



Minutes of the Meeting of Bridgwater Town Council held on Thursday 5 March 2020 at 19:00hrs in the Charter Hall, Town Hall, Bridgwater.

Present - Councillors

T Heywood – (Mayor)	L Leavy
S Aujla	M Lerry
G Burrows	R Lilley
M Cresswell	D Rodrigues
J Cordiner	G Slocombe
L Gibson	B Smedley

In Attendance:

David Mears PSLCC – Town Clerk. There was one member of the public and one member of the press present.

No questions received from the public.

TC2020/17 To receive Apologies for Absence and to approve the reasons given (LGA 1972 s85 (1))

Apologies were received from Cllr L Redman – who is unwell and Cllr K Pearce who has a personal engagement.

RESOLVED – to accept the apologies and to approve the reasons given.

TC2020/18 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)

There were no interests declared

TC2020/19 To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Thursday 16 January 2020 (LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41(1))

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Thursday 16 January 2020 be signed as a correct record.

TC2020/20 Mayor Announcements

The Mayor informed councillors he will be holding a memory walk 10.30am on 26 April 2020, meeting at the Brewery Field.

TC2020/21 Town Council Leader– Cllr Smedley to update members on matters of interest and forward plan

Cllr Smedley presented the forward plan to councillors.

TC2020/22 Portfolio Holders – to receive written reports (if any) from Portfolio Holders

Cllr Lerry presented a written report on the Town Centre economy and staffing portfolio.

TC2020/23 Town Clerk’s Oral Report –update on progress since the last meeting and items of information (*N.B no decisions can be taken!*)

The Town Clerk updated councillors on PCSO changes in the town centre. The new offices and reception area are now completed with just a few small snagging issues identified and the phone line needing to be moved from the old office. The Town Clerk also attended a Local Government Reorganisation event in Frome today. Councillors asked for a workshop on this topic to develop their understanding on Local Government Reorganisation.

TC2020/24 Forums – to receive minutes of recent forum(s) meetings, to discuss issues raised and to resolve:

- I. that Bridgwater Town Council support the “Bus It” campaign to encourage use of buses and improvement in services;
- II. that Bridgwater Town Council produce a leaflet to further the aims of “Bus It”;
- III. that Bridgwater Town Council contact Somerset County Council for a clear explanation of the current situation with regard to the Bridgwater Docks and the plans for the future repair and leasing of the Docks; and
- IV. that Bridgwater Town Council asks for an explanation from Ian Liddell-Grainger MP as to how the pledged £5 billion will be allocated to regions.

RESOLVED - that Bridgwater Town Council support the “Bus It” campaign to encourage use of buses and improvement in services; produces a leaflet to further the aims of “Bus It”; that Bridgwater Town Council contact Somerset County Council for a clear explanation of the current situation with regard to the Bridgwater Docks and the plans for the future repair and leasing of the Docks; and that Bridgwater Town Council asks for an explanation from Ian Liddell-Grainger MP as to how the pledged £5 billion will be allocated to regions.

TC2020/25 Local Government Pension Scheme – that this Council resolves to offer the LGPS as a pension scheme to all employees of Bridgwater Town Council from 1 April 2020

RESOLVED – that Bridgwater Town Council becomes a member of LGPS and offer the LGPS as a pension scheme to all employees of Bridgwater Town Council from 1 April 2020

TC2020/26 Local Government Pension Scheme – to adopt the recommended Local Government Pension Scheme Discretions Policy

RESOLVED – to adopt the Local Government Pension Scheme Discretions Policy

TC2020/27 Mayor Elect and Deputy Mayor Elect – to consider nominations for the office of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2020/21. *N.B the election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor will take place at the Annual Meeting of the Council, which will be held on 21 May 2020 and the Mayor Making Celebrations being held on 22 May 2020*

Councillors considered nominations for the office of Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2020/21.

It was proposed by Cllr B Smedley, seconded by Cllr M Lerry that Cllr L Redman be nominated for the office of Town Mayor.

It was proposed by Cllr B Smedley, seconded by Cllr M Lerry that Cllr L Leavy be nominated for the office of Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2020/21.

A second proposal was made by Cllr R Lilley, seconded by Cllr G Slocombe that Cllr Cresswell be nominated for the office of Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2020/21

RESOLVED - that Cllr L Redman be nominated for the office of Town Mayor and that Cllr L Leavy be nominated for the office of Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2020/21.

TC2020/28 Cemeteries – to note and approve the Town Clerk’s decision to purchase a mini digger for the Cemeteries Team (as delegated by full council #TC2019/109 and the Finance and Policy Executive Committee FEC2019/50)

RESOLVED – to note and approve the decision of the Town Clerk

TC2020/29 Cemeteries – to adopt the recommended Rules and Regulations for Quantock Road and Bristol Cemeteries

RESOLVED - to adopt the recommended Rules and Regulations for Quantock Road and Bristol Cemeteries

TC2020/30 Cemeteries – to adopt the recommended Out of Hours Policy for Quantock Road and Bristol Cemeteries

RESOLVED - to adopt the recommended Out of Hours Policy for Quantock Road and Bristol Cemeteries

TC2020/31 Somerset County Council £1m Boost for Green Initiatives – to authorise the Town Clerk to make an application for this fund

RESOLVED – to make an application for cemeteries and solar panels for Town Council buildings (subject to the necessary consents)

TC2020/32 Finance – to note the Year to Date Budget as of 3 March 2020

RESOLVED – to note the year date budget as of 3 March 2020

TC2020/33 Finance –Accounts for Payment and Income - to note items of expenditure and income for February 2020

RESOLVED - to note items of expenditure and income for February 2020

TC2020/34 To resolve to exclude members of the press and public - To agree that agenda item TC2020/35 be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded as publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

RESOLVED - that the public (including the press) have been excluded for agenda item TC2020/35

Members of the public and press left the meeting at 20.12

TC2020/35 Bridgwater Cup Nominations – to choose a nomination to receive the Bridgwater Cup

Councillors discussed the nominations and after a vote a nomination was chosen to receive the Bridgwater Cup.

With no further business the meeting closed at 20:26

Signed Date