

BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14 JUNE 2018 AT 7.30PM AT THE CHARTER HALL TOWN HALL BRIDGWATER

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

Apologies: Cllrs Lerry, Loveridge, Redman and Turner

01/18 POLICING IN BRIDGWATER (Min 72/17):

PC Dom Bryant was present and gave an update on current policing matters. Reported anti-social behaviour, particularly in the Town Centre, continued at a record low. Preparations were in hand for a possible increase coming into the summer months targeting still the Town Centre and public parks. A new experienced PCSO would be joining the Town Centre Team shortly and the scheme to combat ASB working with schools and colleges would be brought in in the coming week.

Cllr Smedley sought police involvement in the CIM bids, approved for the Town Centre, and going forward for the Library and Blake Gardens. This was confirmed. Other issues were raised in relation to the Bascule Bridge where response was still awaited, activities at the Hamp Estate, and the impact of unreasonable parking in the Eastover area, roughly between 5 and 7 pm. PC Bryant also commented on the staffing levels and impact of changes.

The meeting was adjourned briefly for public speaking where Mr Steve Coram referred to the actions which had been taken to combat anti-social behaviour in Binford Place and adjoining areas, which he was concerned were now creeping back to a higher level. In particular he referred to incidents on Sunday evening which had necessitated police response although PC Bryant was unable to confirm that calls to the police had been recorded.

Members pressed for resources to be deployed where most needed and included efforts to bring the police van/car back into the Town Centre which had proved a very successful activity.

The Mayor welcomed the continuing co-operation and thanked PC Bryant for the information.

**02/18 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12/04/18
RESOLVED:**

1. That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12/04/18 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record;
2. That arising from Min 72/17 - Transport Forum, members note the position in relation to the cameras which were located at the Bascule Bridge on a temporary basis and that a response from the Traffic Section of the police and Somerset Highways is still awaited and will be chased up.

**03/18 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON
10/05/18:**

The Minutes of the Annual Town Public Meeting were submitted. Members noted the issues that had been raised, actions which had been followed up, and those which had been incorporated into the upcoming work programme and forward plan. Specific matters arising are recorded in Min 09/18 below.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes be noted and actions taken and plans endorsed.

04/18 REPORT OF THE TOWN TWINNING FORUM (14/05/18):

Cllr Smedley introduced the Report which had been circulated, taking forward the plans for the Twinning Week and the intentions of each of the individual Twinning Societies.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted and approved, and particular note taken of the recent event at Bridgwater Library, well attended and successful.

**05/18 REPORT OF THE TOWN DEVELOPMENT FORUM (31/05/18) and
THE LAUNCH OF THE TOWN TOURISM FORUM:**

The Report had been circulated and covered the outcomes of the "Thinking Big in Bridgwater" recently held at the Engine Room, and the background papers for the establishment of a Tourism Forum which would meet for the first time on 20/06/18. Cllr Smedley highlighted particular issues which had been addressed and which would come forward and confirmed the desire to get more individuals and representation from societies involved.

RESOLVED: That the outcomes be noted and the next steps and future plans endorsed.

**06/18 REPORT OF THE BRIDGWATER HISTORY DAY 2018
(PREPARATORY MEETING 31/05/18):**

Cllr Smedley introduced the Report setting out proposals for the History Day planned for Saturday 24/11/18. This aimed to build on the success of the first Bridgwater History Day held in 2017.

RESOLVED: That the outcomes of the Meeting be noted and the plans for History Day 2018 supported.

07/18 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS:

RESOLVED: That the payments, including Section 137 payments made during April and May 2018 (months 1 and 2) itemising all cheques and DDRs, be approved and confirmed, and income received during the period together with the cost centre reports and bank reconciliations and investments be noted. Also noted that year end reports had been completed for audit purposes.

08/18 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES - 12/04/18:

i. **Forward Plan 2018/19 (Tracker) (Min 83/17i)** - Cllr Smedley advised that an updated Forward Plan would be submitted to the next meeting of the Town Council following a meeting with the Chief Executives of SDC and determination of priorities for the municipal year.

ii. **Report of the Staffing Sub-Committee (Min 83/17ii)** - Position of Town Clerk and RFO - the Town Clerk confirmed that interviews had been held and the position offered to one of the candidates but this had subsequently been declined. The Staffing Sub-Committee would be meeting shortly to consider the way forward and report.

iii. **Balloons and Sky Lanterns Release Policy (Min 86/17.6)** - The Town Clerk confirmed that the Policy had now been approved by the SDC Executive. The Town Council had previously agreed in principle to the Policy being extended to BTC owned land, in particular the cemeteries and subsequently the draft Policy had been circulated to all members without adverse comment being received.

RESOLVED: That the Policy be approved for application to all BTC open land and brought into force alongside the SDC approved Policy.

iv. **Community Toilet Scheme (Min 84/17.2)** - The Town Clerk advised that there had been an expressed interest from the Bridgwater Arts Centre in becoming part of the Community Toilet Scheme. Two other businesses had been under consideration with a offer of £500 to each.

RESOLVED: That the Leader and Deputy Leader be requested to draft a paper on the introduction of the Scheme and business interest for the next meeting of the Finance Committee.

