



Minutes of Bridgwater Town Council held in the Auditorium; Town Hall on Thursday 1 February 2024 at 19:00

Present:

Councillors: Lerry (Chair), Heywood, Hubble, Leavy, Mander, Marsh, Pearce, Rodrigues, Slocombe, Smedley, and Solomon

Officers: David Mears, Town Clerk and Amy Storey, Office Administration Assistant

There were 9 members of the public, 1 member from Bridgwater Mercury and 3 members of the Police present.

Public Question time: Questions over transparency and accountability were received from a member of the public. It was explained that all background papers for meetings are on the Council's website.

TC2024/1 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED: Apologies were received from Councillor Lilley who had work commitments, Councillor Aujla who was unwell, and Councillor Redman who had family commitments.

TC2024/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

RESOLVED: Councillor Rodrigues had a personal interest due to Bridgwater Chamber of Commerce receiving grant money from Bridgwater Town Council. There were no other declarations of interests declared.

TC2024/3 TO APPROVE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER 2023, (LGA 1972 SCH 12, PARA 41(1))

RESOLVED: To approve and sign the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Thursday 7 December 2023 as a correct record.



TC2024/4 MAYOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESOLVED: The Mayor and Mayoress attended the Christmas Fayre held by Bridgwater Town Council on December 3rd, 2023, and the Pantomime which they were accompanied by the Deputy Mayor.

TC2024/5 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))

RESOLVED: No report will be received until certain areas have been approved.

TC2024/6 TO RECEIVE PORTFOLIO HOLDERS REPORTS AND CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS

RESOLVED:

Questions for the Property Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Slocombe asked if the damaged building next to the Art Centre has been refurbished. Councillor Mander confirmed the work has been completed and the owners are satisfied with the work carried out.

Questions for the Community Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Slocombe asked what the uptake was from the Police Safety Forum and if Hybrid meetings were available for those who cannot attend. Councillor Marsh confirmed the meetings were every 3 months and all Councillors are invited to raise questions on behalf of the public in their ward which can be answered by the Police of Town Wardens. Hybrid meetings can be made available.

Questions for the Economy Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Slocombe asked if the Docks has now been resolved. Councillor Mander responded on behalf of Councillor Lerry: The Docks is yet to be resolved but the CRT lease has ended, however, work still needs to be done and specialist advice to be given. The ownership is still currently with Somerset Council.

Councillor Rodrigues asked if the shops which were planned to go under Angel Place which are now not happening a decision or an opinion. Councillor Lerry confirmed that the new owners decided to pull out of the scheme and the money will now be going to the celebration mile and contribute towards the refurbishment of the Town Hall.

No more questions were received.



TC2024/7 TO RECEIVE OUTSIDE BODIES REPORTS

RESOLVED: No Outside Bodies Reports were received.

TC2024/8 TO NOTE THE ACTION LIST

RESOLVED: To note that we are unable to gain access to the old Royal British Legion building until it is on the market.

TC2024/9 FINANCE - TO NOTE THE YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET AS OF 8TH JANUARY 2024

RESOLVED: To note.

TC2024/10 FINANCE – TO NOTE THE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENTS & INCOME RECEIVED FOR DECEMBER 2023

RESOLVED: To note.

TC2024/11 MEMBERS ALLOWANCE SCHEME

RESOLVED: To adopt a Members Allowance Scheme.

TC2024/12 TO APPROVE THE BUDGET AND PRECEPT DEMAND FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/25 AND PACKAGE OF DEVOLUTION FROM SOMERSET COUNCIL

RESOLVED: To approve recommendations 1 – 4 of the Town Clerk’s report and to set a budget of £3,507,917 and a precept of £3,071,221.

A recorded vote was requested:

For: Cllrs: B Smedley, M Lerry, K Pearce, D Loveridge, T Mander, L Leavy, J Solomon, L Marsh, I Hubble and T Heywood.

Abstentions: Cllrs D Rodrigues and G Slocombe.



TC2024/13 STAFF EVALUATION REPORT

RESOLVED: To agree the Staff Evaluation Report and recommendations contained therein.

TC2024/14 TO NOTE THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE SRA FLOOD RISK STRATEGY CONSULTATION

RESOLVED: To note.

TC2024/15 TO NOTE THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

14th March 2024

RESOLVED: To note.

The Chairman closed the meeting at **20:42**

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Signed.....

Dated.....