

BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 02 AUGUST 2018 AT 7.30PM AT THE TOWN HALL BRIDGWATER

PRESENT: Cllr D Rodrigues (Mayor - in the Chair), Cllrs M Cresswell, AM Glassford, T Heywood, P Johnstone, L Leavy, M Lerry, A Moore, P Morley, K Pearce, L Redman, and BD Smedley

Apologies: Cllrs Granter, Loveridge, Turner and Wilson

14/18 POLICING IN BRIDGWATER (Min 01/18):

PC Dom Bryant was present, accompanied by PCSO Dan Wheller and gave an update on policing matters. Recorded anti-social behaviour continued at an all-time low. PC Bryant then reported recent staff changes which would lead to better coverage in the Town Centre, including welcoming Dan Wheller back. A series of coffee drop-ins with a police presence had been arranged at the Arts Centre and St Mary's Church. Coverage on the radio contact scheme had increased with new businesses joining.

Some of the Town Centre issues remained in terms of rough sleeping, but was being monitored and dealt with.

Questions were raised about the improved staffing levels, the coverage of Hamp and the Town Centre Teams, and specifically follow-ups on the Bascule Bridge.

Some specific issues were raised around locations of Manley Gardens and Turner Close, and would be followed up. The Mayor thanked the Officers for their attendance.

15/18 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14/06/18:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14/06/18 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

16/18 REPORT OF THE YOUTH WORKING PARTY (18/06/18):

The Mayor introduced the Report which had been circulated confirming the Youth Grants which had been awarded. Some finance was available for a further round of grants to be determined in September with three new applications received to date. Plans for the creation of a Youth Council were going forward with interest from all the secondary schools, the college and youth organisations. Contact had also been made with the Somerset Youth Council. The project was due to be launched on 20/09/18.

RESOLVED: That the Report be welcomed and the actions taken endorsed.

**17/18 REPORT OF THE TOWN TOURISM FORUM (20/06/18): and
TOWN GUIDE WORKING PARTY (30/07/18):**

Cllr Smedley introduced the Reports which had been circulated and outlined the action plan for the production “in house” of a Town Brochure. This was intended to be solely tourism focussed rather than the style of Town Guide which had been produced for a number of years. The Working Party was now supported by representation from SDC. The aim was to produce the publication prior to Bridgwater Carnival 2018.

RESOLVED: That the Reports be noted and actions taken confirmed.

18/18 REPORT OF THE TOWN TWINNING FORUM (25/06/18):

Cllr Smedley introduced the Report which had been circulated, including reports by each of the Twinning Societies. Most notable events coming up were a visit by a Maltese Youth Rugby Team and a visit later in the year by representatives from Proverno where it was planned to complete the signing of a Twinning Agreement as a follow-up to that signed in Italy previously. The Cultural Exchange Art Project led by the Arts Centre with Homberg was moving forward.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted and approved.

19/18 REPORT OF THE LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM (03/07/18):

The Report covering the various issues raised at the Forum was introduced by Cllr Heywood. GWR had been absent but a meeting was being set up later this month with members from the Town Council and District Council to secure an update, particularly on plans for the Station; and responses on the Cross-Country Franchise consultation. Cllr Heywood also gave updates on plans for the introduction of 20mph restrictions, the Bascule Bridge, and the examination of plans for residents parking and petitions in the Barclay Street and Cranleigh Gardens area. First Bus had attended the Forum and another proposal going forward was to press for an electronic timetable display at the Bus Station.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted and actions taken endorsed.

20/18 REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (11/07/18):

The Report of the Finance Committee (attached as an appendix) was introduced by Cllr Smedley and the Town Clerk. Members noted particularly items related to the Arts Centre, the Tourism Forum, the approval of the Community Toilet Scheme, and the EDF/HPC Community Impact Mitigation fund bid for Bridgwater Library/Blake Gardens which had subsequently been approved through a Leader’s Report dated 12/07/18 after delegation to the Leader, Deputy Leader and Town Clerk. The Report of the Staffing Sub-Committee dated 28/06/18 and

recommendations was also presented with details of the appointment of a new Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to be presented in due course following the previous day interviews.

RESOLVED: That the Report be approved and all items actioned as agreed by the Finance Committee or recommended.

21/18 TOWN HALL(S) and PROPERTIES WORKING PARTY (12/07/18):

Cllr Redman, as Chair, introduced the Working Party Report dealing specifically with the Town Hall, where the refurbishment and redecoration programme was nearing completion, and the future of Trinity Hall.

In relation to Trinity Hall, the outcome of the consultation exercise with the interest of the organisation "On Your Bike" was examined and the recommendation adopted. The Town Clerk reminded members of the full wording of the clause in the SDC Agreement which would require variation and the need for planning permission for the user proposed. Reference was also made to the options, to a petition which had been received, and the steps which would now need to be taken to implement the recommendation.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Working Party Report be approved;
2. that the Town Council support the proposal to agree a Lease Contract to be set up between the Charity "On Your Bike" for the use of Trinity Hall as a base for operations in Bridgwater, and authority for negotiation of the said Contract be delegated to the Chair of the Working Party and the Town Clerk.

(Cllr Cresswell declared a pecuniary interest in this matter and Cllr Pearce declared an interest as a member of the Development Committee of SDC and both took no part in the consideration of the matter.)

22/18 REPORT OF THE MUSEUM SUB-COMMITTEE (23/07/18):

In the absence of the Chairman, the Town Clerk introduced the Report of the Museum Sub-Committee and drew attention to the primary issues which had been raised. This included acknowledgement of the hard work by all the volunteers in maintaining and enhancing the standard of the Museum and the role of Rachel Bellamy as Mentor, succeeding Elizabeth Neathey. Members also acknowledged the involvement of the Museum as part of the Bridgwater Cultural Partnership.

