

BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

**HELD ON THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER 2015 AT 7.30PM
AT THE BURGESS ROOM TOWN HALL BRIDGWATER**

PRESENT: Cllr LP Redman (Mayor – in the Chair), Cllrs Ms M Brown, M Cresswell, AM Glassford, GJ Granter, P Johnstone, Ms L Leavy, M Lerry, DP Loveridge, AJ Moore, Mrs PM Morley, Ms K Pearce, BD Smedley, and J Turner (JP)

Apologies: Cllrs Rodrigues and Ms Wilson

50/15 POLICING IN BRIDGWATER:

The Mayor welcomed Sergeant Ryan Edwards and PCSO Dave Schofield as the police representatives. Sergeant Edwards had recently joined the Bridgwater force from Taunton and had taken over responsibility for the urban team under the new Matrix management arrangements. Sergeant Edwards spoke candidly about the strength of the team he now managed and the reasons for the reduced resources available. The new management arrangements were bedding in but were under review and there was continual pressure to strengthen the team. He then outlined the specific actions confronting the police with halloween, carnivals, rag day and the advent of Christmas time. Specific issues were being tackled though in most instances these were similar to issues in other Somerset towns, notably Taunton, Weston-super-Mare and Yeovil. His officers were working closely with the Together Team on the Sydenham Estate and were constantly vigilant on issues such as drugs, legal highs, rough sleepers, begging and petty theft in the Town Centre.

Sergeant Edwards responded to specific points raised by members, some broad based and others of a town-wide impact.

The Mayor thanked the officers for their diligence.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Bridgwater Town Council confirm their support for the actions being take by the police and in pursuance invite the Police and Crime Commissioner to attend the Town Council; and Sergeant Crago as the EDF/HPC contact in advance of the Hinkley Scheme progressing;
2. that Sergeant Edwards be requested to supply information to the Town Clerk for circulation to members, giving contact details of Beat Officers and PCSOs;
3. that Sergeant Edwards be requested to give a written response in relation to police input into licensing applications;

4. to keep the Town Council advised in the review and modification of the Matrix management arrangements; and
5. that the Town Clerk pursue concerns about the response to use of 101 & ASB contacts at SDC and the relevance of the town centre police office located at the SDC offices.

51/15 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24/09/15:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24/09/15 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

52/15 REPORT OF THE TOWN DEVELOPMENT FORUM (MIN 39/15):

The Report of the Town Development Forum held on 07/10/15 was submitted. This dealt largely with the presentation on the Bridgwater Vision and the process of refreshing being undertaken by SDC. The information would now be used to inform the next meeting of the Town Development Forum which would concentrate on the next stage of the Northgate Consultation.

For the record, it was noted that the Finance Committee had declined a request from SDC for additional funding towards the desire to enhance the Northgate consultation considering that the setting-up of the Town Development Forum and it's organisation and operation were aimed to achieve this much broader platform of opinion.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted and taken forward to inform the Northgate consultation.

53/15 REPORT OF THE TWINNING FORUM (13/10/15) (MIN 40/15):

The Report of the Twinning Forum had been circulated and members notified of the provisional date of 23/04/16 for the next Twinning Conference.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted and approved.

54/15 REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (14/10/15):

The decisions and recommendations arising from the meeting held on 14/10/15 (attached as an appendix) had been circulated and were introduced by the Chairman, Cllr John Turner.

Attention was drawn in particular to Min 17 in relation to the budget preparations for 2016/17 and Min 19 in relation to the sports, leisure and recreational open space funding strategy, the draft of which had been prepared by SDC for 2015/16. The resolutions from these minutes were being followed up and it was the intention to arrange a financial advisory seminar open to all members on 25

or 26/11/15 to assist with the understanding of the budget issues.

55/15 REPORT OF THE MUSEUM SUB-COMMITTEE (05/10/15):

The decisions and recommendations arising from the meeting held on 05/10/15 (attached as an appendix) were circulated and had been reported to the Finance Committee.

RESOLVED: That the decisions be noted and the report adopted.

56/15 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS:

RESOLVED: That the payments including Section 137 payments made during September (month 6) as circulated and previously considered by the Finance Committee, be approved and confirmed, and income received during the period together with the cost centre reports and bank reconciliations be noted.

