



## Minutes of the Meeting of Bridgwater Town Council held on Thursday 14 March 2019 at 7.30pm in the Bridgwater Room, Town Hall, Bridgwater.

### Present - Councillors

D Rodrigues - Mayor	P Morley
T Heywood – Deputy Mayor	K Pearce
A Glassford	L Redman
M Lerry	B Smedley
L Leavy	S Wilson
D Loveridge	
A Moore	

### In Attendance:

David Mears PSLCC – Town Clerk and PC Joe Piscina. There were 4 members of the public and one member of the press present.

PC Piscina talked about the beat team in Bridgwater, local issues concerning ASB, the use of Police bicycles and the need for community speed watch teams.

### TC2019/19 To receive Apologies for Absence and to approve the reasons given (LGA 1972 s85 (1))

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs' M Cresswell, G Granter and P Johnstone all with conflicting engagements.

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

**TC2019/20 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)

Cllr T Heywood declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda item #TC2019/32. Reason: Chair of the Arts Centre Board.

### TC2019/21 To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Thursday 17 January 2019 (LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41(1))

**RESOLVED** - that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Thursday 17 January 2019 be signed as a correct record.

### TC2019/22 Mayor Announcements

The Mayor thanked all those involved in the recent and first Youth Awards event, which were a great success. The Mayor said it was a great privilege to showcase the skills and talents of

Bridgwater's youth and to hold a positive event for the recognition of Bridgwater's youth. Cllr L Redman proposed a vote of thanks for the Mayor.

**TC2019/23 Youth Council** – to receive the minutes of the last Youth Council meeting and to discuss issues raised (*Cllr Rodrigues*)

The Mayor gave a brief overview of the last Youth Council meeting. Cllr L Redman to raise the issue of the Zebra Crossing near Morrison's (raised by the Youth Council) and enquires are ongoing to ascertain land ownership.

**TC2019/24 Town Council Leader** – Cllr Smedley to update members on matters of interest and forward plan.

Cllr Smedley talked members through the forward plan.

**RESOLVED** – to note the forward plan.

**TC2019/25 Town Clerk's Oral Report** – including use of delegated powers and update on progress since the last meeting

The Town Clerk informed members that the emergency lighting in the Town Hall is in need of upgrading and this has been arranged. Statutory landlord check on the Council's property portfolio are also underway.

**TC2019/26 Mayor Making** – to discuss amendment of dates and procedural changes

**RESOLVED** – that the Mayor Making event will be held on Friday 24 May 2019.

**TC2019/27 Twinning** –

- i. to receive update on recent visit to Madeira

Cllr Smedley provided an update on successful trip to Madeira and reported on Camacha's request to twin with Bridgwater.

- ii. to receive the minutes of the Twinning Forum

Cllr Smedley presented the minutes of the recent Twinning Forum.

- iii. to approve twinning agreement with Camacha, Madeira

**RESOLVED** – that Bridgwater Town Council forms a twinning agreement between Bridgwater and Camacha, Madeira to established friendly relations with each other, to foster and develop mutual understanding and respect between the people of their respective administrative areas, to favour all kinds of links between the two regions especially in the educational and cultural fields, to encourage exchange visits and to develop human and cultural relationships and establish a firm foundation for future understanding, respect and friendship.

**TC2019/28 Policies and Procedures – Financial Regulations** - to adopt the revised NALC model financial regulations.

**RESOLVED** – to adopt the revised NALC model financial regulations as tailored for Bridgwater Town Council.

**TC2019/29 Policies and Procedures – Standing Orders** - to adopt the revised NALC model standing orders

**RESOLVED** – to adopt the revised NALC model standing orders as tailored for Bridgwater Town Council.

**TC2019/30 Calendar of Meetings** - to approve the calendar of meetings for municipal year 2019/20

**RESOLVED** – to adopt the calendar of meetings in principal and to review at the Annual Council meeting in May.

**TC2019/31 Grant Support** – to consider the request from Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival Committee for a grant towards their rent of land at Bristol Road

**RESOLVED** – to defer to the next Finance Committee meeting for a decision.

Cllr Heywood left the meeting and did not return.

**TC2019/32 Grant Support** – to consider releasing the £5,000 2018/19 grant funding and a further £13,200 (*to be taken from CIL account*) to cover the issues raised in the conditions report.

