



Minutes of the Virtual Annual Meeting of Bridgwater Town Council held on Thursday 11 March 2021 at 19:00hrs

Present - Councillors

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|--------------------|-------------|
| L Redman – (Mayor) | L Leavy |
| S Aujla | R Lilley |
| G Burrows | D Loveridge |
| M Cresswell | K Pearce |
| L Gibson | D Rodrigues |
| G Slocombe | |
| B Smedley | |
| M Lerry | |

In Attendance:

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

TC2021/12 To receive Apologies for Absence and to approve the reasons given (to be sent to the Town Clerk) (LGA 1972 s85 (1))

No apologies.

TC2021/13 Declarations of interest – 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)

Councillor Kathy Pearce has a pecuniary interest of agenda item TC2021/24 as she lives close to the Docks.

TC2021/14 To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Thursday 15 January 2021 (LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41(1))

Minute number: TC2021/07 Cllr Cresswell had been omitted from the recorded vote who had voted against the motion.

RESOLVED – to approve and sign as a correct record with the above amendment the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 15 January 2021.

TC2021/15 Grants

There is £3,000 left in the Grant budget. There are two application requesting in excess of this amount. Representatives were given an opportunity to discuss their projects and councillors took the items together.

Down to Earth runs a dementia friendly art class with an exhibition at the end of the 10 sessions.

Funding will be matched by Sedgemoor District Council.

It was proposed to award £500 to Down to Earth.

Proposed: Councillor Smedley

Seconded: Councillor Lerry

RESOLVED – that Down to Earth is provided a £500 grant for their project

TC2021/16 Grants

Seed of Hope is based at the Sydenham Community Centre where they teach those with mental health how to grow their own food. The funding will cover their material and plant costs.

To provide £2,500 grant to Seed of Hope.

Proposed: Councillor Smedley

Seconded: Councillor Lerry

RESOLVED – that Seed of Hope is provided a £2,500 grant for their project

TC2021/17 Mayor's Announcements

Mayor Virtual visits are still available to the public and the Mayor is happy to take bookings. Mayor making plans will be underway soon, dependant on the COVID situation.

TC2021/18 Town Council Leader – update on matters of interest and forward plan *(N.B no decisions can be taken¹)*

5 priorities are currently being worked on with Sedgemoor District Council.

Reviewing of the COVID emergency. Pleased to report that the Docks project is moving forward.

Review of tree planting – starting to planting trees.

TC2021/19 Town Clerk's Report – update on progress since the last meeting and items of information *(N.B no decisions can be taken¹)*

A written report is attached to these minutes.

TC2021/20 Portfolio Holders – to receive written reports (if any) from Portfolio Holders *(N.B if not listed on the agenda below no decisions can be taken¹)* Transport recommendations for decision:

- a. BTC fully supports the introduction of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods in Somerset and recommends an initial proposal for Bridgwater Town Centre
- b. BTC agrees to commission design and production of a Heritage Cycle Map for the Bridgwater area
- c. BTC produce A4 posters and car stickers for distribution as part of a campaign to end engine-idling

Written reports were received and are attached to these minutes.

RESOLVED – that:

- a. BTC fully supports the introduction of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods in Somerset and recommends an initial proposal for Bridgwater Town Centre
- b. BTC agrees to commission design and production of a Heritage Cycle Map for the Bridgwater area
- c. BTC produce A4 posters and car stickers for distribution as part of a campaign to end engine-idling

TC2021/21 Local Government Reorganisation Consultation – Council to resolve to support either the One Somerset or Stronger Somerset proposals or maintain neutrality

A discussion took place on both proposals. It was proposed that Bridgwater Town Council supports the Stronger Somerset proposal.

Proposed: Councillor Smedley

Seconded: Councillor Slocombe

RESOLVED – that this Council supports the Stronger Somerset Proposal. The Town Clerk in conjunction with the proposed working party will make a formal response to the consultation.

TC2021/22 Local Government Reorganisation – to create a working party which will engage with the principal authorities on the reorganisation of Local Government in Somerset and to prepare plans for the devolution of assets and services/functions to Bridgwater Town Council

RESOLVED – that a working party be created which will engage with the principal authorities on the reorganisation of Local Government in Somerset and to prepare plans for the devolution of assets and services/functions to Bridgwater Town Council. Councillors; Smedley, Granter, Loveridge, Lerry, Pearce, Slocombe and Rodrigues be appointed to the working party.

TC2021/23 Notice of Motion (received from Cllr Smedley) – to replace Cllr Gibson as the Climate Portfolio Holder with Cllr Pearce and appoint Cllr Granter as the Communities Portfolio Holder

Seconded: Cllr Pearce

RESOLVED - that Cllr Pearce is now the Climate Portfolio Holder and Cllr Granter is now the Community Portfolio Holder.

TC2021/24 Limited Company for Bridgwater Docks – to appoint Directors to the Limited Company

Cllr Smedley suggested 3 Labour councillors and 1 Conservative councillor.

As explained previously the rationale for a Limited Company is to distance liability and decision-making process from Bridgwater Town Council. Discussions ongoing with Somerset County Council and other partners. Once a Breakdown of finances and business plan in place council will get the opportunity to review. If it is not sustainable a new decision will be required.

RESOLVED – that Cllrs Smedley, Leavy, Granter and Cresswell be appointed as directors

TC2021/25 Finance – to note the Year to Date Budget as of 05 March 2021

RESOLVED – to note

TC2021/26 Finance – Accounts for Payment and Income – to note items of expenditure as approved under delegated authority or under previous Council/Committee decisions and income received for February 2021

RESOLVED – to note the items of expenditure as approved under delegated authority or under previous Council/Committee decisions and income received for February 2021

With no further business the meeting closed at 20:25hrs

Signed Date