

# BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 07 DECEMBER 2017 AT 7.30PM AT THE CHARTER HALL TOWN HALL BRIDGWATER

PRESENT: Cllr GJ Granter (Mayor - in the Chair), Cllrs Cresswell, Glassford, Heywood, Johnstone, Leavy, Lerry, Pearce, Redman, Rodrigues and Smedley

Apologies: Cllrs Loveridge, Moore, Morley, Turner and Wilson

*Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Mayor invited all present to stand in silence to the memory of former Mayor and Councillor - Philip Smeed, who had recently passed away. He reminded members that the funeral would be held at 2pm on Monday, 11 December at St Mary's Parish Church.*

*The Mayor also gave members an update on former long-serving Cllr Ken Richards who had been taken to hospital but was now improving. Members also passed regards to Cllr Siobhan Wilson who had also been taken to hospital but was now at home.*

### **41/17 POLICING IN BRIDGWATER (Min 31/17):**

PC Dom Bryant was present and gave an update on police actions, particularly in the Town Centre, Dominic's key beat area. The logging of ASB calls in November was at an all time low and actions had been pursued in relation to a number of identified individuals. The Carnival, Remembrance Day, and the Christmas lights switch on, had all been supported by the police with little or no problems arising. The Town Council's support and regular contact was fully appreciated by the Town Centre Team. This Team was now up to full strength.

PC Bryant appreciated the telephone 101 delays and encouraged people with desires to contact the police on any matter to use the web contact. Shops and retail outlets were also encouraged to use this means of contact, and to share CCTV coverage of any incidents.

In terms of individuals and groups, community behaviour orders had been issued and specific actions taken in relation to gangs of youths with six prosecutions and the involvement of a Youth Interaction Officer. Plans were in place for the College Rag Day on 21/12/17 where PC Bryant would be accompanied by a lecturer from the College.

Members welcomed the good news and the partnership working which in the Town Centre area showed a true value between the Police and the Town Council. Other issues in the Town Centre, such as speed watch were

progressing.

**RESOLVED:** That PC Bryant be thanked for the Report and congratulated on actions in combating local issues.

**42/17 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26/10/17**

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 26/10/17 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record; and
2. that members note the availability of calendars for 2018 and a series of postcards commissioned through the Tourism Working Group based on a Bridgwater maritime theme.

**43/17 REPORT OF THE MUSEUM SUB COMMITTEE (30/10/17):**

The decisions and recommendations arising from the Meeting held on 30/10/17 (attached as an appendix) were circulated and introduced by Cllr Smedley and the Town Clerk in the absence of Cllr Loveridge . In approving the Report, members took note of Min 23 in relation to the Old Mill. The Town Clerk also reported that in conjunction with the Budget a replacement for the Museum photocopier was due (Min 16) and this could be achieved in the transfer of an existing machine from the Town Clerk's office and best price obtained in a joint leasing arrangement.

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

**44/17 REPORT OF THE TOWN DEVELOPMENT FORUM (14/11/17):**

Cllr Smedley, as Chair, introduced the Report. The concentration had been on a Northgate update presented by Doug Bamsey and Stuart Martin of SDC with attention on the next phase of plans. These were outlined in the minutes which welcomed the leisure-led nature of the proposals.

A list of key issues had also been identified for further examination through the Forum process. This would likely include progress on the Celebration Mile, and the Town Centre CIM bid, as advised to the Bridgwater Town Team.

**RESOLVED:** The Report be noted and planned actions approved.

**45/17 REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (29/11/17):**

The decisions and recommendations arising from the Meeting held on 29/11/17 (attached as an appendix) were circulated and introduced by the Chair, Cllr Smedley and the Town Clerk.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the Report be noted and approved;
2. that Min 25, the Report of the Youth Working Group, be endorsed and the five additional applications to the Youth Fund be sourced from the general Grants budget, and the issue of the press release noted; and
3. that in addition to the budget, the riders contained in Min 30, recommendations 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, dealing with the Town Hall, Environmental Working Party, PR and Tourism, and Staffing be approved alongside the budget detail set out in Min 46/17 below.

