

# BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12 MARCH 2015 AT 7.30PM AT THE CHARTER HALL TOWN HALL BRIDGWATER

PRESENT: Cllr LP Redman (Deputy Mayor – in the Chair), Cllrs AM Glassford, GJ Granter, MJ Lerry, DP Loveridge, AJ Moore, Mrs PM Morley, BD Smedley, IC Tucker, and J Turner (JP)

Apologies: Cllrs Austen (Mayor of Bridgwater), Baker, Monteith, Parker, Richards and Mrs Slocombe

### THE LATE MARGOT RICHARDS

*Early in the Meeting all stood in silence to the memory of Margot Richards, wife of Cllr Ken Richards and five times Mayoress of Bridgwater, who had recently passed away.*

### 144/13 PUBLIC SPEAKING (Adjournment):

1. **Mr Alec Western** - Mr Western addressed the Council in relation to a near fatal pedestrian accident within Bridgwater Town Centre, which he had witnessed. He read a letter in relation to the incident which had involved a 93 year old gentleman who had tripped due to a hazard from an unstable paving slab. He asked for the Council's support in taking these issues which appeared too frequently to the County Council's Highway Authority for improvements in the way in which these were dealt with. Cllr Redman as the County Cllr and the Town Council agreed to follow this up although it was known that faults had to reach a certain level before being dealt with notwithstanding regular "on-foot" inspections.

2. **Ms Patsy Robinson**- Ms Robinson addressed the Council in relation to an application for funding towards the refurbishment of the Bridgwater Buoy which had been removed from the Dockside for renovation work. She explained the support she had already obtained and in doing so drew attention to a Bridgwater Mercury article and various inaccuracies in it which had caused a letter from the Group Secretary of the Bridgwater and Taunton Canal Association to be written. The Town Council had already supported the desire to keep the buoy in refurbished condition in the Town following an approach from Otterhampton Parish Council and would be dealing with the grant application later in the meeting.

### 145/13 POLICE REPORT

PC Dominic Bryant was in attendance and answered a series of questions from

members in relation to policing in the Town. This included management of pedestrian areas at West Quay, driving standards in Bridgwater particularly attitudes affected by the current number of highway schemes underway, the intention to provide a bollard in New Road to prevent vehicles accessing, and the operation of the Town Centre Police Office in Bridgwater House and the presence of officers in the Town outside hours of opening. PC Bryant responded to all these matters advising that the telephone number 101 should be used to report incidents. He confirmed that an operation had been launched in New Road and a series of offences recorded. He would take back the issue of police presence and the operation of the Town Centre office and also reply to a question about the Victoria Park office which was no longer in operation but where arrangements would change as a result of the new scheme for managing policing in Bridgwater by both police and PCSOs with effect from 01/04/15. More detail would be given on this.

PC Bryant also commented in relation to the item on Twinning where he had been a representative of the Avon and Somerset Constabulary on a recent visit to the Czech Republic (Uherske Hradiste (UH)).

**146/13 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 15/01/15:**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15/01/15 be approved and signed by the Deputy Mayor as a correct record.

**147/13 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS:**

**RESOLVED:** That the payments, including Section 137 payments, made during January and February (months 10 and 11) as circulated, be approved and confirmed and income received during the period together with the cost centre reports and bank reconciliations be noted.

**148/13 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (15/01/15):**

i. **The Bridgwater Cup 2014 (Min 143/13)** -The Town Clerk reminded members that the presentation of the Bridgwater Cup would take place on Friday 20/03/15 at 7.30 pm and invited members to confirm attendance.

ii. **Youth Services (Min 128 & 130/13i)** - The contract for the Youth Unlimited Town Youth Club based in South Sydenham at the Rollercoaster had been completed for signature. This had benefited from the experience of the first six months of operation with the completion of a contract monitoring. The minor accommodation issues remained and were being resolved. Cllr Loveridge as County Cllr for the area had set up a meeting of the relevant parties to settle this issue. In the meantime a second payment of £10k as per the contract had been authorised.

iii. **EDF/HPC Working Party and Meetings of Traffic Schemes (Min 130/13ii)** - Members received a report on the recent Transport Forum of 26/02/15 and meetings to influence the draft programme in terms of timing of all relevant schemes. This outlined the current position where works were already underway, such as Broadway/Taunton Road junction and immediately planned works. Certain principles had also been laid down for timetabling of works on the 'golden triangle', and main A38 north and south and A39 from the north.

North Petherton Town Council had also requested the Town Council to consider a joint approach to obtain maximum effectiveness in dealing with issues of mutual concern and in particular planned works to the Huntworth roundabout. This was agreed.

Members expressed concern about the impact on the economy of the traffic disruption and delays and any action which might be possible to support businesses so affected from mitigation fund sources. This was being followed up, also through the District Council, and it was agreed to support this subject to funding sources and procedures and criteria.

iv **Museum Sub-committee and Accreditation (Mins 130/13 iv & 131/13)** – confirmation of authority delegated to Chairman of MSC & Town Clerk to complete and sign Accreditation renewal documents.

v **Community Assets Working Group - Ex Magistrates' Court Buildings (Min 134/13)** - An application for the addition of these buildings to the Community Asset Register had been registered with SDC who had a period of eight weeks from 10/02/15 to deal with the submission. A public viewing had been arranged and local residents' groups had put forward suggestions for possible uses. In the meantime the public auction had been held and the building had been sold to a private buyer for the sum of £186k.

vi **Northgate - Ex Tesco Site (Min 139/13)** -The Town Clerk submitted the response received from SDC following an approach about the BTC desire to set up a public meeting and the commitment from the January meeting.

