



Minutes of Environment Committee held in the Bridgwater Room, on Wednesday 18 October 2023 at 10:00

Councillors Present:

Dave Loveridge, Liz Leavy, Rachel Lilley, Richard Morgan, Tim Mander, Jacqui Solomon (vice chair), and Gill Slocombe who is not on the committee but the chair agreed she could join the meeting to discuss matters but had no rights to vote

Officers: David Mears – Town Clerk, Lorna Williams -Democratic Services officer, Matt Mills-Cemetery Supervisor

ENV2023/18 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO APPROVE THE REASONS GIVEN (LGA 1972 S85 (1))

RESOLVED: Apologies were received and reasons for absence accepted from Cllr Hubble who had work commitments and Cllr Pearce who was not well – however she was connected to the meeting remotely and took part in the discussions but took no part in voting.

ENV2023/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS Members to declare any interests, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Town Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any prior requests from members for Dispensations that accord with Localism Act 2011 s33(b-e) (NB this does not preclude any later declarations)

There were no declarations of interest.

ENV2023/20 TO RECEIVE, APPROVE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26 JULY 2023 (LGA 1972 SCH 12, PARA 41(1))

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Environment Committee held on 26 July 2023 were signed as a correct record

ENV2023/21 TO NOTE THE ACTION LIST

The Action List was noted



ENV2023/22 FEEDBACK FROM THE CLERK ON THE TOWN COUNCILS INVOLVEMENT AT BRIDGWATER FAIR AND MARKET AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2024

The Clerk provided the meeting with a review of the Town Councils involvement at Bridgwater Fair and Market:-

- As from next year Bridgwater Town Council will be responsible for the organising both the West Street market and the Wednesday one day market
- The Showman's Guild will continue to organise the Fair Ground
- We will provide support through Stewarding and operating a cash office and staffing the barriers with road closures (Martyn's Law)
- introducing that the litter will be cleared on the Wednesday afternoon from the 1 day market and looking to introduce a bond for stall holders as a deterrent for dropping litter
- Introducing that the toilets will be cleaned more than once a day
- Will use technology to draw up layout plans of site
- Introduce simple forms for traders so they can be filled in on-line
- There will be pre-event meetings with the Showmans Guild although the main focus for BTC will be on the stall holders

ENV2023/23 PARKS AND OPEN SPACES to discuss and agree equipment required and provide authorisation for the Clerk to proceed.

Under devolution there will be a transfer of Parks and Open Spaces from Somerset Council to the Town Council, this is expected to happen before the new financial year 2024. Two additional vehicles will be required, will be looking at leasing. These will have to be diesel as need the power. Other equipment will also be needed including hedge cutters and strimmers.

ACTION - A report will be presented at the Full Town Council meeting in December Cllr Loveridge to write to the Clerk regarding people driving over grass verges and parkland and churning up the grass – this complaint will be passed onto Somerset Council

ENV2023/24 TREES

ENV2023/24.1 TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE RESULTS OF TREE RISK SURVEY

The tree survey report was noted.



ENV2023/24.2 TO RECEIVE AND UPDATE FROM THE FACILITIES MANAGER ON THE TREES FOR FAIRFIELD ALLOTMENTS

The Fairfield Allotment Orchard report was noted.

ACTION: Allotment Manager to apply to the Woodland Trust for fruit tree saplings

ENV2023/25 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE FACILITIES MANAGER ON ALLOTMENTS

The allotment report was noted

ENV2023/26 CEMETERIES

ENV2023/26.1 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CEMETERIES SUPERVISOR

The report from the Cemeteries Supervisor was noted

ENV2023/26.2 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CEMETERIES ADMINISTRATOR AND RESOLVE TO ACCEPT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cemeteries report was noted and two items were discussed and agreed from the recommendations within the report.

RESOLVED: to accept option 1 – that the deceased having previously been a resident of Bridgwater Town Parish prior to having been (beyond their control) moved into residential care outside the Bridgwater Parish, along with no time limit attached to their time in Residential Care should only pay single fees.

RESOLVED: In the Children's Garden of Rest to allow a stand-alone vase of 8" x 8" x 8" to sit directly onto the concrete plinth.

The Committee congratulated the Cemeteries Team on their achievement on winning a Silver award in the '*BRAMM Bereaved Community Award 2023*'

ENV2023/27 TO NOTE THE TRIGGER RESOLUTION LETTER FOR TAUNTON ROAD ALLOTMENTS

The Trigger Resolution letter was noted



ENV2023/28 SEED THE DAY to receive feedback and plans for the future from Cllr. Pearce

Through her remote link Cllr Pearce informed the meeting of the review carried out after the

SEED the day event and plans for future next year:

- There was a downturn in stall holders, but this was national
- The shoppers who had attended were very engaged in what the stall holders had to offer
- Next year look at changing its location to Blake gardens, arrange good advertising from the Town Centre
- Combine vegan and eco- friendly into the event
- Would invite the Library and suggest a story tent, have live music and community performers, guest speakers and encourage more local traders
- Engage early with the Bridgwater Chamber of Commerce

The meeting supported the event to continue and agreed that Blake Gardens would be a suitable venue for next year. 14th September was the agreed date for SEED the day 2024

ENV2023/29 ENERGY SAVING To receive an update from Cllr. Pearce on discussions with Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE)

Cllr Pearce informed the meeting that she had been to a couple of meetings recently with the Centre for Sustainable Energy. Their discussions have been centered around Community Centres and Warm Rooms.

ENV2023/30 TO DISCUSS PLASTIC FREE COMMUNITIES

Cllr Pearce suggested that there was a need to create a Steering Group with the aim of organising an event to include an anti-litter campaign and beach clean.

ENV2023/31 TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER A RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS AND STATEMENT RECEIVED AT THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING IN AUGUST

The meeting considered and responded to each point in order:-

1. Technology – surveillance, the Town Council are not responsible for surveillance so therefore have no authority on provision
2. The use of intensive telecommunication masts, 5G street lighting – The Town Council are not responsible for the decision on the installation, in planning the Town Council is only a consultee
3. Usage of electric cars and vehicles – Electric vans are cheaper to maintain and operate than diesel



BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL

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4. Flower planters – The planters in Fore St. (pedestrianised) are the responsibility of the Town council – all other planters in Bridgwater are currently the responsibility of Somerset Council. They are positioned to prevent vehicles from cutting through and protect pedestrians. The emergency services were consulted.
5. Consultation on the Celebration Mile – it was a disappointing response rate and should have been promoted more by Somerset Council. The Town Council has Forums that are open to the public.

The Town Council will look at changing its website as consultations can be run through sites. In future will use more media platforms, such as Facebook.
Cllr Slocombe agreed to present the document to Somerset Council.

ENV2023/32 CLIMATE FORUM AND STRATEGY to arrange a date for a meeting of the working party.

Cllrs Lerry, Morgan and Solomon are attending Carbon Literacy training.
Action – date to be set for a Climate Forum meeting and a Strategy meeting

ENV2023/33 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting dated noted - Wednesday 24 January 2024

The Chairman closed the meeting at 11:23

End of document

Signed.....

Dated.....