**46/17 BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2018/19:**

Based on the report by the Finance Committee (Min 30) and the revised information supplied in relation to the tax base, the revised anticipated shortfall grant and the high level principles previously established, it was:

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the high level principles previously established be confirmed, including the objective of the continuation budget;
2. that the revised draft budget be approved and adopted, requiring a Town Council precept of 56.5 per band D raising £549,226;
3. that the detailed budget paper for 2018/19 as revised and presented, be approved with funding requirements for the year at £746,370 with grant at £21,951, estimated income at £144,855 and earmarked allocations from all sources at £30,338;
4. that the updated earmarked funds and planned reserve funds, including restricted reserves, be noted and approved;
5. that the draft budget as set out in revision 3 be brought forward to the Town Council meeting on 11/01/18 for final confirmation;
6. that the paper giving the updated position on the Ward Grant Scheme for 2015/16 through to 2018/19 be noted; and
7. that further information and advice on lotteries provided by Local Authorities (Min 23) be noted and examined in due course.

**47/17 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS:**

**RESOLVED:** That the payments, including Section 137 payments made during November (month 8), and October (month 7) reported elsewhere, as circulated, be approved and confirmed, and income received during the periods together with the cost centre reports and bank reconciliations and investments be noted.

**48/17 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

- i. **Forward Plan 2017/18 (Tracker) (Min 38/17i) - Cllr Smedley**

introduced an updated version of the Forward Plan and references elsewhere on the Agenda. He reminded members that the next Town Council elections would be held in May 2019 and invited members to give thought to any nominations for Deputy Mayor in 2018/19.

ii. **Report of EDF/HPC Working Party (Min 33/17)** - an amended and updated version of the Report on Highway Works relevant to Bridgwater walking and cycling improvements, corridor safety reviews and small scheme proposals had been circulated by email to all members for noting.

iii. **Report of the Local Transport Forum (Min 34/17)** - Members noted that the submission by County Cllrs Loveridge and Redman to the County Small Improvement Schemes (SIS) programme relating to 20mph proposals were progressing through the system.

iv. **Report of the Twinning Forum (Min 36/17)** - The Chair presented the Report of the Twinning Forum held on 05/12/17 and activities associated with each of the Twinning Groups. Thanks were expressed to the Mayor and the Town Council for the celebration function and signings of anniversary agreements held with the respective groups from La Ciotat, Homberg (Efze) and Uherske Hradiste, prior to the fireworks celebrations on the day before the Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival.

**RESOLVED:** That the Report be noted and congratulations afforded to all Twinning Groups.

#### **49/17 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 30/11/17 (agenda item 11), and decisions taken as follows:

#### **Decisions:**

1. Bridgwater Town Team Meeting 07/12/17 and Snowflakes and Switch-on 24/11/17 – **Resolved:** that issues arising from the Meeting of the Town Team be noted with further reports to follow and all congratulated on the success of the Snowflakes and Switch-on event;

2. Town Centre Waste Issues Group Report and follow-up - **Resolved:** That the planned follow-ups in terms of the waste disposal contract and publicity information be noted and action already in place giving further advice to the planning process, and examinations by the Chamber of Commerce into bulk tendering of waste disposal for private operations be welcomed;

3. Lease of First Floor, 34 High Street - **Resolved:** That the action in completion of the lease to Oktay Akar (BoS Cafe) be confirmed;
4. Town Council Insurance Renewal Proposal - Zurich Insurance - 2018/19 (three years) - **Resolved:** That the information provided by the Town Clerk be approved and authority granted for the renewal of the insurance at the reduced cost for the three year period;
5. Grant Applications 2017/18 and Ward Grant Applications - **Resolved:** 1. That the application from the Bridgwater Allotment Tenants Association (BATA) tree works, car parking area, water main repairs and replacement fencing from the allotment's budget be approved in the sum of £3,790; 2. that the application from HCA for project funding to support the 'Hamp Together Team' be approved in the sum of £5,000; 3. that the receipt of the National Lottery Rewards for All grant in the sum of £9,700 for the "Belonging in Bridgwater" operation be noted and the additional £1,000 match funding from the Town Council be issued; and 4. that the latest update from Bridgwater Swimming Club be noted.

**For Information:**

Items 1 - 27 as circulated and including the following references:

Item 13 - Public Drop-in Sessions for Hinkley Point A - Magnox Waste Management Plans - planned presentation and discussion with Town Council in January;

Item 18 - SDC Review of Car Parking - BTC submission lodged - Town Council proposal for free parking not approved;

Item 25 - Bristol Road Cemetery - badger sets – rearranged fencing location - update report from Town Clerk noted in relation to proposals to extend the cemetery area including possible additional allocation of Muslim designated area with further report to be submitted:

**50/17      ADDITIONAL ITEMS:**

1.            Invitation to visit the Bridgwater Mosque in January 2018 - details to be circulated.
2.            Somerset Waste Partnership - November briefing incorporating revised festive collection dates.

The meeting finished at 8.35 pm

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Signed            Chairman