Notwithstanding the reply, members wished to go ahead with a public meeting to be arranged prior to the Purdah period. This would be held on Tuesday 24/03/15 with invitations to both Sedgemoor and SCC. This would give the opportunity for the established BTC position to be outlined and public views on future uses understood taking into account the planning context.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the public meeting be convened on 24/03/15;

2. that specific invites be submitted to SCC and SDC as joint land owners, and to SDC as planning authority;
3. that the Town Clerk in conjunction with Cllr Smedley complete the arrangements.

**149/13 BRIDGWATER CLUSTER MEETING 21/01/15:**

The Town Clerk referred to the Minutes of the Meeting and to items which had been discussed. Members present were given the opportunity to comment and it was noted that the police review of the PACT (Partners and Communities Together) process was yet to be completed, particularly in relation to how this would effect new policing arrangements and police beats, and ward arrangements.

**150/13 BRIDGWATER TWINNING CONFERENCE - ARTS CENTRE - 07/03/15:**

Cllr Smedley introduced this item where the five twinned towns, including Priverno where the Partnership Agreement had been signed recently and Sarvar, Hungary which was under consideration, were represented. The Twinning Conference had been a great success with the whole programme working well with major contributions from all the groups.

In completing the Partnership Agreement, Priverno had illustrated their eagerness to co-operate. The earlier example by PC Bryant illustrated how mutual benefit could be obtained. Members involved in such arrangements were responsible for paying their own way. Some of the Twinning activities had the possibility of opening up opportunities for European Funding.

**RESOLVED:** That all those involved be congratulated on the success of the Twinning Conference and the individual twinning activities.

**151/13 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 05/03/15 (agenda item 9) and together with additional items 13 decisions taken as follows:

**Decisions:**

1. Transfer of Sidcot and Chilton Allotment Sites - remaining two of ten within the BATA Agreement to be transferred formally - **Resolved:**

That the engrossements of the transfers be signed and sealed.

2. HMRC and local Council PAYE reference - BTC payroll service provided by SDC - **Resolved:** That the Council continue to purchase the payroll service from SDC and for this purpose secure a separate payroll HMRC tax reference.
3. Zurich Insurance - **Resolved:** That the Council take advantage of the financial savings and enter into the three year term renewal as recommended by the Town Clerk.
4. Bridgwater Allotments Tenants Association (BATA) - **Resolved:** That the wish of BATA to proceed with the scheme to renew fencing at the Fairfield site be accepted and the budget allocation for 2015/16 be approved to be used for this purpose.
5. Severn Estuary Tidal Lagoon Proposals and IWA Campaign Reference Tidal Surge Barrier and 10 Year Flood Plan - **Resolved:** That the offer from the company Tidal Lagoon Power to outline grant proposals to the Town Council be accepted and combined with an opportunity for presentations on each of the aspects in this item.
6. Rural Community Energy Fund - **Resolved:** That the offer of a presentation from Energy Analysis on how this fund may be utilised for the benefit of the local community be accepted and combined in a session of presentations with 5. above.
7. Cemeteries (SDC Service Level Agreement (SLAg)) - **Resolved:** That examination of the use of the Cemeteries Management Package from the company RBS be noted and the new explanatory notices for Quantock Road Cemetery to regulate more precisely the memorials and displays in each section, be approved.
8. Grant Applications - **Resolved:** That the following grant application be accepted 2014/15:  
  
Ms Patsy Robinson (Bridgwater Buoy Heritage - refurbishment) authority to approve amount of grant delegated to Town Clerk in conjunction with the Chairman of the Finance Committee to deal with.  
  
Holy Trinity Church, Bridgwater - church improvement project - referred to Town Council or Finance Committee for decision in new financial year 2015/16.
9. Ward Grants - **Resolved:** That the following grants be approved:

Dunwear - Rollercoaster Youth Club - fundraising, uniforms and equipment - £400;

Victoria - Homestart - training and family support - £400;

Victoria – ACT's - supporting sporting and musical activities for children during holidays - £1,000;

Victoria - Kids n Co Playgroup - allotment project to support children growing healthy food - £300.

10. BOS Cafe, 34/36 High Street - transfer of lease to holding company BOS Investments Limited - **Resolved:** That the lease be transferred to the name of BOS Investments Limited subject to all costs involved being met by the applicants.
11. Engine Room - party wall examination in conjunction with new development proposals - **Resolved:** That the Town Clerk be authorised to take such external advice as necessary to deal with the request.
12. Trinity Hall Refurbishment and Provision of Car Parking - **Resolved:** that the undertaking of the refurbishment work and the provision of the car parking be approved as necessary works estimated to cost £10k - £12k from monies set aside.
13. Town Hall Electrical Installation Report - **Resolved:** That the completion of the examination be noted and the Town Clerk authorised to deal with any items requiring immediate attention.

**For information:**

Items 1 - 21 excluding numbers 8, 9 and 11, referred for decision above.

**152/13 MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE**

The Deputy Mayor read a letter dated 10/03/15 submitted by the Mayor and Mayoress for members' attention, referred to as an overview and culmination of the mayoral year. This was read in full and noted.

The meeting finished at 8.54 pm

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Signed                      Chairman