



Minutes of the Virtual Annual Meeting of Bridgwater Town Council held on Wednesday 5 May 2021 at 19:00hrs

Present - Councillors

L Redman – (Mayor)	L Leavy
S Aujla (joined 19:04hrs)	R Lilley
G Burrows	K Pearce
M Cresswell	D Rodrigues
L Gibson	G Granter
G Slocombe	T Heywood
B Smedley	J Cordiner
M Lerry	

In Attendance:

David Mears PSLCC – Town Clerk and Amy Storey – Office Administration Assistant. There were no members of the public or press in attendance.

TC2021/27 Election of Mayor (Chairman of the Council) and Acceptance of Office. (LGA 1972 s14 (1), 15(1&2), 33(1) and 34(1&2))

Councillor Leigh Redman was nominated and accepted the nomination.

Proposed: Councillor Smedley Seconded: Councillor Pearce

RESOLVED – that Councillor Leigh Redman be elected Chairman of Bridgwater Town Council and Mayor of Bridgwater unless he resigns or becomes disqualified, shall continue in office until his successor is elected at the next Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2022.

- I. New Mayor Announcements – pleased to be able to be out and about around the town. It is important to shop locally and support local traders. Attended a small commemoration of ANZAC day with Bridgwater's RBL.
- II. Mayor's Appointment of Mace Bearer until May 2022 – Chris Hocking
- III. Mayor's chosen Charity until May 2022 – to be confirmed
- IV. Mayor's Cadet until May 2022 – to be confirmed
- V. Mayor's Chaplain until May 2022 – to be confirmed

TC2021/28 To receive Apologies for Absence and to approve the reasons given (LGA 1972 s85 (1))

Apologies received from Councillor Aujla as she has a hospital appointment. Councillor Aujla joined the meeting at 19:04hrs.

TC2021/29 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 of interests declared.

TC2021/30 Election of Deputy Mayor (Vice Chairman of the Council)

Councillor Liz Leavy was nominated and accepted the nomination.

Proposed: Councillor Smedley Seconded: Councillor Pearce

RESOLVED - That Councillor Liz Leavy be elected Vice Chairman of Bridgwater Town Council and Deputy Mayor unless she resigns or becomes disqualified, shall hold office until immediately after the election of the Chairman of the Council at the next Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2022.

TC2021/31 To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Thursday 11 March 2021 (LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41(1))

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Thursday 11 March 2021 be signed as a correct record.

TC2021/32 Mayor Announcements

The Mayor has been pleased to walk around the town after its re-opening as well as being able to attend the Anzac Remembrance Ceremony at King Square to honour the Australian and New Zealand soldiers, he laid flowers to honour the contribution and suffering to all those who served.

Mayor bookings are available via the Bridgwater Town Council website.

Chris Hocking will be the mace-bearer for this year.

TC2021/33 Town Clerk's report

Everyone is back working in the office. Register of members interest – forms have been circulated as a refresher and a point to note - must update if a you have a pecuniary interested within 28 days.

Face-to-face meetings will resume, venues have not yet been confirmed.

The Quantock Lodge is nearly complete and will be aiming to be on the market at the end of May. Ground staff have nearly completed the bollards. The extension for Bristol Road is currently being worked on.

Climate Fund: The Council will receive £25,000 of the awarded £75,000 on the 1st August for the solar panels.

Cllr Slocombe thanked the Town Clerk for the work in securing grant funding.

TC2021/34 Portfolio Holders reports

The Docks project: still awaiting news from Somerset County Council and the Canal River Trust. YMCA are happy to have up to 3 of the boats, which have been removed from the canal.

The posters are ready and the stickers will be ready next week for the campaign against Engine idling.

Applications have already been received for the Tree Fund and the Council will work with Sedgemoor District Council to avoid duplication and confusion.

TC2021/35 To appoint a Leader of the Council

Councillor Brian Smedley was nominated and accepted the nomination.

Proposed: Councillor Pearce Seconded: Councillor Leavy

RESOLVED – that Councillor Brian Smedley be appointed as Leader of Bridgwater Town Council.

TC2021/36 To appoint a Deputy Leader of the Council

Councillor Kathy Pearce was nominated and accepted the nomination.

