

BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 08 MARCH 2018 AT 7.30PM AT THE CHARTER HALL TOWN HALL BRIDGWATER

PRESENT: Cllr GJ Granter (Mayor - in the Chair), Cllrs M Cresswell, T Heywood, P Johnstone, L Leavy, MJ Lerry, DP Loveridge, K Pearce, LP Redman, D Rodrigues, BD Smedley and S Wilson

Apologies: Cllrs Glassford, Moore, Morley and Turner

Prior to the commencement of the Meeting, the Mayor invited all present to stand in silence to the memory of former Mayors and Councillors - Ken Richards and Mike Briscombe, who had recently passed away. He thanked all those members who had attended the respective funerals.

62/17 POLICING IN BRIDGWATER (Min 51/17):

Acting Sergeant Jennifer Atkinson was present and gave an update on police actions, particularly those impacting on the Town Centre. Recorded crime over the recent period had reached a record low, although there continued some occasional issues in and around the Town Centre, identifying Piggy Hill as one location. Current resources in the main area had been reduced due to an investigation in Burnham on Sea which had demanded high resource attention. With some recent movement of officers, steps were now in place to restructure the Town Centre Team back to full strength. She also reported on the work of the Youth Engagement Partnership and a project, to which Town Centre businesses and the Town Council had, through the Town Clerk, contributed. She was pleased to announce that the Town Centre Beat Team had been nominated for an award, and Billy Cooper PCSO had received the nomination as PCSO of the Year.

Sergeant Atkinson confirmed that no specific issues had been recorded as a result of the increase in numbers of workers, particularly on the HPC project, and that issues at Piggy Lane and the Rollercoaster were being dealt with.

In line with actions being pursued, members also asked for police support in monitoring locations where 20mph limits were in existence and where weight limits on vehicles were being exploited.

63/17 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11/01/18:

Arising from Min 54/17 - Report of the Local Transport Forum - Cllr Heywood, as Chair, drew attention to discussions and representations to GWR in support of Bridgwater Station and from 13/03/18 earlier consultations with Network Rail and

GWR on plans for the future upgrading of Bridgwater Station.

64/17 REPORT OF THE TOWN TWINNING FORUM (22/01/18) :

Cllr Smedley introduced the Report which had been circulated confirming that arrangements for the Twinning Conference in June were being finalised. Link contacts continued with Priverno (Italy) and a further invite had been received from Uherske Hradiste (Czech Republic) to attend a Twin Town meeting in Czech Republic from 18 – 20/05/18

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted and approved.

65/17 REPORT OF THE TRANSPORT FORUM AND WORKING PARTY (23/01/18):

The Town Clerk confirmed that information was awaited on the timetable for publication of the Guide in 2018, and members had also examined and brought forward other promotional ideas. The calendars produced had been a success with only four or so remaining, and Cllr Smedley confirmed that the exercise would be repeated for 2019 with a “Bridgwater Through the Seasons” theme.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted and planned actions approved.

66/17 REPORT OF THE YOUTH WORKING PARTY (05/03/18):

The Report of the Youth Working Party had been circulated and Cllr Rodrigues, as Chair, pointed to an increase in Youth Grants to £10,000 available for 2018/19 and a revised Terms of Reference. The Working Party had also concluded an initiative to create a Youth Council should be promoted, and the actions taken to put this in place with the drawing up of Terms of Reference and a Constitution.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Report of the Youth Working Party be approved; and
2. that the actions planned towards the creation of a Youth Council be endorsed and further detail provided on Terms of Reference and Constitution.

67/17 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS:

RESOLVED: That the payments, including Section 137 payments made during January (month 10) and February (month 11) 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.

68/17 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

i. Forward Plan 2017/18 (Tracker) (Min 57/17i) - Cllr Smedley introduced an updated version of the Forward Plan and references elsewhere on the Agenda.

