

# **BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 7.30PM  
AT THE CHARTER HALL TOWN HALL BRIDGWATER**

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

**Apologies:** Cllrs Cresswell, Rodrigues, and Turner

### **31/16 EDF/HPC NUCLEAR POWER STATION:**

The Mayor introduced the announcement by Government giving the go-ahead for the HPC project, and looked forward to the opportunities which this would present for the Town and surrounding area. Members acknowledged the significant benefits likely to accrue, although there was some thought that some disadvantages may be associated with these opportunities.

### **32/16 POLICING IN BRIDGWATER:**

Sergeant Ryan Edwards gave a brief resume of police activity in and around the Town. He referred particularly to some of the issues in the Town Centre including an increase in begging (noted also in Taunton and Weston-super-Mare) and low level anti-social behaviour. The multi-agency partnership had agreed a course of action to tackle Blake Gardens related matters, in identifying and targeting a number of individuals, responses to drug dealing and plans in place to tackle the usual increase in shop-lifting prior to Christmas and events such as college rag day. He outlined action in a major drug operation.

Sergeant Edwards was pleased to report his team were restored to full strength, although he was also advising that he personally would be moving on to a different area within the Force. He would introduce the successor Team Leader before departure.

Sergeant Edwards also mentioned that Sergeant Steve Crago had left the force to take up a role with Hinkley Point, although the dedicated team would remain with new leadership and offer options for support for policing in the Town when necessary.

Sergeant Edwards responded to members questions in relation to Sydenham Estate and the Together Team - East Bridgwater actions, an incident in Gordon Terrace, time and difficulties confronting those using the 101 system and a further comment on joint agency work. In this context, Sergeant Edwards commended

the work that was already underway reference Blake Gardens etc, and suggested consideration of the establishment of a “Together Team” in the Town Centre. This would be examined further.

Members commended the importance of agencies working together, and reassurance was gained from the regular attendance of officers at Town Council meetings.

Final issues raised related to position with hate crime, a recent Licensing Panel application and Bridgwater Together.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That Sergeant Edwards be thanked for his report and wished good fortune in whatever steps relocation take ; and
2. that the action taken by the Town Clerk in raising issues from the recent Licensing Panel be supported.

**33/16 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 04/08/16:**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 04/08/16 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

**34/16 REPORT OF THE YOUTH SERVICES WORKING GROUP (10/08/16):**

The Council received the Working Group report which was presented by Cllr Redman. The existing contract had been extended with a balance of £10k from the sum originally provided by SCC utilised for initial funding. To continue the contract into the second six month period a business plan was being produced, under which match funding would be sought for this year and a further proposal looking forward for up to the next five years. Members acknowledged that a review carried out by the SCC Youth Service rated the commissioned Service in the upper quartile.

**RESOLVED:** That the decisions of the Working Group be endorsed.

**35/16 REPORT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL TWINNING FORUM:**

The report was received by members and introduced by Cllr Smedley. He confirmed the success of the Twinning Conference and outlined plans for similar arrangements in 2017, possibly in association with use of Angel Place and the Arts Centre. A suggestion for the provision of a finger-board sign to each of the Council's twin towns was supported. This would be examined in conjunction with the planned make-over of the Town Centre.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be accepted and adopted.

**36/16 REPORT OF THE MUSEUM SUB COMMITTEE (05/09/16):**

The decisions and recommendations arising from the meeting held 05/09/16 (attached as an appendix) were circulated and introduced by the Chairman - Cllr Loveridge. Particular attention was paid to the efforts of the Friends of Blake Museum, and members took the opportunity to congratulate all the volunteers for their part in the successful venture that the Blake Museum had become since take over by the Town Council.

**RESOLVED:** That the Report be noted and approved.

**37/16 REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (14/09/16):**

The Committee had met earlier in the day and the Chairman Cllr Smedley and Town Clerk reported on key matters which had been discussed. This included the annual Audit of Accounts 2015/16, preparation of the Fixed Asset Register, and the high level overview undertaken in preparation for the Town Council budget 2017/18. The report from the Finance Committee would be submitted to the next Town Council meeting, and included a timetable agreed to deal with the budget and expenditure and income requirements to prepare for the precept.

