

BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12 APRIL 2018 AT 7.30PM AT THE CHARTER HALL TOWN HALL BRIDGWATER

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

Apologies: Cllrs Moore, Morley and Turner

72/17 POLICING IN BRIDGWATER (Min 62/17):

PC Dom Bryant was present, accompanied by PCSO Nicola Satherley and gave an update on current policing matters. Reported anti-social behaviour, particularly in the Town Centre, was at a record low. Across the Beat area some 20 individuals had been taken through the criminal justice system and three more were awaiting processing. This had been the impact of the strategy adopted. Interviews were now being conducted for membership of the Town Beat Team aimed to get back up to full strength with the move of other officers to different teams in the Town. Members congratulated the Beat Team on the work they had carried out and welcomed the continuing presence on the streets. There was no doubt that this presence, which was firmly supported by PC Bryant, had the most significant impact. PC Bryant confirmed that some changes in hours were planned within the Team shift pattern to prepare for the lighter nights and warmer weather, and ensure coverage of officers through the Town.

Cllr Heywood referred to some issues raised through the Transport Forum in relation to the Bascule Bridge and HGV use. PC Bryant agreed to take this back to the traffic section, and the use of cameras and sensors on the traffic lights governing the Bascule Bridge would be checked out. It was also planned to bring the police van back on a regular basis to increase visibility in the Town Centre Beats.

The Mayor welcomed the continuing co-operation evident through the regular reporting and links with the Town Council.

73/17 PUBLIC SPEAKING (ADJOURNMENT) - WASTE AND RUBBISH COLLECTION:

Mrs Sally Jones highlighted a number of difficulties faced with residential properties in the Ruborough Road area through the failure to collect rubbish bins. She emphasised that this made the prospect of three week collection more

daunting and whilst happy to accept increased recycling, was concerned that some of the bags provided were not good enough. Her complaints arose from the impact of rubbish left around the Town and what she felt the lack of value for money for council tax payers. Mr Nick Cater, Communications Officer for the Somerset Waste Partnership, responded to these points in a lead in to the next item targeted at the re-fill project and the environment report produced by Cllr Kathy Pearce, Deputy Leader and Environmental Lead.

74/17 SOMERSET WASTE PARTNERSHIP PRESENTATION - RE-FILL PROJECT AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT:

In the introduction, Nick Cater confirmed that it would be 2020 and under the terms of a new contract before the three week collections would start and possibly later. Those with missed collections were asked to call in and it was generally dealt with within two days. The Somerset Waste Partnership were only responsible if their operatives dropped or left litter. He also confirmed that the waste element was a relatively small part of the council tax paid by individual householders.

He then went on to describe the re-fill project with its origins in Bristol, and the initial concentration in the City. This was now being spread more widely with SWP targeting a number of Somerset towns. This roll-out had been aided by funding from the Water Industry which had enabled central organisation to be set up, and a range of District Councils and Town and Parish Councils to sign up. Environmental Health in SDC were already part and they welcomed a Town Council involvement. He then explained the impacts of food waste recycling and major benefits once cut from rubbish bins. Recycling had been extended to plastic bottles, with a range being adopted into the new contract, and current trials being undertaken on varying types of plastic to maximise income.

Cllr Pearce thanked Mr Cater for his Report and introduced the elements of the Report she had prepared. The Community Scrutiny Committee of SDC were reviewing the reduction in single use plastics and increasing recycling.

RESOLVED:

1. That Mr Cater be thanked for the Presentation;
2. that the Environment Report be approved; and
3. that the Town Council support the initiative aimed to secure reduction in single use plastics, thus reducing waste and increasing recycling.

75/17 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 08/03/18

RESOLVED:

1. That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 08/03/18 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record;

2. That arising from Min 70/17 - Annual Meeting and Mayor Making 11/05/18 - Cllr Smedley be substituted for Cllr Moore in seconding the election of the Town Mayor, following advice of absence from Cllr Moore on that day.

76/17 REPORT OF THE TOWN DEVELOPMENT FORUM (13/03/18):

The Report had been circulated and covered the presentation by Sam Harper who had given an update on works planned for the Town Centre, partly funded through the HPC CIM (Community Impact Mitigation) Funding. The Forum had welcomed the proposals and supported the plans. Cllr Redman emphasised the importance of the works to the Town Centre in mitigation of impacts from traffic, and the increasing activities associated with the HPC works.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council endorse the support of the project, note the next steps and future plans, and confirm the continuing involvement.

77/17 REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (14/03/18):

The decisions and recommendations arising from the meeting held on 14/03/18 (attached as an appendix) were circulated and introduced by the Chair - Cllr Smedley and the Town Clerk. In approving the Report, particular note was taken of the confirmation of the Budget 2018/19, the Staffing Sub-Committee report (Care Allowance item Min 83/17ii below), and the internal audit report and actions. In response to the possibility of Ward Grant monies being used to support preparations by individual schools to join into the Quayside Festival, members noted that an additional grant of £7k had already been offered over and above finance provided through the CIM fund and Town Team involvement.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted and approved.

78/17 REPORT OF THE TOWN TWINNING FORUM (19/03/18):

Cllr Smedley introduced the Report which had been circulated taking forward the plans for the Twinning Week, and the intentions of each of the individual Twinning Societies.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted and approved.

79/17 REPORT OF THE TOWN HALL(S) WORKING PARTY (29/03/18):

The Report dealing with the Town Hall refurbishment and redecoration programme and ancillary sound and lighting issues, together with the review of usage, decoration and future use of Trinity Hall was presented and introduced by the Chair, Cllr Redman, and the Town Clerk. The appointment of Mr Ian Quinn to the role of Town Hall Steward/Caretaker was confirmed.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted and all matters taken forward as recommended by the Working Party and set out in the Report.

