

BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 15 JUNE 2017 AT 7.30PM AT THE CHARTER HALL TOWN HALL BRIDGWATER

PRESENT: Cllr GJ Granter (Mayor - in the Chair), Cllrs M Cresswell, T Heywood, P Johnstone, Ms L Leavy, DP Loveridge, Mrs P Morley, Ms K Pearce, LP Redman, D Rodrigues, BD Smedley and Ms S Wilson

Apologies: Cllrs Lerry and Turner JP

01/17 POLICING IN BRIDGWATER:

PC Kevin Curd, Neighbourhood Beat Manager - Bridgwater East, was introduced to the Council by the Mayor. In his first presentation to the Town Council representing Inspector Pritchard and Sergeant Piscina, he outlined his background and role in the Neighbourhood Beat Teams. He identified specific areas where the local police were concentrating their resources. Sergeant Piscina was, this evening, supporting the 999 Academy working through assessments with the youngsters involved.

A number of hot spots had been identified with patrols concentrated on those areas with random times of presence. Actions in relation to the Town Centre had resulted in dispersal of some of the problems with the concentration now on the Docks and Anson Way and Brewery Field, the Hamp area, and Stockmoor Village. The presence in the Town Centre had been maintained including the frequency of the mobile police unit. The Town Centre Team would shortly be strengthened with the addition of two PCSOs. PC Curd explained the makeup of the five teams and the shift patterns utilised.

He also explained the activities of the Together Team-East Bridgwater bringing multi-agencies to work together; a scheme now looking to be brought into the Hamp area. As one example, the Together Team had secured, through the partnership, speed watch equipment which was now in use. He went on to explain the impact of the Glastonbury Festival, with an essential massive police presence which would have a knock-on effect locally.

In commenting, members supported the benefits of the Town Centre mobile unit for both contact and presence and repeated the need for constant monitoring in respect of areas of the Town Bridge, Binford Place and Blake Gardens. Reference was also made to the ASB problems on Hamp and PC Curd, in response, explained the scoring system operated upon which call outs for immediate response was judged. Questions were again raised about New Road with a request for a written report on police response to the continuing regular

use by vehicles. PC Curd also gave an explanation in response to use of private CCTV, and proffered a website where details were available. Members repeated the benefit of police presence, and being seen on the streets and the benefits evident with targeted patrols. Issues were highlighted with the warm weather expected and, for example, the need to educate through social media the dangers of swimming in the Docks at Bridgwater.

The Mayor thanked PC Curd for his attendance.

**02/17 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 13/04/17 and 12/05/17
(Min 7):**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meetings held on 13/04/17 and 12/05/17 as specified be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

**03/17 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON
11/05/17:**

The Minutes of the Annual Town Public Meeting were submitted. Members noted the issues that had been raised, actions which had been followed up and those which had been incorporated forming part of the Work Programme and Forward Plan.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes be noted and actions taken and plans endorsed.

04/17 REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (31/05/17):

The decisions and recommendations arising from the meeting held on 31/05/17 (attached as an appendix) had been circulated and were introduced by the Chairman, Cllr Smedley. Specific attention was directed to Min 34 Annual Audit of Accounts 2016/17, including Accounting and Governance Statements, Min 35 Internal Auditor Report and new practices and procedures adopted for 2017/18 and Min 36 Fixed Asset Register following completion of Phase 1.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Report be approved and adopted;
2. that the Annual Audit of Accounts 2016/17 and documents as submitted be approved, and all other matters concluded in accordance with the Council's approved practices and publications;
3. that the practices and procedures advised by the Internal Auditor be adopted forthwith; and
4. that the comprehensive record now forming the Fixed Asset Register be approved and referred to the Finance Committee, to finalise content and oversee Phase 2 including such re-valuations as may be necessary.

05/17 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS:

RESOLVED: That the payments, including Section 137 payments made during April (month 1) as submitted to the Finance Committee, and May (month 2) 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.

