



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 Meeting

Place... Auditorium

Date... Thursday, December 7, 2023

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

4 December 2023

19.00 (Prior to the start of the meeting)

Questions and comments from members of the public

This provides an opportunity for members of the public (who are not usually permitted to speak during the meeting except by special invitation of the Chairman) to participate before the start of the meeting by asking questions, raising concerns, or making comments on matters affecting Bridgwater. No decision can be taken during this session¹, but the Chairman may decide to refer any matters raised for further consideration.

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).

Policing in Bridgwater

A representative from Bridgwater's Police Team (if present) are invited to provide updates and discuss issues in Bridgwater.

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

TC2023/98 - To receive Apologies for Absence and to approve the reasons given (LGA 1972 s85 (1))

TC2023/99 - 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)

TC2023/100 - To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Council Meetings held on Thursday 12 October 2023, (LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41(1))

TC2023/101 - Mayor Announcements

TC2023/102 - 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))

TC2023/103 - To receive a report from the Town Clerk

TC2023/104 - To receive Portfolio Holders reports and consider recommendations

TC2023/105 - To receive Outside Bodies Reports

TC2023/106 - To receive the projects officer's report

To adopt the recommendations contained therein. In addition to approve using funds from reserves to convert the identified rooms into residential accommodation and to give delegated authority to the town clerk in conjunction with the portfolio holder for properties to commence tendering and to award tenders for the work and to commence works.

TC2023/107 - To Note the Action List

TC2023/108 - Finance - to note the year-to-date budget as of 5th December 2023

TC2023/109 - Finance – to note the accounts for payment & income received for November 2023

TC2023/110 - To note the direction of travel for the draft budget preparation and devolution

TC2023/111 - To ratify the Town Clerk's decision that the Council leases a unit at Axe Road to house the park and open spaces team

TC2023/112 - Motion from Cllr Smedley - to amend standing order 3e to include:

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

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.

TC2023/113 - To authorise the Town Clerk in conjunction with the Properties Portfolio Holder to liaise with the agents of the former Royal British Legion Building in Castle Street

to ascertain a sale price of the property and to develop a proposal to submit to the Government's Community Ownership Fund. The Town Clerk may use funds from the professional fees budget to appoint a bid writer due to timescales.

TC2023/114 - To note the Date of the Next Meeting

Thursday 18th January 2024

End of Agenda

Committee Member

Councillors: Brian Smedley, Dave Loveridge, Gill Slocombe, Irena Hubble, Jacqui Solomon, Kathy Pearce, Leigh Redman, Liz Leavy, Liz Marsh, Mick Lerry, Rachel Lilley, Richard Morgan, Suria Aujla, Tim Mander, Tony Heywood,