

BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

**HELD ON THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2014 AT 7.30PM
AT THE CHARTER HALL TOWN HALL BRIDGWATER**

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

APOLOGIES: Cllrs Richards and Mrs Slocombe

106/13 POLICING IN BRIDGWATER (Min 98/13i):

PC Ed Woolmington, Beat Manager, was in attendance and gave an update on police activities after an introduction outlining his career.

He reported on the new HQ at Express Park, how this was intended to operate and how it was working with the various units and resources available.

He also commented on the organisation of the Town Team with police officers and PCSOs working across an expanded area. A Town Centre office as a base was being established at the SDC offices, and through this "Bridgwater Police Office" the public would be able to make contact through reception whereupon contact would be enhanced either by officers in attendance or a hotline to contacts.

He then reported on current operations including those covering boy racers, anti-social behaviour, and the major links to CCTV in combating crime. The police would also be receiving extra resources and financing as part of the HPC project to deal with particular issues anticipated.

Particular issues were raised in relation to Blake Gardens, New Road and conflicts of speeding traffic and pedestrians and cyclists on Kingsdown.

RESOLVED:

1. That PC Woolmington take away and report back in due course, the various issues raised by members; and
2. that BTC confirm their support for CCTV and actions to pursue matters of a criminal nature and with the support of County Council members, call for an investigation of the shared use of cameras, in particular those erected specifically for highway management with the town system.

107/13 PROPOSED SALE OF LAND TO TESCO LTD, GRANT OF PLANNING PERMISSION AND DRAFT SECTION 106 AGREEMENT:

Members noted a letter from Mr W R Cudlipp being a copy of a Freedom of Information request submitted to SDC in relation to the above proposals relating to land at Northgate.

108/13 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 07 AUGUST 2014:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 07/08/14 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

109/13 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (07/08/14):

i. **Bridgwater and Taunton Canal: (Min 95/13)** - the Town Clerk reported a follow-up letter from Mr Bob Abbott noting the support offered by the Town Council and inviting interest from the wider public and authorities. A Ward Grant application had also been submitted as previously mentioned.

ii. **Youth Services: (Min 98/13/iii)** - members were advised that the provision of services by Youth Unlimited CIC through a Town Youth Club in South Sydenham had begun from the Rollercoaster. With the commencement of the use some accommodation issues had arisen. These had been identified and were being pursued by the Working Group. The Working Group would be meeting later to agree the action which could be taken to support Youth Unlimited CIC through this situation.

iii. **Cluster Meeting - HPC skips decontamination (Min 105/13)** - a meeting to follow-up previous discussion which involved in addition to the decontamination of skips on site, bringing skips into Bridgwater and through to Hinkley Point for the decontamination work. This was to be held at 4pm 30/09/14 with Hinkley Point and Magnox invited.

110/13 COMMUNITY ASSETS WORKING GROUP:

The Report of the Meeting and actions arising (attached as an appendix) were circulated. The Hearing for the addition of the Hope Inn to the Sedgemoor List had been set for 29/09/14. It was unfortunate that it appeared demolition had already begun on the site.

RESOLVED:

1. That the actions requested by the Community Assets Working Group be endorsed and followed up; and
2. the Chairman's intention to follow-up the way this legislation is operating be noted given the apparent flaws in practical terms.

111/13 REPORT OF THE EDF/HPC WORKING PARTY (01/09/14):

The notes of the Meeting and actions planned (attached as an appendix) were circulated.

Members noted that the long list of projects and registered interests arising from the Community Impact Mitigation Fund were to be supplied. They noted that an application in relation to the Wembdon Community Playing Field resource, had been recommended and approved in principle subject to two conditions.

Members also received an update on the recent meeting of the Transport Forum in which the specific topic as requested for sometime, had been the road schemes and proposals and timing of works through Bridgwater. Promised plans and detailed schedules were awaited.

In addition a copy of a letter from the Department of Transport written to the local MP recording the provision of some £2.845 million to support HPC transport infrastructure covering four schemes, three of which would directly impact on the Town, was also noted and welcomed.

RESOLVED:

1. That the actions proposed by endorsed;
2. that members be invited again to bring forward ideas for projects which could benefit from the CIM fund;
3. that the Town Clerk continue to chase up the promised plans and schedules from the County Highway Authority.

112/13 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS:

RESOLVED: That the payments, including Section 137 payments, made during August (month 05) as circulated, be approved and confirmed and income received during the period together with the Cost Centre Reports be noted.

113/13 NOTICE OF CONCLUSION OF AUDIT (Min 91/13):

The Audit had been completed satisfactorily with no major issues raised. Notice would now be published as per regulations.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted and the Audit fee of £1,300 plus VAT be paid.

114/13 MAYORAL ITEMS:

The Mayor reminded members of two engagements; the Annual Civic Service to be held at the Salvation Army, Moorland Road and the gathering planned to honour the long service and five times mayoralty of Cllr Ken Richards.

115/13 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 11/09/14 (agenda item 10) and decisions taken as follows:

Decisions:

1. Issue of Agenda by Electronic Means - Government approval:
RESOLVED: That the Council approve the issue of Agenda and Reports by electronic means, provided hard copies are available or may be requested and any necessary amendment to Standing Orders be authorised;
2. Local Council's Right to Sell Electricity - local works organisation request supported;
3. SDC Seating Project in Victoria Park - revised sitings approved;
4. Dog Bin Installation - requests including further provision on Canalside:
RESOLVED: That this be referred to the Finance Committee to examine in conjunction with the current budget position and requirements for 2015/16;
5. Community Buildings Networking Event - invites to showcase and AGM noted;
6. Christmas Lights - upgrade and refurbishment: **RESOLVED:** That the works agreed and carried out by Blachere in conjunction with Robson Electrics and a continuation of the Christmas Lights contract be approved;
7. Town Hall - 150th anniversary 09/07/15: **RESOLVED:** That the Council follow-up the holding of a celebration event and set up a working group to which interested members are invited to notify;

8. Bridgwater Docks - red and white bouy: **RESOLVED:** That the Town Council take any action necessary to support the refurbishment;
9. Grant Applications and Ward Grant Applications: **RESOLVED:** That the Victoria Ward Grant application be approved and all other applications referred to the Finance Committee;
10. RLT3 Submission, Eastover Park: **RESOLVED:** That the application be supported through the Cluster Meeting system;
11. Quantock Road Cemetery - roadway extensions: **RESOLVED:** That the Town Clerk obtain an estimate for the carrying out of this work subject to budget and report to Finance Committee;
12. DCLG Open and Accountable Local Government: **RESOLVED:** That the guide for press and public on attending and reporting meetings of Local Government be noted and necessary amendments to Standing Orders, Public Guidance, and Financial Regulations, if required, be prepared.

For Information:

Items 1 - 11 as circulated - noted.

The meeting finished at 9.03 pm

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Signed Chairman