

BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 25 OCTOBER 2018 AT 7.30PM AT THE CHARTER HALL TOWN HALL BRIDGWATER

PRESENT: Cllr D Rodrigues (Mayor - in the Chair), Cllrs M Cresswell, AM Glassford, GJ Granter, P Johnstone, L Leavy, M Lerry, D Loveridge, A Moore, L Redman, BD Smedley & S Wilson

Apologies: Cllrs Heywood, Morley, Pearce, and Turner

41/18 POLICING IN BRIDGWATER (Min 30/18):

Sergeant Joe Piscina was present and gave an update on policing matters. He explained the roles which he and Sergeant Ryan Edwards now undertook following the implementation of the restructuring designed to enhance the management of Neighbourhood Policing. This would involve the responsibilities of the teams in terms of numbers of PCSOs and Police Officers through the management of four teams, upscaling of PCSOs and activities and dedicated areas with the ability to target specific areas or specific criminal activities as needs arose. There would be targeting of shop lifting and speeding in coming months.

Sergeant Piscina also gave an update on the recent serious crime in the George Street area, for which investigations and forensic examinations continued. He assured members that this was seen as an isolated incident.

Members raised a series of questions in relation to the roll-out of changes in the policing methods, coverage of areas like the Town Centre and the estates in the town. Sergeant Piscina also took note of three particular issues for further examination.

The Mayor welcomed Sergeant Piscina back to his Bridgwater brief and thanked him for his attendance and the information provided.

42/18 REPORT OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL (Min 33/18):

The Report of the inaugural meeting held on 20/09/18 had been circulated. The Mayor, who had taken the Chair, introduced the Report and congratulated all those young people present on their contributions and interest. This was part of a process of widening the scope of the Town Council's interest and extending empowerment as a means of contributing to the activities of the Town Council. Those present had been invited to consider a number of issues for further discussion at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes be approved and the issues raised noted and this new initiative welcomed.

43/18 REPORT OF THE TOURISM FORUM (27/09/18):

Cllr Smedley introduced the Minutes of the Tourism Forum, highlighting the issues which had been discussed and which had contributed to the preparation of the Tourism Brochure. This would be launched on 02/11/18 and he reported conversations with Take One Media to support the distribution of the new Tourism Guide. The possibility of including distribution of other Council information such as the Museum Brochures would be considered.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Report of the Tourism Forum be accepted and the Tourism Working Party notes of the meeting held on 24/10/18 be approved;
2. that the launch of the new Tourism Brochure be welcomed; and
3. that the use of Take One Media as one means of distributing the brochure be approved subject to confirmation of the distribution and costs related thereto

44/18 REPORT OF THE LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM (02/10/18):

The Report covering the various issues raised at the Forum was introduced by Cllr Smedley in the absence of the Chair, Cllr Heywood. Members noted the various issues which had been considered and in particular noted the continuing lobbying and activity in relation to the Cross-Country Train Consultation and the desire to secure additional stopping trains at Bridgwater Station.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted and the actions taken endorsed.

45/18 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13/09/18:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13/09/18 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

46/18 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (13/09/18):

- i. Forward Plan 2018/19 (Tracker) (Min 36/18i)** - Cllr Smedley introduced the updated version of the Forward Plan with items also referred elsewhere on the Agenda. This was noted.
- ii. Bridgwater Post Office, Eastover (Min 36/18ii)** - The Town Clerk gave an update on the current position with the aim of retaining the Post Office in the current location in Eastover. At the same time, it was also reported that an additional Sub-Area Post Office was to be provided at Londis, 135 Taunton Road, with effect from 13/11/18.

iii. Town Hall(s) and Properties Working Party:

1. **Trinity Hall** (Min 35/18iii) - The Town Clerk confirmed that the Planning Consent for the change of use from Community Hall (Use Class D1) to bike workshop and sales (B1) had been granted. The "On Your Bike" temporary premises in Eastover had opened the previous Thursday with the Deputy Mayor "cutting the chain". Negotiations would now continue on terms for the operation to relocate to Trinity Hall.

