1 - 18 as circulated and in particular additional information in relation to Item 10 Towells Charity Trust representations, expenditure of Brent Marshall and Mansfield Charity and Blake and Gilbert Charity funds, and Item 13 additional website report (Somerset Web Services) December 2016 - noted.

**75/16 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 76/16 on the grounds that this would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Section 1 of the Local Government Act 1972.

**76/16 THE BRIDGWATER CUP 2016:**

**RESOLVED:**

1. That having considered the worthy merits of eligible nominations, the cup be awarded to Mrs Kim Dodden in recognition of her services to a variety of organisations, the 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 9.15 pm

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Signed                      Chairman