



## Minutes of the Meeting of Bridgwater Town Council held on Thursday 5 December 2019 at 19:00hrs in the Charter Hall, Town Hall, Bridgwater.

### **Present** - Councillors

T Heywood – (Mayor)	M Lerry
G Burrows	D Loveridge
M Cresswell	K Pearce
L Gibson	L Redman
G Granter	B Smedley
L Leavy	D Rodrigues

### **In Attendance:**

David Mears PSLCC – Town Clerk. There was 1 member of the public and no members of the press present.

### **TC2019/112 To receive Apologies for Absence and to approve the reasons given** (LGA 1972 s85 (1))

Apologies were received from Cllr J Cordiner who is unwell and Cllrs' S Aujla, R Lilley and G Slocombe who all have conflicting engagements.

**RESOLVED** – to accept the apologies and to approve the reasons given.

**TC2019/113 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)

No declarations were declared.

### **TC2019/114 To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Thursday 24 October 2019** (LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41(1))

**RESOLVED** - that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Thursday 24 October 2019 be signed as a correct record.

### **TC2019/115 Mayor Announcements**

The Mayor, Cllr Heywood wished everyone a Happy Christmas.

**TC2019/116 Town Council Leader**– Cllr Smedley to update members on matters of interest and forward plan *(N.B no decisions can be taken<sup>1</sup>)*

The Leader of the Council, Cllr Smedley briefly outlined the work on the budget and thanked the Town Clerk for his work on producing the budget and for making significant savings in the current financial year. The Visitor Guide for 2020 has been launched and is being distributed across the UK by Takeone media. Plans to relaunch the Youth Council are progressing well. Plans are also underway to bring the Funchal choir from Madeira to Bridgwater during 2020.

**TC2019/117 Portfolio Holders – to receive written reports (if any) from Portfolio Holders** *(N.B no decisions can be taken<sup>1</sup>)*

No reports received.

**TC2019/118 Town Clerk’s Oral Report** –update on progress since the last meeting and items of information *(N.B no decisions can be taken<sup>1</sup>)*

The Town Clerk updated councillors on the recent Snowflakes event, the replacement Christmas Tree for Cornhill, which was donated by N B Huggett Builders. The smaller tree that was replaced was donated to YMCA. Office hours over the Christmas period – close at noon on 24 December and reopen on 2 January 2020. Emails and Voicemails will be monitored over this period.

**TC2019/119 Twinning** – to receive updates on matters relating to Twinning in Bridgwater *(N.B no decisions can be taken<sup>1</sup>)*

Delegations from Marsa (Malta) and La Ciotat (France) attended Bridgwater’s Carnival. Plans are underway for ‘Twinning Week 2020’.

**TC2019/120 Forums** – to receive minutes of recent forum(s) meetings and to discuss issues raised *(N.B no decisions can be taken<sup>1</sup>)*

No forums since the last meeting.

**TC2019/121 Notice of Motion received from Cllr M Lerry on 18 November 2019** “that this Council resolves to request that the Economic Portfolio Holder and Town Clerk:

- to work with Sedgemoor District Council to identify Bridgwater’s key anchor institutions and begin discussions with them on the possibility of a local approach to using procurement to spend locally wherever possible; and
- to identify the amount of money that is removed from the local area through public sector spending on goods and services, in order to inform a wider strategic approach to community wealth building in Bridgwater.

**RESOLVED** - to work with Sedgemoor District Council to identify Bridgwater’s key anchor institutions and begin discussions with them on the possibility of a local approach to using procurement to spend locally wherever possible; and to identify the amount of money that is removed from the local area through public sector spending on goods and services, in order to inform a wider strategic approach to community wealth building in Bridgwater.

---

<sup>1</sup>N. 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).

**TC2019/122 Finance** – to adopt the revised Financial Regulations. N.B NALC issued a revised set in July.

**RESOLVED** - to adopt the revised Financial Regulations with a slight amendment to page numbering.

**TC2019/123 Finance** – to note the Year to Date Budget as of 29 November 2019.

**RESOLVED** – to note

**TC2019/124 Finance** –Accounts for Payment and Income - to note items of expenditure and income for October 2019

**RESOLVED** – to note

**TC2019/125 To resolve to exclude members of the press and public - To agree that agenda item TC2019/126, 127, 128 and 129 be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded as publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960**

**RESOLVED** - that agenda item TC2019/126, 127 and 128 be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded as publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted [Public Bodies \(Admission to Meetings\) Act 1960](#)

**TC2019/126 Cemeteries update**

An update was provided on the current negotiations with SDC and the planning for the transition of handover. Direction of travel was provided to the Town Clerk in relation to The Lodge.

**TC2019/127 To receive and discuss draft budget**

**RESOLVED** – to note the draft budget.

**TC2019/128 To note and approve the decision of the Finance and Policy Executive Committee on the new staff structure.**

**RESOLVED** – to note and approve the new staff structure.

**TC2019/129 Bridgwater Cup – to consider the process for the Bridgwater Cup Competition**

**RESOLVED** – that the Civic Triad will discuss and review options to modernise the Bridgwater Cup Competition. Any thoughts or suggestions to be submitted to the Civic Triad.

With no further business the meeting closed at 20:09

Signed .....

Date .....