06/17

i. **Forward Plan 2016/17 (Tracker) and 2017/18 (Min 99/16i)** - Cllr Smedley introduced the updated version of the Forward Plan emphasising in particular the five key priorities, the work programme and the emphasis to be placed on the ambitions and references elsewhere on the agenda.

ii. **EDF/HPC and North Bridgwater Junction Improvements (Min 99/16vi)** - The Town Clerk and Cllr Loveridge updated members on the continuing progress with the junctions, with Bristol Road now open to two way traffic. The work, including additional work by Somerset Highways, was ahead of schedule and due to be completed overnight. Completion of works for the Rider's junction was expected by 28/06/17 when new works would be concentrated on the Bath Road Campus entrance. The Mayor commented on the Town Council's role in maintaining a close vigil on the works on a weekly basis, seeking to minimise disruption and ensure the timeliness of the works.

iii. **Bridgwater Summer Event - "Fuse" and Bridgwater Cultural Partners (Min 99/16viii)** - The Town Clerk reminded members that the Fuse company had been successful in securing the tender for the Town Centre event "Bridgwater Quayside Festival" and were putting together a programme of events for 29/07/17. They intended to present to the Town Council at an appropriate opportunity. In the programming they were looking to involve local organisations and locations, and included the Bridgwater Cultural Partners. BCP ideas were being implemented and moving forward, and the Finance Committee had approved the funding of £6.5k to support the event. Town Hall and Trinity Hall had also been reserved as wet weather venues.

07/17 YOUTH FORUM MEETINGS (27/04/17 AND 24/05/17):

Members were given an update on the plans to take the Forum forward. This included a September event and a new website, and Cllr Rodrigues invited members to supply information in relation to organisations placed or working within town wards. The Town Clerk confirmed the position with the Rollercoaster, and the support funding from the Somerset Youth and Community Service in addition to that from the Town Council. He confirmed the numbers in response to members questions, and the links to the Together Team-East Bridgwater and outreach work in the locality.

08/17 APPOINTMENTS 2017/18:

Members were invited to complete appointments to outside bodies, committees, sub-committees and panels, and identification of forum leads as grouped in the list of common interests. The Town Clerk circulated the list of current appointments and Cllr Smedley identified proposed changes and where further nominations were required. These were recorded as set out below:

BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL Committees & Outside Bodies 2017-18

APPOINTMENTS 2017/18:

Leader of Council	Cllr Brian Smedley
Deputy Leader	Cllr Kathryn Pearce
Mayor	Cllr Graham Granter
Deputy Mayor	Cllr Diogo Rodrigues

BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEES 2017-18

FINANCE ; (8) SMEDLEY (ch), GLASSFORD, JOHNSTONE, LERRY, MOORE, PEARCE, GRANTER & HEYWOOD
MUSEUM SUB-COMMITTEE ; (4) LOVERIDGE (ch) RODRIGUES, LEAVY, & SMEDLEY
PLANNING PANEL ; (7) LERRY (ch), JOHNSTONE, LEAVY, MORLEY, HEYWOOD, RODRIGUES & SMEDLEY – (with invitation to B&DCS to send observer(s))

Appointment of Lead Members (*denotes convenor of Forum)

	2016-17	2017-18
Town Development Forum	B SMEDLEY*	B SMEDLEY*
Town Transport Forum	M BROWN*	T HEYWOOD*
Town Youth Forum	D RODRIGUES*	D RODRIGUES*
Town Twinning Forum	B SMEDLEY*	B SMEDLEY*
Tourism Forum	-	B SMEDLEY*
Town Centre	D LOVERIDGE	D LOVERIDGE
Employment, Training	M LERRY	M LERRY
Environment	K PEARCE	K PEARCE
Culture	S WILSON	T HEYWOOD
Nuclear	L REDMAN	L REDMAN
Town Hall	L REDMAN	L REDMAN
Waterways & Navigation	K PEARCE	K PEARCE
Bigger Bridgwater	B SMEDLEY	B SMEDLEY
Celebration Mile	M LERRY	M LERRY