57/15 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (24/09/15):

i. Forward Plan 2015/16 (Tracker) (Min 37/15iii) - members noted the document as circulated and the items referred elsewhere in the agenda.

ii. Engine Room - extension and refurbishment project - party wall (Min 37/15iv) - the Town Clerk confirmed that works were progressing and that following the wall surveys completed by the independent surveyor, there had been no sign of issues affecting the party wall from the works undertaken to date.

iii. Town Hall Working Party (Min 38/15) - the intention to convene a meeting of the Town Hall users, to be followed by a meeting of the Working Party with a viewing of the building and to consider possible long-term development of the asset, was confirmed. A first meeting of the cultural/arts representatives from creative venues in the Town had been held and this would be developed looking jointly at the programming of theatre creative venues etc.

iv. EDF/HPC Working Party and Transport Forum, and Community Forum (Min 42/15vi) - members noted the agreements now in place following the signing of the strategic investment agreement by EDF and CGN for the construction of the Hinkley Point C nuclear power station.

The Town Clerk referred back to Min 42/15 and updated members on each part of the resolution. This included transport matters in terms of cycling and the road improvement works programme, the Community Impact Mitigation Fund and projects where EOIs were in course of preparation or had been submitted with the Town Council's support and involvement. Further work was still outstanding and a further meeting of the Working Party would be arranged to take this forward. In conjunction with the previous item it was suggested that

consideration might also be given to an application relating to the Town Hall as a bid to the CIM fund. Cllr Lerry offered to assist with the development of the CIM projects.

The Town Clerk gave an update on the submission of the report for four additional variable messaging signs (VMS) previously proposed but then deleted within the Town boundary on identified locations at Taunton Road and Bristol Road (A38 corridor) and Penel Orlieu and the Clink. A marker had also been put down of the possible additional need for VMS signs on the Westonzoyland Road/St John Street approach and Bath Road.

The Mayor gave an update on the meeting of the Hinkley Point Site Stakeholders Group.

RESOLVED:

1. That the individual Reports be noted;
2. that the continuing review of the CIM fund bids be pursued;
3. that the action taken in relation to the VMS signs be endorsed and the Town Council agree to take part in a Working Group suggested by the Transport and Review Group with representatives of the County Council, District Council, Town Council and EDF.

v. Bristol Road Ex-Allotment Site and Temporary Wessex Water Compound (Min 49/15) - the Town Clerk confirmed notice of the submission of a planning application and the nearing completion of agreement on terms for the temporary compound. In the meantime the Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival Committee, lessors of the adjoining land, had requested consent to use the proposed compound area on a temporary basis for car parking through the period of the carnivals.

RESOLVED: That this be noted and the use of the land by the Carnival Committee agreed on a temporary basis subject to reinstatement.

58/15 BRIDGWATER PARISH CLUSTER GROUP (21/10/15):

Members noted the meeting of the Cluster Group held on 21/10/15, the items discussed, and the request for specific items for future meetings.

59/15 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 22/10/15 (agenda item 11), and decisions taken as follows:

Decisions:

1. Bridgwater Town Team and Christmas Lights Switch-on, and Snowflakes and Shopping Event - that the Report on progress with the event on 27/11/15 be noted and actions taken by the Bridgwater Town Team endorsed.

For information:

Items 1 - 15 as circulated - noted.

In terms of the information reports, the Town Clerk provided additional information in relation to:

2. Emergency Planning - evacuation exercise for emergency services 22/10/16 - the intention of the Bridgwater Town Team to roll out information and plans aimed at local small businesses plans for resilience and business continuity; and

4. Somerset Waste Partnership - Town Centre changes to refuse collections from weekly to fortnightly - the significant representations from Town Centre landlords and tenants to problems created by the new arrangements.

60/15 REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES - CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

Cllr Loveridge had indicated a wish to stand down from representation on the Chamber of Commerce due to a continuing clash of dates with meetings he was required to attend as a County and District Councillor.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Mick Lerry, be nominated as the Council's representative to the Chamber of Commerce.

The meeting finished at 9.05 pm

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Signed Chairman