



## Notice of the next Council Meeting

Members of the Public and the Press are invited to attend all Council Meetings  
(Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960)

Dear Councillors,

You are hereby summoned to attend the following meeting:

### Meeting of... Full Town Council

**Place... Auditorium, Town Hall, High Street, Bridgwater.**

**Date... Thursday, March 14, 2024**

**Time... 19:00**

Councillors will be discussing all the items listed overleaf on the Agenda.

Yours faithfully

David Mears

**David Mears FdA FSLCC**

**Town Clerk**

**6 March 2024**

#### **(Prior to the start of the meeting)**

#### **Questions and comments from members of the public**

To ask a question or speak at a meeting, you will need to submit your request to a member of the Democratic Services Team in advance of the meeting. You can request to speak at a council meeting by emailing your full name, the agenda item and your question to the Democratic Services Team emailing [enquiries@bridgwater-tc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@bridgwater-tc.gov.uk) Any requests need to be received by 5pm on the day that provides 2 clear working days before the meeting (excluding the day of the meeting itself). For example, if the meeting is due to take place on a Thursday, requests need to be received by 5pm on the Monday prior to the meeting. The Chair will invite you to speak at the beginning of the meeting under the agenda item Public Question Time, but speaking is limited to 3 minutes. You can only speak to the Council or Committee once. If there are a group of people attending to speak about a particular item, then a representative should be chosen to speak on behalf of the group.

1N.B Councils cannot lawfully decide items of business that is not specified in the summons/agenda (LGA1972 Sch 12, paras 10(2)(b) and Longfield Parish Council v Wright (1918) 88 LJ Ch 119).

Under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, any members of the public are allowed to take photographs, film, and audio record the proceedings and report on all public meetings (including on social media). No prior notification is needed but it would be helpful to let the office know of any plans to film or record so that any necessary arrangements can be made to provide reasonable facilities to report on meetings. This permission does not extend to private meetings or parts of meetings which are not open to the public. All recording and photography equipment should be taken away if a public meeting moves into a session which is not open to the Public.

If you are recording the meeting, you are asked to act in a reasonable manner and not disrupt the conduct of meetings, for example by using intrusive lighting, flash photography or asking people to repeat statements for the benefit of the recording. You may not make an oral commentary during the meeting. The Chairman has the power to control public recording and/or reporting so it does not disrupt the meeting. Recording must be clearly visible to anyone at the meeting

# **A G E N D A**

**TC2024/16 - To receive Apologies for Absence**

**TC2024/17 - 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)

**TC2024/18 - To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Council Meetings held on Thursday 1 February 2024, (LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41(1))**

**TC2024/19 - Mayor Announcements**

**TC2024/20 - To receive a report from the Town Council Leader Cllr Smedley to update members on matters of interest (N.B no decisions can be taken(1))**

**TC2024/21 - To receive an oral update from the Town Clerk including an update on devolution**

**TC2024/22 - To receive Portfolio Holders reports and consider recommendations**

**TC2024/22.1 - Climate and Environment**

**TC2024/22.2 - Economy and Staffing**

**TC2024/22.3 - Property**

**TC2024/23 - To receive Outside Bodies Reports**

**TC2024/24 - To Note the Action List**

**TC2024/25 - Finance - to note the year-to-date budget as of 6th March 2024**

**TC2024/26 - Finance – to note the accounts for payments & income received for February 2024**

To note items of expenditure as approved under delegated authority or under previous Council/Committee decisions

**TC2024/27 - Bank Mandate**

To agree to remove the existing Finance Officer, add the Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) and the Finance Officer to the Bank Mandate

**TC2024/28 - Motion proposal by Cllr Leavy**

That this council confirms its support for Bridgwater Carnival and steps in to provide funding to Bridgwater Carnival (that was previously funded by Somerset Council that has now been withdrawn) for safety barriers and additional toilets for Bridgwater's 2024 carnival. This funding (£16,000) to be taken from the Community Development 'Devolution Contingency' budget for the financial year 2024/25.

**TC2024/29 - The Meads**

to take over ownership and responsibility for the Meads from Somerset Council

**TC2024/30 - To consider replacing the Welcome to Bridgwater sign on the approach from the A39 at the new Cockerhurst Farm development**

**TC2024/31 - To confirm the appointment of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services as the Council's the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO, s151 LGA1972)**

and that the Town Clerk and CEO is the Deputy RFO from 15 April 2024 as recommended by the interview panel.

**TC2024/32 - To note the date of the Annual Town Council Meeting**

Thursday May 9th 2024

***End of Agenda***

**Councillors:**

Mick Lerry (Chair), Brian Smedley (Leader), Dave Loveridge, Gill Slocombe, Irena Hubble, Jacqui Solomon, Kathy Pearce, Leigh Redman, Liz Leavy, Liz Marsh, Rachel Lilley, Richard Morgan, Suria Aujla, Tim Mander, Tony Heywood, Diogo Rodrigues,