

BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

**HELD ON THURSDAY 11 JANUARY 2018 AT 7.30PM
AT THE CHARTER HALL TOWN HALL BRIDGWATER**

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

Apologies: Cllrs Cresswell, Rodrigues, Turner and Wilson

51/17 POLICING IN BRIDGWATER (Min 41/17):

Sergeant Joe Piscina was present and gave an update on police actions, particularly those impacting on the Town Centre. Events through December and into the New Year had generally seen little trouble caused and as an example, the beat officers had worked closely with the college through Rag Day. Steps had been taken to deal with the traditional increase in shop lifting through the Christmas period which, again, had proved generally successful. Of six Orders issued to individuals, there had been one breach.

There had been some evidence of rough sleepers moving out of the Town Centre into housing estates - this was being followed up. Again, in general terms, by working with other agencies early interventions were offered and taken up in most cases.

It was clearly obvious that the full capacity in the Town Centre Beat Team area was beneficial and the presence of officers continued to make the most significant difference and allow early response to issues.

Members notified of occasions where problems were still identified, and the Mayor commended the attendance of officers and the work carried out in the Town.

52/17 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 07/12/17 RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 07/12/17 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

43/17 REPORT OF THE STAFFING SUB-COMMITTEE :

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Sub-Committee had been circulated and were introduced by the Chair, Cllr Lerry. He explained fully each of the issues which had been dealt with, and the position with the post of Town Clerk and

Responsible Financial Officer and Town Hall Steward.

In respect of the item dealing with care allowance, members noted the Town Clerk's observation that it was understood that further advice on the implications for Town and Parish Council was anticipated from the Government and/or the National Association of Local Councils. This may affect the arrangement which suggested that any proposals by a town or parish council needed to be submitted, and agreed by the Standards Committee of the District Council.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted and the action points and recommendations endorsed.

54/17 REPORT OF THE LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM (09/01/18):

Cllr Heywood, Chair of the Transport Forum, introduced the Report and highlighted various items in the Minutes which had been circulated.

He drew particular attention to the impact of additional lorry movements to EDF/HPC, and in broad outline the mitigation which had been agreed as part of the package. Some detail was still awaited, including the criteria for double glazing for residential properties on the routes from Junction 23 and Junction 24, which was anticipated to be similar to the criteria applied in the village of Cannington.

Cllr Heywood expanded on the information in relation to Bridgwater Station improvements, anticipated increased rail services and the programming of platform works and works planned to significantly assist people with disabilities. He drew particular attention to the consultation period currently running, which gave the opportunity to comment on station improvements in the consideration of the future of the Great Western franchise.

This was available at <HTTPS://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-future-of-the-great-western-franchise>

The other significant point was in relation to the Docks lease, and considerations being reviewed by the Canals and Rivers Trust and the Inland Waterways Association and local groups. Clarification on future plans was to be sought from SCC.

RESOLVED: That the Report be received and approved and members invited to support the specific issues to which attention has been drawn.

55/17 BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2018/19 (Min 46/17):

The Town Clerk circulated the detailed Budget by Centre and the Budget Paper based on the recommendations of the Finance Committee and the decisions set

out in Min 46/17.

Cllr Smedley, as Chair of the Finance Committee, explained where action had been taken in preparation for the implementation of the budget proposals in the new financial year, including plans to examine a business toilet scheme.

RESOLVED: That the detail as set out in the Resolutions of Min 46/17 be approved and adopted, requiring a Town Council precept of 56.5 per band D, raising a precept of £549,226.

56/17 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS:

RESOLVED: That the payments, including Section 137 payments made during December (month 9) itemising all cheques and DDRs, be approved and confirmed, and income received during the period together with the cost centre reports and bank reconciliations and investments be noted.

57/17 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. Members were reminded that at the March meeting, nominations would be sought for the election of Deputy Mayor 2018/19 and that it was planned to organise a further meeting with SDC representatives as a follow-up to the meeting with the Interim Chief Executive, now permanently in-post.

ii. **Report of EDF/HPC Working Party (Min 48/17ii)** - Cllr Redman updated members following the authorisation of consent for the increase in HGV movements, via the Transport Review Group procedures. He pointed out that this would not affect existing hourly limits and increases were likely earlier and later in the day where capacity limits had not been reached.

iii. **Report of the Museum Sub Committee (Min 33/17)** - As advised, terms had been agreed for a new three year photocopier lease agreement which included the transfer of the existing machine from the Town Clerk's office to the Blake Museum. Cllr Loveridge, as Chair of the Sub-Committee, confirmed that he had followed up the trace of the coping stones, originally on the pillars at Sydenham Villa. He would try to identify suitable relocation either at the Museum or in the Sydenham area, as suggested by members.

58/17 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2018/19:

A provisional calendar for the period from May 2018 had been tabled.

RESOLVED: That the calendar be approved with members requested to advise the Town Clerk should there be any conflicting dates.

59/17 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 04/01/18 (agenda item 11), and decisions taken as follows:

Decisions:

1. Trinity Hall - representations about refurbishment and redecoration - **Resolved:** That this be reviewed as an urgent item and encompassed within the purview of the Town Hall (Halls) Working Party, and further quotations be sought for the carrying out of essential works;
2. Town centre waste issues, cleaning and toilet provision - Cllr Pearce introduced the Minutes of the follow-up meeting held on 12/12/17 and confirmed the information awaited from Clean Surrounds and being followed up pending the next meeting;
3. Meads Steering Group - access strategy and signage - **Resolved:** That either of the examples be accepted with the preference for inclusion of a map;
4. Blake Gardens Band Concerts - **Resolved:** That the possible plans for providing concerts through Sedgemoor FM be noted and agreed within budget;
5. Grant Applications 2017/18 and Ward Grant Applications 2017/18 - none received - follow-up information on grant awarded for Portugal Day on 10/06/17 noted.

For Information:

Items 1 - 13 as circulated and in particular item 5, Public Drop-in Sessions for Hinkley Point A - Magnox Waste Management Plans - meeting held and planning application due for submission whereupon next stages of consultation will be arranged, including in the town.

60/17 EXEMPT ITEM - EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC:

RESOLVED: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of business recorded in Min 61/17 on the grounds that this would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Section 1 of the Local Government Act 1972.

61/17 THE BRIDGWATER CUP 2017:

RESOLVED:

1. That having considered the worthy merits of eligible nominations, the Cup be awarded to Mr Mike Slade in recognition of his services to organisations and the community of Bridgwater, and in particular association with the upkeep of Bridgwater Docks and the Canal, and involvement with the Inland Waterways Association and the organisation of local groups; and
2. that members recognise the work of others nominated and their invaluable support to the community, and all nominees be thanked for their submissions.

The meeting finished at 8.55 pm

.....
Signed Chairman