

BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 09 MARCH 2017 AT 7.30PM AT THE CHARTER HALL TOWN HALL BRIDGWATER

PRESENT: Cllr AM Glassford (Mayor – in the Chair), Cllrs M Cresswell, GJ Granter, P Johnstone, Ms L Leavy, MJ Lerry, DP Loveridge, Ms K Pearce, LP Redman, BD Smedley, and Ms S Wilson

Apologies: Cllrs Moore, Mrs Morley and Turner

77/16 EASTOVER WARD:

The Mayor reported a casual vacancy in the Eastover Ward for both the Town Council and the District Council following the decision by Cllr Moira Brown to stand down. To initiate a by-election for the Town Council, 10 signatories would be required. Members expressed their disappointment at the loss of Ms Brown's expertise.

RESOLVED: That Moira Brown be thanked for all her efforts on behalf of the Town Council whilst in office.

78/16 SOMERSET PREPARED - PRESENTATION BY JACOB FORGHAM ON BEHALF OF SOMERSET LOCAL AUTHORITY'S CIVIL CONTINGENCIES UNIT:

Members received a presentation in which Mr Forgham outlined the Local Authority responsibilities as a Category 1 responder and the relationship of Local Authorities at County, District and Town/Parish levels and those of the emergency services. He gave information on generic plans for the County and roles in relation to the provision of rest centres and town evacuation planning. Countywide schemes related to business continuity advice, community resilience support, Somerset emergency community contacts, places of safety and methods of warning and information.

The Town Council had made a significant contribution to the evacuation plan for Bridgwater and in making information on Somerset Prepared and newsletters available on the Town Council website.

Cllr Lerry requested that an aide memoire checklist be provided on what was needed in identified places of safety quoting the example of the Victoria Centre.

RESOLVED: That Mr Forgham be thanked for the presentation and invited to keep the Town Council informed on a regular basis.

79/16 POLICING IN BRIDGWATER:

Sue Mountstevens, the Police and Crime Commissioner, had sent an apology due to a prior engagement after the invitation to follow-up her previous visit to the Town Council.

Neighbourhood Sergeant Joe Piscina, was present and reported on activities during the past two months and successful operations by the neighbourhood team alongside other organised units in relation to drugs, vulnerable individuals, and activities in and around the Town Centre including Blake Gardens, and the Town Centre itself and recent issues involving gangs of youths. He relayed the various measures which were now in place and the responsive action in a number of individual cases where offenders had been identified. He was also able to report strengthening of the neighbourhood team. He reported how the increase in use of CCTV from individual premises was enabling more of the working time of police constables and PCSOs to be spent on the beat. Members repeated the impact of a number of issues across the Town including low level unsocial behaviour, irresponsible driving, irresponsible parking both through the Town Centre at early evening and during school runs. Cllr Loveridge informed his intention to contact the Police and Crime Commissioner directly in relation to driving issues, the apparent absence of traffic police, and the need for support for additional 20 mph controls at schools and in specified locations where this was being pursued.

In relation to some of the Town Centre issues involving youths, Sergeant Piscina confirmed that the day of action had been supportive and enabled action to be followed to clamp down on anti-social behaviour. One impact had been dispersal to other parts of the Town which were now also being dealt with.

Cllr Lerry requested that base information be put together by the Hinkley Point team so that, should problems arise in the future as the HPC site developed, these could be responded.

Members attention was also drawn to the Sedgemoor Community ASP survey for 2017 which was now available widely to the public.

RESOLVED: That Sergeant Piscina be thanked for his report and in the context of the wider issues, neighbourhood policing and police on the beat, a further invitation be extended to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

80/16 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12/01/17:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 09/01/14 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

81/17 REPORT OF THE TOWN DEVELOPMENT FORUM (28/02/17):

Cllr Smedley presented the Report of the Town Development Forum, the main concentration of which had been on the Local Plan Consultation which would finish at 5pm on 17/03/17. Various points which had been raised during the presentation and discussion were listed for the Town Council's consideration and would be incorporated by the Chairman of the Planning Panel in the Town Council response to the Local Plan Consultation. Significantly there was some concentration on residential development in and around the Town and the lack of availability of joined up transportation strategies.

RESOLVED: That relevant points be incorporated in the Town Council response in addition to those put forward by the Planning Panel.

82/16 NOTICE OF TOWN TRANSPORT FORUM (16/03/17):

Following the resignation of Cllr Moira Brown, Cllr Dave Loveridge would now lead the Town Transport Forum.

83/16 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (12/01/17):

i. **Forward Plan 2016/17 (Tracker) (Min 70/16i)** - Relevant items were referred elsewhere on the Agenda, including items to be picked-up in the coming months – Town Hall Working Party - grants review - boundary review (long-term) and organisation of further Town Centre walkabout through Cllr Loveridge.

ii. **EDF/HPC and North Bridgwater Junction Improvements (Min 70/16ii)** - the Town Clerk and Cllr Loveridge gave an update on activities at the Ryder's junction and the Bristol Road/The Drove junction where schemes were moving forward but were subject to utilities programmes and continuing difficulties for local businesses. EDF as the contracting body were still examining ways in which the programme might be reduced although it was noted that there still continued to be issues with drivers ignoring the requirements of the one-way system and the traffic lights and road closures.

iii. **Bridgwater Hospital - Minor Injury Unit and Mary Stanley Unit (Min 73/16)** - The Mayor, Cllr Ms Pearce and the Town Clerk had visited the hospital following up representations about the reduction in opening hours of the Minor Injury Unit. A full and frank discussion had been undertaken with the Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust with all issues considered. A tour of the new hospital was also undertaken and with the measure of the excellent facilities on offer. Conversations had followed in relation to the Maternity Unit with a suggestion that a "born in Bridgwater" campaign might be launched.