Appointments to outside bodies;-

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING

3. Wyndham Lecture Trust for the Schools of Bridgwater ; LERRY
4. Bridgwater Chamber of Commerce ; LERRY
5. Bridgwater Town Team ; LOVERIDGE
6. Youth Services Working Group (South Sydenham) ; GLASSFORD, LOVERIDGE, REDMAN, RODRIGUES + Town Clerk (*with power to act on South Sydenham project*)

HERITAGE, ARTS, CULTURE

7. Bridgwater Heritage Regeneration Partnership ; REDMAN (+ Loveridge as Deputy)
8. Bridgwater Arts Centre (observers) ; LEAVY, HEYWOOD
9. Town Hall Working Party ; REDMAN(Chair), JOHNSTONE, MORLEY, PEARCE, SMEDLEY, GRANTER & WILSON
10. Town Hall Users Group ; Chairman + Town Clerk + user groups
11. Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival Committee ; LOVERIDGE
12. Community Assets Working Party ; *Disbanded and transferred to Planning Panel*
13. Bridgwater Cultural/Creative Partnership ; HEYWOOD +TOWN CLERK

ENVIRONMENT

14. Inland Waterways Association ; PEARCE
15. Meads Steering Group ; LEAVY
16. Anti-Litter Forum ; PEARCE (to convene)
17. Sustainable Towns ; PEARCE (to convene)
18. Tidal Barrier: Stakeholders LERRY , Opportunities & Enhancement PEARCE

TWINNING

19. Bridgwater la Ciotat ; LEAVY
20. Bridgwater Homberg ; Mayor as Honorary President - nominated rep. JOHNSTONE
21. Bridgwater Marsa ; Mayor as Honorary President – nominated rep. GLASSFORD
22. Bridgwater Czech/Slovak ; LERRY
23. Bridgwater Priverno ; RODRIGUES
24. Town Twinning Forum ; *Each society nominates a named delegate with Mayor as Chair*
and SMEDLEY as Secretary (non-voting) ; Society reps -) France - Keith Giles Germany
- Ros Holman ; Italy –Hilary Bruce ; Malta -Pat Morgan ;Czech -Tim Mander

COMMUNITY

25. Hamp Community Association ; REDMAN
26. Sydenham Community Centre - Nominations at behest of BOARD and so requires no BTC representation. GRANTER & LOVERIDGE are members as trustees
27. Victoria Community Centre - Nominations at behest of BOARD LERRY & WILSON
28. Cluster Group (SDC) ; JOHNSTONE, LEAVY, MORLEY, RODRIGUES, TURNER, HEYWOOD & WILSON + Town Clerk - (all non SDC members)
29. Bridgwater Memorial Homes ; MOORE
30. Friends of Wembdon Road Cemetery ; Mayor as President
31. Kingsdown Pavilion ; REDMAN

32. Ivy House Luncheon Club (BAAE) ; LERRY
33. Together Team – East Bridgwater ; (Redman & Granter on board via SDC, Loveridge via
SCC) RODRIGUES is BTC rep
34. *Bridgwater Together ; SMEDLEY (to convene)

TRANSPORT

35. Bridgwater Transport Strategy Review and Connect 3 (if established) ; MOORE
36. Celebration Mile ; LERRY (to convene)

NUCLEAR

37. Hinkley Point (ex Liaison Ctte) Site Stakeholder Group ; REDMAN (+ sub LERRY)
38. EDF Energy Working Party ; GRANTER JOHNSTONE, MOORE, REDMAN,
WILSON +Town Clerk
39. EDF/HPC Community Forum ; REDMAN + Town Clerk
40. EDF/HPC Transport Forum ; MOORE + Town Clerk
41. National Grid HPC Connection Project South Local Community Forum ; REDMAN

INTERNAL

42. SDC Standards Ctte Town & Parish member; MORLEY nominated/Taylor
(NPTC)elected
43. BTC Grievance & Disciplinary Panel ; Mayor + LERRY, MOORE, SMEDLEY & TURNER
44. BTC Appeals Panel ; Dep Mayor +2 MORLEY + REDMAN
45. Cheque Signatories ; GRANTER, LOVERIDGE, REDMAN, TURNER & Town Clerk
46. Electoral Review Working Party (*as and when*) ; SMEDLEY (to convene)