**RESOLVED** – to release the £5,000 from the 2018/19 grant fund and a further £13,200 which will be taken from CIL account – to be released by the only for repair work on the building once work has been completed.

**TC2019/33 Cemeteries** – to approve the increase in cemeteries fees as recommended by Sedgemoor District Council

The Town Clerk is reviewing the SLA and the entire cemeteries operations - estimated to be completed by the autumn, councillors supported this review.

**RESOLVED** - to approve the increase in cemeteries fees as recommended by Sedgemoor District Council, however it was noted that the increase with the Exclusive Right of Burial for a baby/child under 16 for the Garden of Rest seems incorrect (increase percentage higher in comparison to the other increases). Town Clerk to seek an amendment.

**TC2019/34 Staffing Sub-Committee** – to give delegated authority to the Staffing Sub-Committee to approve and implement staff contracts of employment, staff policies and procedures

**RESOLVED** – that the Staffing sub-committee be given delegated authority to approve and implement staff contracts of employment, staff policies and procedures.

**TC2019/34i Notice of Motion from Cllr Mick Lerry - that Councillors consider and debate the matter of Climate Emergency**

**RESOLVED** – that Bridgwater Town Council:

- (a) Affirms the recognition of the scale and urgency of the global challenge from climate change, as documented by the latest Special Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
- (b) Pledges to work with partners, including the Heart of the South West LEP, Somerset County Council, Somerset Districts, individuals and community groups to identify ways to make Sedgemoor and Somerset carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions.
- (c) Bridgwater Town Council will write to the Secretaries of State for Business Energy & Industrial Strategy, Transport, Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and Housing, Communities & Local Government calling for the creation, provision or devolution of powers and resources to make achievement of the 2030 target possible here in Sedgemoor and Somerset, including the involvement of Town and Parish Councils.
- (d) Bridgwater Town Council will produce a climate change strategy, before the end of 2019, with actions to address this target.

**TC2019/35 Finance** - Town Council Year 2018/19 Year to Date Budget - to review and note the budget information for the year to date as of 28 February 2019 ([Account & Audit Regulations 2015](#))

**RESOLVED** – to note the year to date budget.

**TC2019/36 Finance** – Bank Account Balances – To review and note the balances of the Council’s bank and investment accounts:-

1)	NatWest Current Account as of 28 February 2019	£ 4,876.16
2)	NatWest Reserve Account as of 28 February 2019	£ 11,920.41
3)	NatWest CIL Account as of 28 February 2019	£ 26,605.05
4)	CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund as of 28 February 2019	£204,919.01
5)	CCLA Local Authorities Property Fund as of 31 December 2018	£195,369.00

**RESOLVED** – to note the account balances

**TC2019/37 Finance** - Accounts for Payment and Income - to note items of expenditure and income for January and February 2019

**RESOLVED** – to note expenditure and income for January and February.

**TC2019/38 Finance** – to authorise the Town Clerk to transfer funds from the council’s investments to ensure that the council can honour its financial commitments until the first tranche of the 2019/20 precept is received (*Resolution only required if new financial regulations are not approved*)

Resolution not required as new financial regulations were approved earlier in the meeting.

**TC2019/39 Finance** – to authorise the Town Clerk to amend the Bank Mandate on the council’s bank accounts to remove Alan Hurford and John Turner as Cheque Signatories.

**RESOLVED** - to remove Alan Hurford and John Turner as Cheque Signatories.

**TC2019/40 To resolve to exclude members of the press and public - To agree that agenda item TC2019/41, 42 and 43 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 agenda item TC2019/41, 42 and 43 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

Members of the press and public left the meeting. Three representatives of Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival remained.

**TC2019/41** Presentation from Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival representatives on future project plans

Members received a presentation Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival on their future plans.

**RESOLVED** – that this item be discussed when the new council have settled in after the May elections.

***Representatives of Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival left the meeting.***

**TC2019/42** to receive quotations for roof repairs and gutter cleaning at the rear of 48 High Street and to appoint contractor

**RESOLVED** – that contractor 'B' be appointed.

**TC2019/43** to receive quotations to refurbish 5 offices and associated areas in the Town Hall and to appoint contractors

**RESOLVED** – that contractor 'A' be appointed for the main works and contractor 'D' be appointed for the carpets and the Council's electrical contractor be appointed for the electrical works.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm

Signed .....

Date .....