

# **BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 26 OCTOBER 2017 AT 7.30PM AT THE CHARTER HALL TOWN HALL BRIDGWATER**

**PRESENT:** Cllr GJ Granter (Mayor - in the Chair), Cllrs T Heywood, P Johnstone, L Leavy, MJ Lerry, AJ Moore, K Pearce, LP Redman, and BD Smedley

**Apologies:** Cllrs Cresswell, Glassford, Loveridge, Rodrigues, Turner and Wilson

### **31/17 POLICING IN BRIDGWATER (23/17):**

Sergeant Joe Piscina was present and gave an update on all the actions taken locally in response to issues previously raised by the Town Council and members of the public. He also reported replacement officers joining the Town Centre Team which would be up to full strength and thereby able to pursue the targeting action in relation to specific areas and individuals. The first of what was planned as regular stakeholder/business meetings had been held. He thanked the organisations and individuals who had supported the recent successful revocation of a license to sell alcohol from a premises in Binford Place.

A briefing note had been issued to officers in relation to the forthcoming Carnival. The police would also be in attendance at Remembrance Day and supporting the Snowflakes and Switch-on later in November.

More detail was given of continuing actions and likely outcomes, some of which had also required liaison with Social Care.

One notable issue in recent days, for which there was no clear reasoning, was the theft of cats.

The final reference from Sergeant Piscina was in relation to road policing, an issue which had also been raised in relation to the town centre and adjoining streets, and additional equipment for the speed watch. The public would be invited to support these actions.

The Mayor and Leader of Council expressed appreciation for the police actions, particularly those in relation to the town centre. A long wheelbase van causing problems near Eastover school had also been removed as a result of police action. Reference was also made to the forthcoming half-term and the need to be vigilant in maintaining a watch and managing groups of younger people which could also centre on Halloween.

*At this point in the meeting the Major adjourned proceedings to enable Mr Steve Coram, a member of the public, to address continuing issues in the Binford Place area and the reassurance that there would be no let up in the police response and reaction to complaints from businesses and particularly continuing problems into the early hours. He also welcomed the speed watch initiative which was also a problem in and around the Binford Place one way system.*

The Town Clerk also received assurances that notwithstanding the additional meetings with businesses and stakeholders, there would be no changes to the programme of multi-agency meetings.

**32/17 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14/09/17**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14/09/17 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record, and the follow-up and confirmation in relation to the closure of the Taunton Road toilets be noted.

**33/17 REPORT OF THE EDF/HPC WORKING PARTY (02/10/17):**

Members received the Report of the Working Party which had concentrated on updates related to highway works relevant to Bridgwater, walking and cycling improvements, corridor safety reviews and small scheme proposals. The Chairman commented on several of the items and identified those proposals and items where follow-up information had been requested. A further meeting would be planned with Andy Coupe of Somerset Highways to monitor progress.

**RESOLVED:** That the Report be received and approved and follow-up information awaited.

**34/17 REPORT OF THE LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM (03/10/17):**

Cllr Heywood, Chairman of the Transport Forum, introduced the Report and highlighted various items including those arising from the discussion with County Cllr John Woodman (responsible for Highways in the SCC Cabinet) and Director Alyn Jones. There was no interest from the County in a County-wide transport forum which had been requested but they would continue to support the Bridgwater Transport Forum. Cllr Heywood referred particularly to Government finance for bypasses which was dependent on housing development, progress with the Colley Lane link road but with continuing delays - highlighted by the Mayor – and the pressure for 20 mph limits in residential streets, including those submitted through County Cllr specialist schemes programme. The Forum continued to monitor changes in bus timetables and provision amid reducing financial support and the continuing efforts with Network Rail and Great Western to increase the number of trains visiting and stopping at Bridgwater and the pressure for improvements at the station as part and parcel of the Celebration Mile.

Cllr Redman also pointed to information available on proposed improvements to the M5 as major safety considerations.

**35/17 TOURISM FORUM REPORT (09/10/17):**

This Report was submitted as a follow-up to the Tourism Review Working Party and identified matters arising from the latter and the compilation of a Tourism Audit with proposals for the way forward. A number of new initiatives were planned and being implemented.

**RESOLVED:** That the Report be received and the initiatives supported.

**36/17 REPORT OF THE TWINNING FORUM (24/10/17):**

The Chairman presented the Report of the Twinning Forum and the activities associated with La Ciotat, Homberg (Efze), and Uherske Hradiste. Discussions were under way for a further Twinning week in 2018 and on 03/11/17 the Mayor had invited all Twinning Groups and visitors to a Continuity Exchange.