FINANCE

47. Blake and Gilbert Charity ; (5) Mrs Briscoe, PEARCE, Mr Taylor (4 yrs from 2017)
GRANTER & TURNER ; (4 yrs from 2015)
48. Brent Marshall & Mansfield Charity ; (5) Mrs Briscoe, LOVERIDGE, TURNER (4 yrs
from 2014) GRANTER & LEAVY (4 yrs from 2015)
49. Tamlin Charity ; (4) (life term) Mayor & Dep Mayor + MOORE & Ken Richards
50. Towell Charity ; (2) (life term) (commenced 2006) PEARCE & Mr Smeed
51. Internal Auditor ; Mrs Geri O Loughlin

RESOLVED: That all the above be confirmed, together with the appointment of Leader of the Council (Cllr Brian Smedley) and Deputy Leader of the Council (Cllr Ms Kathy Pearce) for 2017/18.

09/17 MAYORAL ITEMS:

The Mayor gave a brief report on the successful visit to the twin town of Homberg celebrating 25 years of Twinning between Homberg Efze and Bridgwater.

10/17 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 08/06/17 (agenda item 10), and decisions taken as follows:

Decisions:

1. CIM Bids (Min 105/16.3) - as previously reported, agreements were being completed for the successful bids in relation to the North Petherton/South Bridgwater/Hamp/Town Centre/Cranleigh Gardens safer cycling route and the Town Centre support. The first BTC payment had been made towards the design costs of the cycle route. Schedule for further payments were being completed. Other aspects of the schemes continued to move forward including the Town Centre event as reported above, the Town Centre and Fore Street improvements, architectural lighting of the Town Bridge and other identified enhancements
Resolved: That the progress be welcomed, and Town Clerk authorised to complete the payment schedules and to continue to support the ongoing works and procurement.
2. Engine Room - South West Building Excellence Award 2017 - the Town Clerk reported the success in the 2017 Awards for the Engine Room extension to which the Town Council had contributed. He also reported on a planned neurodiversity project with the prospect of a bid to Awards for All. The Town Council had been successful in supporting the Engine Room in 2008 with a bid entitled "Our Town, Our Village" - **Resolved:** This be noted and supported in principle and involvement in a bid to Awards for All be examined subject to more detailed information and acceptable financial arrangements.
3. Bristol Road Cemetery - the Town Clerk reported on problems with badgers having moved into part of the Cemetery, which was under investigation with specialist advice being taken. This may mean that an extension to the Cemetery onto the reserved land may be required sooner than anticipated, and plans for the use of this area and layout would be drawn up - **Resolved:** That the Town Clerk be authorised to proceed on both fronts.
4. Cluster Meeting - Sedgemoor South West - 20/06/17- **Resolved:** That representation by any members of Council, not members of SDC be invited.
5. Somerset Brilliant Coast Project - request for support for bid to CIM Fund - **Resolved:** That in principle the Town Council support a bid, subject to more detail and acceptance of the "shape" of such bid.
6. Grant Applications 2017/18 and Ward Grant Applications 2017/18 - **Resolved:** That applications and proposals from Mendip Community Transport and SPARK (previously Sedgemoor Volunteer Bureau) be referred to the Finance Committee, and members note the information provided on remaining Ward

Grant monies.

7. Wessex Water Compound at Bristol Road - **Resolved:** That the three week extension and payment of £660 taking the use of the land up to 23/07/17 be noted and approved.

For Information:

Items 1 - 19 as circulated, including Lord Lieutenant's Plans for 2018 "Somerset Remembers" on 06/11/18 at Wells. Members also noted the cancellation of the Conservation Day planned for 27/07/17 designed to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Civic Amenities Act and advancement of Conservation Area status in planning terms.

The meeting finished at 9.05 pm

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Signed Chairman