**38/16 REPORT OF THE LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM (13/09/16):**

The Chairman Cllr Ms Brown reported on the meeting of the Transport Forum held on the previous day. Particular attention was paid to discussion of the desire for a Countywide Forum, and specific issues to deal with traffic and cycling and pedestrian movements in lower Bath Road. The Chairman explained the action she had taken in pursuing the earlier proposals of the Transport Forum which had been supported by the Town Council. The Forum had been successful in securing attendance of County Council representatives, and now discussed a proposal to meet with County Cllr Fothergill to detail the issues raised by the Town Transport Forum while still supporting the concept of a Countywide Forum.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the report be noted and written report received at the next meeting;
2. that in continuing to support the need for a Countywide Transport Forum members seek a meeting at Cabinet level; and
3. that the Transport Forum Working Party be requested to continue to develop ideas for a sustainable transport policy framework for the Town and

surrounding area.

**39/16 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS:**

**RESOLVED:** That the payments including Section 137 payments made during July and August (months 4 and 5) itemising payments 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.

**40/16 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (04/08/16):**

i. Forward Plan 2016/17 (Tracker) (Min 24/16i) - Relevant items were referred elsewhere on the agenda noting items to be picked up in the coming months.

ii. Police and Crime Commissioner Correspondence and Consultation (Min 18/16) - The Town Clerk had circulated a response received by email. In addition, he gave an update on the Sedgemoor Community Safety meeting of 07/09/16 and the particular references to Blake Gardens and continuing issues in the Town Centre which had been partly addressed earlier in the meeting by Sergeant Edwards.

iii. EDF/HPC Community Impact Mitigation (CIM Bids) - Cllr Redman gave an update following the West Somerset District Council Cabinet meeting on 08/09/16 at which bids in respect of the North Petherton/South Bridgwater safety routes and proposals for the Town Centre of Bridgwater had been fully endorsed.

iv. Bridgwater Community Hospital (Min 24/16v) - The Town Clerk and Cllr Ms Pearce reported on the action which had been taken to follow up the issues raised previously. A reference through the SDC scrutiny procedure had been held back pending specific questions which had now been asked. These related to the staffing issued as raised previously, relationship with Musgrove Park Hospital and beds availability, discharge of patients and operation of the Mary Stanley Birthing Unit at the Bridgwater Hospital.

**41/16 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 08/09/16 (agenda item 12), and decisions taken as follows:

**Decisions:**

1. Town Hall Old Council Chamber Refurbishment - continuing

programme - **Resolved:** 1. That the relocation of pews from St Mary's Church and the chandelier replacement as previously approved be noted; 2. that the quotation for LED lighting strips £3k be accepted, and 3. that the proposal for the provision of a defibrillator in the Town Hall entrance portico at an estimated cost of £2k be accepted and proceed.

2. Snowflakes and Shopping - arrangements and road closures for Friday 25/11/16 and Christmas lights switch-on - **Resolved:** That the proposals be approved subject to details being finalised in conjunction with the Bridgwater Town Team.

3. Bridgwater Buoy - planning application submission - **Resolved:** That action taken by the Town Clerk in submitting the application with payment of the fee of £97.50 be approved.

4. RLT 2 or 3 Funding - Wyndham Ward - outdoor gym equipment - **Resolved:** That the proposed change of location to the Holford Road play area be approved subject to Ward members examination.

**For information:**

Items 1 - 16 as circulated (item 1- see Min 42/16 below)

**42/16**

**Bridgwater tidal barrier stakeholder meeting and public drop-in sessions  
15/09/16:**

The Town Clerk reported on the Stakeholder meeting and the preferences for the tidal barrier which had been put forward by the joint organisation of the Environment Agency, SDC, Somerset Rivers' Authority and the Heart of the South West through consultants for sites 4 and 5 off Express Park and Bristol Road. Advantages and disadvantages of each of the remaining five barrier sites had been outlined with sites 4 and 5 preferred. The Town Clerk had made an interim arrangement for a presentation on these two locations and related the next steps.

Cllrs Smedley and Ms Pearce had also reviewed the proposals in the light of Town Council's adopted policy and objectives, particularly in terms of future proofing and trying to ensure the ability to retain water levels was a consideration. Members debated the proposals in the light of the Council's adopted policy whilst noting that estimated cost for site 4 were some £65-80 million and site 5 £45-60 million.

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council confirm their support for location site 4 with provisos for more information in relation to future proofing, and consideration of

access to land to the West of the river in Chilton Trinity and confirm a preference for a barrier design based on that of the Thames barrier.

**43/16      ADDITIONAL ITEMS:**

1.            Bid to Western Power - Cllr Lerry outlined this bid which was supported.
  
2.            All Parish Meeting 22/09/16 - the Town Clerk drew attention to the meeting and the need for representation from the Town Council

The meeting finished at 9.20 pm

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Signed            Chairman