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

**37/17 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS:**

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

**38/17 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

i. **Forward Plan 2017/18 (Tracker) (Min 28/17i)** - Cllr Smedley introduced an updated version of the Forward Plan and references elsewhere on the Agenda. Members noted the issues identified in the Town Centre walkabout held on 18/09/17 and those which were being followed up.

ii. **Quantock Road Cemetery - request for additional noticeboard (Min 28/17iii)** - the Town Clerk confirmed the purchase of the additional noticeboard at a cost of £1,500 (to be checked).

iii. **Town Development Forum - next meeting** - arrangements had been made for the next meeting of the Town Development Forum to be held at 7.30 pm on 14/11/17 at which Stuart Martin of SDC would present an update on the next phase of Northgate.

iv. **Bridgwater Together Celebration** - Members took note of the programme for the week commencing 28/10/17.

v. **Born in Bridgwater** - Cllr Kath Pearce confirmed that she would pursue and follow-up the meeting held at the hospital and the Town Council's support for the Born in Bridgwater campaign, with plans to check out the usage since the introduction of 24/7 maternity services.

vi. **Hinkley Congestion Monies** - Cllr Lerry confirmed that in connection with the Celebration Mile the Clare Street and Angel Crescent area were being surveyed for new plans to be brought forward.

### **39/17 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 19/10/17 (agenda item 11), and decisions taken as follows:

#### **Decisions:**

1. SDC Car Park Charges - Review 2018/19 - **Resolved:** That the Town Council object to the increase in fees and represent that the first two hours should be free with costs over and above that period of stay held at the current level, taking into account the loss of car parking, the poor standard of some temporary parking provided and the severe impacts of recent road works and congestion on town centre retailing;
2. Grant Thornton - conclusion of Audit 2016/17 - **Resolved:** That the conclusion of the Audit with no issues raised be noted and the account in the sum of £1,300 plus vat be paid;
3. Bridgwater Heritage Regeneration Partnership (BHRP) - funding grant, 57 Eastover - **Resolved:** That the Town Council contribution of £300 be paid;
4. Parliamentary Boundary Review - papers issued by email - **Resolved:** That the consultation running from 17/10/17 to 11/12/17 but with no major impact on the Town of Bridgwater, be noted;
5. Grant Applications 2017/18 and Ward Grant Applications - **Resolved:** 1. That the applications from Sydenham Community Centre for core funding and project funding (£15k and £5k) be approved and the Ward Grant application for Hamp Ward - Taunton Road Lakes Residents Association - for gardening equipment at £500 be approved; 2. That the request for Grant support from Tilly Bond of 4 Carver Close towards her participation in the Somerset Cricket Board Girls Under 17 Tour to Sri Lanka be referred to SDC as outside the scope of the Grant Scheme for the Town Council; and 3. that the Youth Grant application from

the Bridgwater Swimming Club be referred to the Youth Panel.  
(Cllr Granter declared an interest as a member of the Sydenham Community Centre Board)

**For Information:**

Items 1 - 23 as circulated and including the following references:

Item 3 - Somerset Youth and Community Service - action taken by Cllr Lerry;

Item 4 - SCC Family Support Services - consultation on potential changes - information provided by Cllr Redman on online process and representations against cuts in service, and by Cllr Lerry confirming drop-in events including those at Victoria Park and opportunity to oppose cuts and closures.

**40/17      ADDITIONAL ITEMS:**

1.            Bridgwater Hospital Additional Resources - the Mayor raised a question about the impacts of the Hinkley Point construction site and support through the Clinical Commission Group for Bridgwater Hospital. Cllr Redman confirmed that much of the Hinkley response was contained on site through specialist GP and nurse provision thereby looking to deal with the pre-empting of need for hospitalisation. He was pursuing through SCC Health and Wellbeing satisfactory response as appropriate.

2.            Town Hall Steward - the Town Council were informed that Mr Jerry Stedman had suffered a serious illness and members sent good wishes with a wish for a speedy recovery.

3.            Bridgwater Furniture Store - Cllr Pearce advised of discussions underway with a view to securing a replacement for the furniture store which had recently closed.

The meeting finished at 8.45 pm

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Signed            Chairman