Proposed: Councillor Smedley Seconded: Councillor Lerry

TC2021/37 Opposition Group to name Leader and Deputy Leader of their group

RESOLVED – to note that Councillor Gill Slocombe has accepted the position of Leader of the Opposition Group, with Councillor Diogo Rodrigues as Deputy Leader

TC2021/38 Calendar of meetings – to agree in principle the calendar of meetings for municipal year 2021/22 and a temporary location for meetings until September 2021

RESOLVED – Agreed in principle due to the current COVID situation, June and August dates may change.

TC2021/39 Review of Committee Structure – Cllr Smedley to present proposals on Committee appointments and:

- I. To reapprove the terms of reference of committees and make appointments to the Planning and Premises Committees and to appoint chairs for both committees

RESOLVED – to reapprove the terms of reference of committees.

- II. To appoint the following Portfolio Holders and shadow Portfolio holders to the following areas: **RESOLVED -**

2021/22 Roles	Portfolios	Shadow Portfolios
Leader	Cllr Smedley	Cllr Slocombe
Property	Cllr Redman	Cllr Lilley
Community	Cllr Granter	Cllr Cresswell
Economy & Personnel	Cllr Lerry	Cllr Rodrigues
Transport	Cllr Burrows	Cllr Slocombe
Art, Heritage & Culture	Cllr Leavy	Cllr Rodrigues
Youth	Cllr Cordiner	Cllr Aujla
Climate Emergency	Cllr Pearce	Cllr Aujla

- III. To appoint the following councillors to the following outside bodies: **RESOLVED:**

Outside Body	Designation	Current Appointee
Wyndham Lecture Trust meet once a year-look at investment and divide to secondary schools and college	Member	Lerry
Town Team	PFH Economy	Lerry & Town Clerk
Bridgwater Art Centre - now two full voting members	PFH Culture	Leavy & Smedley

Carnival Committee –	Member	Burrows
Bridgwater Cultural Partnership	PFH Culture	Lerry/Leavy & Town Clerk
Seed (trustee)	PFH Economy	Lerry
Inland Waterways Association and Docks Removed	PFH Community	Pearce
Meads Steering Group	PFH Community	Pearce
Tidal Barrier Stakeholders	PFH Economy	Lerry
Tidal Barrier Enhancement	PFH Community	Pearce
Hamp Community Association	Ward member	Leavy
Sydenham Community Centre	2 x ward member	Granter & Loveridge
Victoria Park Community Centre	2 x ward member	Lerry & Cordiner
Bridgwater Memorial Homes	Member	Cresswell
Friends of Wembdon Road Cemetery	Mayor	Redman Lilley & Slocombe
Together team	Member	Granter
Kingsdown Pavilion - in abeyance	PFH Premises	Redman
All EDF related bodies	PFH Premises	Redman & Town Clerk
Allotments (future option) Council have offered member participation as a future solution but will only put this forward if requested.	PFH Community	Pearce

RESOLVED – to appoint the above councillors to the outside bodies

TC2021/40 Review Council Policies and Procedures:

- I. Review of Standing Orders – recently revised (no changes required)
- II. Review of Financial Regulations – recently revised (no changes required)
- III. Review of Complaints Procedure - (Revised to follow)
- IV. Review of Community Grants Funding Policy - (no changes required)
- V. Review of Councillor – Officer –Employee Protocol - (no changes required)
- VI. Review of Health and Safety Statement General Policy - (no changes required)
- VII. Review of Recording of Meetings Policy - (no changes required)
- VIII. Review of Social Media Policy - (no changes required)
- IX. Review of Training and Development Policy - (no changes required)
- X. Review of Risk Management Scheme - (no changes required)
- XI. Review of Scheme of Delegation - (no changes required)
- XII. Review of Information and Data Protection Policy – (no changes required)
- XIII. Review of Retention and Disposal Policy – (no changes required)
- XIV. Review of The Management of Transferable Data Policy – (no changes required)
- XV. Review Sustainable Transport Plan for Bridgwater – (no changes required)
- XVI. Review of Publication Scheme - (no changes required)

RESOLVED – To accept policy III amendments and to readopt the list of Policies and Procedures

With no further business the meeting closed at 19:32hrs

Signed Date