23/18 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS:

RESOLVED: That the payments, including Section 137 payments made during July (month 4) and June (month 3) as reported to the Finance Committee itemising all cheques and DDRs paid, be approved and confirmed, and income received during the period together with the cost centre reports and bank reconciliations and investments be noted.

24/18 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (14/06/18):

i. **Forward Plan 2018/19 (Tracker) (Min 08/18i)** - Cllr Smedley introduced the updated version of the Forward Plan with items also referred elsewhere on the Agenda and which had also taken into account a meeting with the Chief Executive of SDC and discussion on the priorities for the Municipal Year.

ii. **Report of the Staffing Sub-Committee (Min 08/18ii)** - Following on from Min 20/18 above and the Report of the Finance Committee, members noted the position following interviews held on the previous day.

iii. **Bridgwater Post Office, Eastover (Min 09/18i)** - The Town Clerk gave an update following further communication with the Post Office and contact with the owners of the premises in Eastover, which was working towards a long-term solution in that location.

iv. **Road Scheme - Quantock Road Roundabout Improvements (Min 09/18ii)** - The Town Clerk confirmed that the Scheme was being progressed and due to commence in October 2018 and completed in three phases with phase 1 completed by Christmas and phases 2 and 3 in the early part of 2019. Plans were displayed illustrating the works to be undertaken, planned so that traffic disruption would be minimised as far as possible to enable constant flows through the scheme works.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

25/18 EDF/HPC TRANSPORT FORUM (02/08/18):

Cllr Redman and the Town Clerk reported on their attendance at a meeting of the Transport Forum earlier in the evening. In addition to reports elsewhere, this meeting had received an update on the Bristol Road/Wylds Road improvement works. This indicated and gave reasons for why, the Company were proposing through a review of the Section 106 Agreement, to put forward a postponement of the Scheme which was now expected to take some 24 months rather than the four months envisaged in the Development Consent Order inquiry. There would now be a full consultation on the delay in the Scheme, possibly not now commencing until 2023, in the Company's terms, avoiding the current high

volumes of HGV movements and further negative impacts on businesses. Apart from the formal consultation processes with the Local Authorities, the Town Council had requested and received assurance that there would be a wider consultation through the due process on any proposed changes to the implementation plans including time scales and extent of works. Members acknowledged this major surprise given that all the individual schemes had been argued as a necessity in lieu of requests by the Town Council and others for a bypass to be constructed between the M5 and Hinkley Point C and/or the C182.

RESOLVED: That this be noted and a further report requested as information becomes available.

26/18 MAYORAL ITEMS:

The Mayor reported upon his visit to Bridgwater Hospital in celebration of 70 years of the National Health Service and in particular the success of the maternity unit which had been questioned previously. He also explained plans for a public forum through Facebook where he, in company with the Leader of Council, would respond to questions from members of the public.

27/18 PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

The Town Clerk reported on correspondence and papers received, those for decision and those for information.

RESOLVED: That all items be noted as listed in the Report dated 26/07/18 (agenda item 15) and decisions taken as follows:

Decisions:

1. Bridgwater Town Team - meeting of 10/07/18 and follow-up of SDC Community Scrutiny Task and Finish Working Group: Rejuvenation of Town Centres initial meeting - **Resolved:** That the information be noted and the further report received with the outcome of the Task and Finish Working Group.
2. CIM Bid - Town Centre - grant of planning permission for public realm enhancement works in Fore Street and adjoining areas, and update on Town bridge lighting scheme – **Resolved:** That the Report be noted, including commencement of works on the Town Bridge architectural lighting scheme and planned testing.
3. Rollercoaster Youth Club - confirmation of affiliation to SY&CS April 2018 - March 2020 and renewal of grant - **Resolved:** That arrangements be made for confirmation of the grant, with the certificate and plaque to be presented to the Club by the Mayor.

4. Tidal Barrier - Opportunities and Enhancements Sub-Group - meeting 09/03/18 - **Resolved:** That the update be noted.

5. Sedgemoor South West Parishes Cluster Group - meeting of 19/06/18 - **Resolved:** That the Town Council's continuing concerns about the inadequacy for the Town of the new Cluster arrangements be reiterated but support confirmed for the RLT3 application (Bridgwater Cluster) for the Bower Ponds play area refurbishment and in doing so the Council seek confirmation of the way in which the RLT3 monies (and RLT2) are administered specifically within the Town boundaries.

6. SDC Gambling Policy - completion of consultation - **Resolved:** That no representations be made on the assumption that the final draft will be submitted to SDC on 06/07/18.

7. Grant Applications:

1. General Grants - **Resolved:** That the following grants be approved:

(i) Sydenham Community Centre - Core Funding (£15,000)

(ii) Hamp Community Association - Core Funding (£15,000) and Project Funding - refurbishment and renewal of changing accommodation at Mansfield Park (£5,000)

(iii) Love Musgrove - MRI Scanner Appeal (£500 - as recommended by Finance Committee)

(iv) Somerset Film and Video Ltd - Bridgwater Together Event (fourth year) - (£1,000)

(v) Victoria Park Community Centre Core Funding - (£2,000 balance)

2. Ward Grant Applications 2018/19 - **Resolved:** That the ward grant from Fairfax - Bower Ponds play area refurbishment and new equipment (£2,000) be approved.

For Information:

Items 1 - 20 as circulated noting the success of the second Bridgwater Quayside Festival and members request for support for the band concerts in Blake Gardens on Sunday afternoons through the summer.

28/18 ADDITIONAL ITEM - PARKING SIGNS:

RESOLVED: That Cllr Heywood pursue improvements to the parking signs for car parks in Bridgwater through SDC.

The meeting finished at 8.53 pm

Signed

Chair