RESOLVED: That this be noted and a further report received on the terms to be agreed.

2. **Town Hall Stage Curtains** - Members were informed of the latest major element in the continuing programme of refurbishment and upgrade of the main Town Hall Theatre, stage and facilities, which included the replacement of the stage curtains. Cllr Redman advised that a major contribution to this had been provided from the earmarked restricted reserves held by the Town Council. These were funds donated following the winding up of the 'Bridgwater Theatre Trust' whose original aim was a new theatre.

RESOLVED: That members acknowledge the contribution of the 'Bridgwater Theatre Trust' and record the Council's appreciation for the donation.

47/18 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS:

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

48/18 MAYORAL ITEMS - RETIREMENT OF TOWN CLERK:

The Mayor referred to the impending retirement of the present Town Clerk, Alan Hurford, and invited all members to join him in appreciation of the contribution by the Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer over the past 15 years, with particular reference to the progress of the Town Council and the support to the Mayors and Councillors throughout that time. Members individually endorsed the remarks and the Town Clerk responded briefly thanking all members and staff for their support and contributions to what had been a long standing "team" effort.

49/18 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 18/10/18

(agenda item 11) and decisions taken as follows:

Decisions:

1. Bridgwater Town Team, Snowflakes and Switch-On and Christmas Lights - **Resolved:** That the meeting of the Town Team held on 02/10/18 and preparations for Snowflakes and Switch-On following the meeting on 18/10/18, including additions to the Christmas lighting programme, be noted and all those involved thanked for their co-operation and support; that the Town Team intention to produce an updated version of the existing Town Guide be endorsed.
2. SDC Scrutiny through the Task and Finish Working Group - rejuvenation of Town Centres Meeting - **Resolved:** That this deferred item be noted awaiting further report.
3. Somerset Library Service - recommendations - **Resolved:** That the recommendations in relation to the Library Service be noted, appreciating that the Bridgwater Library is to continue as is, and that a further report would be requested on the funding bid, which includes Blake Gardens, in which the Town Council are a partner organisation.
4. Joint Parishes Cluster 09/10/18 - **Resolved:** This be noted but the stance of the Town Council in relation to recent changes to the Cluster arrangements be confirmed.
5. Town Hall - Fire Safety Risk Assessment - **Resolved:** That the review of the current Risk Assessment and update by Threeways Fire Prevention Services in conjunction with the use of the Town Hall Theatre for the recent Carnival Concerts, be noted; and that action taken to implement minor works required and for those to be addressed with the planned target date of Nov 2019 be noted and a budget requirement made available.
6. Somerset Waste Partnership - Pledge Against Preventable Plastic - **Resolved:** That the request for support for the distribution of reminders be noted.
7. Grant Applications – **Resolved:** That the application from Ups and Downs South West - production and distribution of Downs Syndrome Awareness video be referred to the Finance Committee and the letter of thanks for the grant for clock maintenance from St Mary's Church be noted.

(Cllr Cresswell declared an interest in Ups and Downs South West as his charity in his role as Chairman of SDC - took no part in the consideration and did not vote thereon.)

For Information:

Items 1 - 15 as circulated noting particularly the completion of the Grant Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding (Bridgwater Town Council and North Petherton Town Council/Sedgemoor District Council and Somerset County Council) for cycle and footway improvements in southern Bridgwater and North Petherton through the Community Mitigation Scheme.

**50/18 ADDITIONAL ITEM - ST MARY'S CHURCH ALTER PAINTING OF
"THE DESCENT FROM THE CROSS":**

RESOLVED: That the follow-up and visit from the BBC TV with interest in the picture be noted and pursued in the manner recommended by the Town Clerk without commitment.

The meeting finished at 8.45 pm

Signed
Chair