09/18 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES - ANNUAL TOWN MEETING - 10/05/18:

i. **Bridgwater Post Office, Eastover (Min 07)** - The Town Clerk confirmed the decision of the SDC Development Committee to refuse planning consent for the solarium proposal (change of use from A1 to D2 - application 08/18/39). He confirmed that contact had been made with the Post Office and the temporary Postmaster who were seeking a permanent solution which, hopefully, would involve the existing premises.

ii. **Road Scheme - Quantock Road Roundabout Improvements (Min 08)** - The Town Clerk confirmed that the Scheme was being progressed with a stakeholder workshop planned for early July.

iii. **Trinity Hall - Future Plans - Consultation (Min 09)** - The Town Clerk confirmed that consultation events were planned at the Trinity Hall on 19/06/18 3pm - 5pm, and 26/06/18 5pm - 7pm at which "On Your Bike" who were interested in a longer term use of the hall to establish their project in Bridgwater, would make a presentation as well as reviewing alternative solutions. In response to members' questions it was confirmed that this had been conducted as an open consultation including through the local press and all views would be taken into account.

iv. **Friends of Bridgwater Station - Cross Country Trains Consultation (Min 12)**

RESOLVED: That the representations in relation to increasing the number of stopping trains at the Station as highlighted by Mr Dave Chapple on behalf of the Friends of Bridgwater Station, be unanimously supported and submitted in response to the consultation.

10/18 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2017/18 - OUT-TURN AND GOVERNANCE:

The Year End Accounts and information required for audit through the Annual Return were submitted.

RESOLVED: That the Mayor and Town Clerk (and RFO) be authorised to sign off and publish the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements and submit for audit.

11/18 APPOINTMENTS 2018/19:

Members were invited to complete appointments to outside bodies, committees, sub-committees and panels, and to confirm identification of forum leads as grouped in the List of Common Interest. The Town Clerk circulated an updated current List of Appointments and Cllr Smedley had identified proposed changes including where further nominations were required. These were recorded as set out below:

See Appendix (as attached)

12/18 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 07/06/18 (agenda item 12) and decisions taken as follows:

Decisions:

1. Community Impact Mitigation (CIM) Bids:

1. Bridgwater Library and Blake Gardens - a further meeting had been held to resolve the extent of the Bid, particularly in relation to Blake Gardens and this was now being finalised - **Resolved:** That any further decisions await confirmation of the Blake Gardens enhancement for which a separate budget is provided, and advise on any contribution requested to the Library part of the Bid.

2. CIM Bid Victoria Ward, Bridgwater - Environmental regeneration of green spaces with potential enhancement of linear open space from Duke Street/Countess Avenue to Crowpill Lane, an area opposite the Crowpill Lane play area, and the Meadow Banks public open space, Victoria Park itself and footpath and cycleway linkages to approved schemes - **Resolved:** That submission of the Town Council supporting letter for the Bid be noted.

3. CIM Bid Town Centre, including Town Bridge and Fore Street enhancements - planning application submitted, awaiting approval - **Resolved:** That the completion of the Grant Agreement be noted.

2. Eastover Multi-use Games Area - BTC support agreed for the application of RLT3 monies towards upgrading of surface and creation of a new access point - **Resolved:** To note that this will be confirmed via the Cluster arrangement.

3. Sedgemoor South West Parishes Cluster Group - 19/06/18 - **Resolved:** To

note that the Town Council will not be represented at this meeting.

4. SDC Gambling Policy - a revised Policy is currently open for consultation - **Resolved:** That any member commenting submit views to the Town Clerk.

5. Grant Applications:

i. General Grants - **Resolved:** That the previously approved application from the Bridgwater Dimension Action Alliance in the sum of £2,500 be paid;

ii. That the General Grants from the Bridgwater Allotment Tenants Association, Victoria Park Community Centre (2), the Bridgwater Arts Centre, and Citizens Advice Bureau be referred to the Finance Committee for determination within budget;

iii. Ward Grant Applications 2018/19 - **Resolved:** That Ward Grants from Fuse for Quayside Festival Parade Workshops and in respect of Eastover, Fairfax, Victoria and Wyndham be approved at £500 each, and Westover at £270. For Youth Grant applications - to note that the closing date of 15/06/18 whereupon Youth Grant applications will be determined within budget.

For Information:

Items 1 - 26 as circulated with addition of "Love your High Street" - referred to Bridgwater Town Team and Cllr Pearce as Chair of the SDC Community Scrutiny Committee.

13/18 ADDITIONAL ITEM - BRIDGWATER CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP - MEETING 08/06/18 INCLUDING PRESENCE OF ARTS COUNCIL AND UPDATE ON QUAYSIDE EVENTS AND PREPARATIONS:

Cllr Heywood as Chair of the BCP reported on the meeting and the Arts Council Project "Creative People and Places" for which Bridgwater and the Sedgemoor area now qualified. This offered a great opportunity for grant funding of major importance and the representative groups were now considering the best means to take this forward with the prospect of a community group leading any bid.

The meeting finished at 9.37pm

Signed
Chair