Cllr Pearce drew attention to the planned Report on Sustainable Futures including aims for reduction in single use plastics, due to be submitted in April 2018.

ii. Report of EDF/HPC Working Party (Min 57/17ii) - Transport Noise Insulation Scheme (provisionally of double glazing) to dwellings on the designated HGV routes in Bridgwater as a consequence of the consent for the increase in HGV movements. Cllr Redman outlined the Scheme coming forward as an EDF project, with attendance and a number of members at a recent workshop. The extension of this Scheme to "A" roads was unique but had been sought by Bridgwater Town Council from the outset and was due to come into effect with the signing of the Section 106 Agreement and would adopt similar principles to those which had been established for the Scheme already in existence in Cannington. Further detailed information was due shortly with EDF planning to letter all qualifying properties on the routes through Bridgwater.

iii. Report of the Staffing Sub Committee - Care Allowance (Min 53/17) - Resolved: That in the light of agreement in principle, this be taken forward through the upcoming meeting of the Finance Committee, upon consideration of the outline of a suitable scheme to be brought forward by Cllr Lerry as Chair.

iv. Report of the Local Transport Forum - submissions relating to 20mph limitations in Polden Street and Wellington Road area (Min 54/17) - Cllr Heywood confirmed further discussions with the Executive Member and Director at the County Council in relation to the SIS bids which had been submitted with a record number of SIS bids considered; the bid in relation to the Polden Street area had progressed through stage 1 and a decision on the next stage was expected by the end of the month.

Members emphasised the Council's adopted policy that 20mph should be established for all schools across Bridgwater, but recognised that approval and implementation rested still with the County Council as Highway Authority. Members confirmed the intention to press on a town-wide basis.

69/17 TOWN DEVELOPMENT FORUM:

Members were reminded that a meeting of the Town Development Forum had been set for 13/03/18, which would include the plans and proposals for the scheme (CIM supported) for enhancement and improvements in Fore Street and

related areas.

70/17 ANNUAL MEETING AND MAYOR MAKING 11/05/18:

Members discussed detailed arrangements for the Mayor Making meeting following a draft paper circulated.

RESOLVED:

1. That the agenda and programme be prepared as now agreed; and
2. that Cllr Tony Heywood be nominated as Deputy Town Mayor for the period ending at the Annual Meeting 2019.

71/17 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 01/03/18 (agenda item 10), and decisions taken as follows:

Decisions:

1. Town Hall and Trinity Hall - **Resolved:** That a meeting of the Working Party be convened at Trinity Hall to examine options in terms of maximising use and usage; and that options for the redecoration and refurbishment following representations be considered with the quotations;
2. Town Centre Waste Issues, Cleaning and Toilet Provision - follow-up meeting 07/03/18 - Cllr Pearce confirmed that the meeting had been held with various issues in and around the Town Centre addressed, in particular in relation to HMO's and flats, and enforcement and the need for vigilance in dealing with cleansing and waste issues. She also explained that a new waste contract seeking additional flexibilities was being drawn up to go out to tender, and that in consequence it would be useful to invite Nick Cater of the Somerset Waste Partnership to the next meeting - **Resolved:** That the Report be noted and the invitation extended;

(Cllr Loveridge gave an explanation of actions which should be taken in the event of fly tipping following information provided at a Scrutiny Committee. Fly tipping items should not be addressed but referred to the Somerset Waste Partnership.)

3. Art UK Sculpture Project - **Resolved:** That BTC support the project, noting actions taken by the Blake Museum;
4. Cemeteries - the Town Clerk gave a brief update on the need to move forward with action being taken both at Quantock Road and Bristol Road -

Resolved: That this be noted and the Schedule of Fees for 2018/19 be referred to Finance Committee for confirmation.

5. Christmas Lighting Scheme - **Resolved:** That the suggestions for an extra crossing at York Buildings and the St Mary's tree proposal be approved, subject to consents of the property owners for implementation;

6. Licensing Act 2003 - minor variation to layout proposal for M&S Store at Bridgwater Retail Park - **Resolved:** That no objection be raised;

7. Grant Applications 2017/18/19 - **Resolved:** That the applications received from ACTs Theatre School, Bridgwater Flower Show, Tuga Productions, Bridgwater Dementia Action Alliance and Life Education Wessex and Thames Valley referred to the Finance Committee on 14/03/18.

For Information:

Items 1 - 30 as circulated and in particular to note:

Item 10 - Bridgwater Town Team - next meeting 17/04/18;

Item 13 - Review of Bus Stop Location at Taunton Road, opposite TR Medical Centre - alternative options unlikely to be acceptable in view of the interests of travelling public.

The meeting finished at 8.40 pm

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Signed Chairman