80/17 REPORT OF THE LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM (03/04/18):

The Chair, Cllr Heywood, introduced the Report expanding on each of the issues in relation to the Railway Station and planned works, safety issues in relation to the Bus Station and the "Use A Bus Campaign" planned during the week of 02/07/18. He also confirmed the commencement of works on the Colley Lane Relief Road, and the awaited decisions in relation to the 20mph proposals. Apart from action through the Forum, the Inland Waterways Association had produced a booklet aimed to get support for the heritage aspects of the Bascule Bridge which had also been mentioned in the earlier police item. The Forum remained concerned that the SCC vision appeared not to include Bridgwater, whilst the interests of the Town continued to promote the desire for a county-wide Transport Forum.

Cllr Heywood offered to follow-up a question from Cllr Loveridge suggesting that some First Bus services, with the exception of Service 21, may be withdrawn.

RESOLVED: That the Report of the Forum be noted and the planned actions followed.

81/17 REPORT OF THE MUSEUM SUB-COMMITTEE (09/04/18):

The decisions and recommendations arising from the Meeting held on 09/04/18 (attached as an appendix) were circulated and introduced by Cllr Loveridge and the Town Clerk. Cllr Loveridge reported the opening of the Museum with works carried out through the winter and encouraged all members to visit. The Town Clerk added comment to the Report of the Museum Curators, particularly in relation to the St Mary's pew runner and the painting acquired by the Somerset Heritage Trust of John Allen. He also drew attention to the next actions in relation to the Old Mill project.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted and approved.

82/17 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS:

RESOLVED: That the payments, including Section 137 payments made during March 2018 (month 12) 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.

83/17 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

- i. **Forward Plan 2017/18 (Tracker) (Min 68/17i) - Cllr Smedley**

introduced an updated version of the Forward Plan and references elsewhere on the agenda.

ii. **Report of the Staffing Sub-Committee - Care Allowance (Min 68/17iii) - Resolved:** That in the light of the approval of the Report submitted to the SDC Remuneration Panel, the Scheme as recommended be implemented for 2018/19 with immediate effect and the Care Allowance Claim Form as circulated approved.

84/17 STREET CLEANING AND PLANS FOR 2018/19:

The Town Clerk confirmed that the contribution to the extension of the street cleaning regime in the Town as previously presented had been received with a budget cost to BTC of £11,185. This was within budget. Further information was also provided by Cllr Smedley on the proposals and response to the experimental business toilet use scheme, where two businesses could be signed up at a cost of £1000 for the two, again within budget.

RESOLVED:

1. That the proposal to extend the street cleaning regime as advised, be approved; and
2. that the business toilet use scheme be implemented offering to two businesses at £500 each.

85/17 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 05/04/18 (agenda item 15), and decisions taken as follows:

Decisions:

1. Community Impact Mitigation (CIM) Bids:
 1. Bridgwater Library and Blake Gardens - **Resolved:** That this be supported but the financial commitment be further examined dependent upon the elements of the original Blake Gardens Enhancement Scheme to be included and further detail on any contribution anticipated from the Town Council towards the Library improvements be made a part of the bid;
 2. CIM Bid Victoria Ward Bridgwater - environmental regeneration of green spaces - **Resolved:** That the Town Council support for the bid be confirmed;
 3. CIM Bid Town Centre, including Town Bridge and Fore Street Enhancements - **Resolved:** That the implementation of the improvements as presented to the Town Development Forum (Min 76/17 above) be confirmed;

4. Bower Ponds Play Area Refurbishment - **Resolved:** That the proposal put forward by SDC from the Parks Development Budget be noted and subject to the usual criteria application be invited from the BTC Grant Fund for any collaborating organisation or match funding from other funding sources;
5. Eastover Multi-Games Area - **Resolved:** That BTC support the application of RLT3 monies towards the upgrading of the surface and creation of a new access point subject to examination of an increase in height of the boundary fencing on the boundary with the Bowls Club;
6. Balloons and Sky Lantern Release Policy - **Resolved:** That the request related to Town Council Cemetery Land as a consequence of SDC consideration of extending the Policy be agreed in principle, subject to circulation of the copies of the Policy and comments of members;
7. Parrett Tidal Barrier - Stakeholder Sub-Group - Opportunities and Enhancements Meeting 09/03/18 - **Resolved:** That following from this Meeting the Environment Agency offered to be represented at the Annual Town Meeting on 09/05/18 to give an update on the Barrage Proposal be confirmed;
8. Mayor Making - Mayor's Consort Badge of Office - **Resolved:** That new regalia be purchased at a cost of £1k from Thomas Fattorini Ltd;
9. Grant Applications and Ward Grant Applications 2018/19 - **Resolved:** That the Hamp Ward Grant - Friends of Meads, equipment for maintenance and project work on Eco Park, be approved in the sum of £500, and the issue of Ward Grant availability to end financial year 2019 be noted;
10. Sponsorship - BGFCC - Pre-Carnival Fireworks Display - **Resolved:** That the sponsorship of the display be confirmed and paid as budgeted with the agreed acknowledgements in the sum of £5200;
11. Funding Requests/Grants - Re-ordering of St Mary's Church and Musgrove Park Hospital MRI Scanner Campaign - **Resolved:** That these requests be referred to the Finance Committee in the first instance.

For Information:

Items 1 - 15 as circulated.

86/17 ADDITIONAL ITEM:

1. Painting on permanent loan to St Mary's Church "The Descent from the Cross, Peter with the Virgin Magdalene and St John"

RESOLVED: That before accepting the interest of the TV programme, steps be put in place to explore the alternative offer of expert investigative work.

The meeting finished at 9.05 pm

.....
Signed Chairman