



Minutes of the Virtual Annual Meeting of Bridgwater Town Council held on Thursday 14 January 2021 at 19:00hrs

Present - Councillors

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

In Attendance:

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

TC2021/01 To receive Apologies for Absence and to approve the reasons given (to be sent to the Town Clerk) (LGA 1972 s85 (1))

Apologies received from Cllr Mick Lerry due to a late conflicting appointment.

TC2021/02 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)

No declarations of interest.

TC2021/03 To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Thursday 17 December 2020 (LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41(1))

RESOLVED – to approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 17 December 2020.

TC2021/04 Mayor’s Announcements

The Mayor visited care homes, ambulance, police and fire stations over the Christmas period. The Christmas window display was awarded to Scoffage. The Mayor sends his thanks to those who took the time to display their windows. Virtual visits are being offered.

TC2021/05 Town Council Leader – update on matters of interest and forward plan (*N.B no decisions can be taken¹*)

¹N. B Councils cannot lawfully decide items of business that is not specified in the summons/agenda (LGA1972 Sch 12, paras 10(2)(b) and Longfield Parish Council v Wright (1918) 88 LJ Ch

Councillor Smedley informed Councillors that the Town Deal submission may happen shortly which Bridgwater will benefit from. The Docks project is moving forward and meetings with community groups and principal councils are ongoing.

TC2021/06 Town Clerk's Report – update on progress since the last meeting and items of information *(N.B no decisions can be taken¹)*

Written report attached to the minutes. Grant application has been submitted to the Climate Emergency Fund from Somerset County Council for the Town Hall solar panels. This will enable the Town Hall to generate its own electricity and fund a more sustainable heating system.

TC2021/07 Finance – Budget for 2021/2022 – Member to approve the budget and precept demand for the financial year 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022

Cllr Smedley presented the draft budget. Cllr Smedley proposed a budget of £1,077,316 with a precept demand of £878,814. This was seconded by Cllr Heywood.

Cllr Slocombe requested a recorded vote.

Votes for the proposal: Cllrs Burrows, Cordiner, Gibson, Granter, Heywood, Leavy, Loveridge, Pearce, Redman and Smedley.

Votes against the proposal: Cllrs Aujla, Cresswell, Lilley, Rodrigues and Slocombe.

RESOLVED – that a budget of £1,077,316 with a precept demand of £878,814 be set for the financial year 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

TC2021/07 i That this council moves the Mayor's Allowance from payment of rounded equal monthly payments to an expenses-based system and that the Town Clerk's report be used as a Mayor's Expenses Policy (Cllr B Smedley)

RESOLVED - That this council moves the Mayor's Allowance from payment of rounded equal monthly payments to an expenses-based system and that the Town Clerk's report be used as a Mayor's Expenses Policy

TC2021/08 Finance – Notification of the Conclusion of the Audit by External Auditors of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return submitted for the year ending 31 March 2020.

RESOLVED – To note the comments made by the External Auditor regarding the calculation of the Fixed Assets figures

TC2021/09 Finance – to note the Year to Date Budget as of 08 January 2021

RESOLVED – to note the Year to Date Budget

TC2021/10 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 December 2020

RESOLVED - to note the accounts for payment and income for December 2020

TC2021/11 Bridgwater Cup – to discuss whether to or not award the Bridgwater Cup in 2021

RESOLVED – that the Bridgwater Cup to be awarded to the Bridgwater Community and the previous Cup winner to receive their award as soon as possible.

With no further business the meeting closed at 19:48hrs

Signed Date