RESOLVED:

1. That the outcome in relation to the reduction in opening hours of the Minor Injury Unit be noted;
2. that a positive campaign be considered in relation to the Mary Stanley Unit in terms of “a born in Bridgwater” campaign;
3. that in this regard information be sought from those who may have been redirected to Musgrove so that the Council could work towards seeking a more significant staffing resource at the Unit.

iv. Sedgemoor CCTV and Lifeline and Radio Links (Min 74/16ii) - SDC had confirmed that the decision had been made to leave the SBAC and that the radio link would not be supported by CCTV and SDC from 31/03/17. It was understood that the police had also made a decision to run with the new SDC scheme, effective from 11/03/17. The Town Clerk would monitor the impact locally and report further on that element of funding contributed by the TC towards the radio upgrade and recovery.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council hold any view on the outcomes in abeyance until confirmation is known on the way forward.

84/16 YOUTH UNLIMITED AND ROLLERCOASTER:

The company had provided an update report on activities and the quarterly monitoring form. Match funding was being sourced to accompany the BTC funding offered within the extended contract and thereby ensuring the continuation of the youth club. The Town Clerk referred to a forthcoming meeting with the Somerset Youth Service to examine possible funding options.

RESOLVED:

That this be noted and progressed through the youth group.

85/16 UNIVERSITY CENTRE SOMERSET:

The Mayor reported on the visit to the launch held at Taunton led by the Bridgwater and Taunton College.

86/16 CLLR JOHN TURNER:

Members received a report on the progress Cllr Turner was making, signed a “Get Well” card and were updated on next steps.

RESOLVED:

1. That this be noted and Cllr Turner wished a speedy recovery to good health;

2. that in recognition of Cllr Turner's contribution to the Bridgwater Town Council, previously Bridgwater Borough Council and the Charter Trustees and his recognition as the most recent "Freeman of the Town", the Burgess Room be renamed the "John Turner Room".

87/16 ANNUAL MEETING AND MAYOR MAKING 12/05/17:

Members discussed detailed arrangements for the Mayor Making Meeting following a draft paper circulated.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Agenda and Programme be prepared as now agreed; and
2. that Cllr Diogo Rodrigues be nominated as Deputy Town Mayor for the period ending at the Annual Meeting 2018.

88/16 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS:

RESOLVED: That the payments, including Section 137 payments, made during January (month 10) itemising all cheques and DDRs and receipts be approved and confirmed and specific income received during the period together with the Cost Centre Reports and Bank Reconciliations and Investments be noted.

89/16 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 02/03/17 (agenda item 11) and decisions taken as follows:

Decisions:

1. Broadway Clock - following on from the reported item it was understood that the clock had been removed and had been taken to the Western Power depot in Taunton for storage. It would be for the Town Council to decide where and when and if the clock should be relocated - **Resolved:** That the Town Council maintain their interest in the Broadway clock and consider how this might be secured in due course,
2. Taunton Road (adjoining Hope Inn site) Toilets - **Resolved:** That in the light of the usage figures reported, the Council raise no objection to the closure of the Taunton Road toilets and consider in due course alternative expend of the saving and request an audit of the use of other toilets in the Town to which the Town Council contribute.

3. Bristol Road Land - request from Military Boats CIC - **Resolved:** That the company be granted a licence of an area approximately 21.2 x 6.1m for one year on terms to be finalised for the storage of the boat MTB219 (currently in Bridgwater dock) to permit hull repairs and completion of restoration provided there is no cost to, and no liability falls upon the Town Council.
4. Bristol Road Land - Wessex Water Authority extension of licence for storage compound - **Resolved:** That an extension of 13 weeks to 02/07/17 be granted at a fee of £2860.
5. Blake Gardens Band Concert Programme July and August 2017 - **Resolved:** That the completion of the programme within the budget of £2.5k be noted.
6. Taunton Deane Public Consultation on Junction 25 Business Development (Nexus 25) - **Resolved:** That the opportunity for Local Authorities and members of the public in the area to comment on the proposals be noted.
7. Somerset Coast Advise Partnership - SCAB and WS advise - **Resolved:** That the request for support for the CIM Bid be referred to the Finance Committee.
8. Grant Applications 2016/17 and 2017/18 and Ward Grant Applications if any - **Resolved:** That all grant applications and the preceding item 7. be referred to the Finance Committee to be held at 10.30 am on Wednesday 29/03/17 with a pre-meeting to consider grant conditions with the sub-group appointed meeting at 10.00 am.

For Information:

Items 1 - 27 as circulated including item 14. Bridgwater Cultural Partners - unsuccessful bid for "Bridgwater Summer Event" and follow-up to the successful company "Fuse" plans for the first event.

90/16 20MPH ROAD SPEED LIMIT FOR ALL SCHOOL LOCATIONS:

RESOLVED:

1. That the Town Council support a campaign for the extension of 20mph limits across all relevant school locations in the Town where such limits do not already exist; and
2. that this be referred to the upcoming meeting of the Town Transport Forum to plan a way forward for the campaign.

The meeting finished at 9.20 pm

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Signed

Chairman

