



Minutes of the Meeting of Bridgwater Town Council held on Thursday 16 January 2020 at 19:00hrs in the Charter Hall, Town Hall, Bridgwater.

Present - Councillors

T Heywood – (Mayor)	M Lerry
S Aujla	D Loveridge
G Burrows	K Pearce
M Cresswell	G Slocombe
J Cordiner	B Smedley
L Gibson	

In Attendance:

David Mears PSLCC – Town Clerk and PCSO Karen Pack. There were two members of the public and one member of the press present.

PCSO Karen Pack provided an update to councillors on ASB and rough sleeping in Bridgwater Town Centre.

TC2020/01 To receive Apologies for Absence and to approve the reasons given (LGA 1972 s85 (1))

Apologies were received from Cllr's G Granter, R Lilley, L Redman and D Rodrigues who all have conflicting engagements.

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

TC2020/02 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

TC2020/03 To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Thursday 5 December 2019 (LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41(1))

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Thursday 5 December 2019 be signed as a correct record.

TC2020/04 Mayor Announcements

The Mayor, Cllr Heywood wished everyone a happy new year.

TC2020/05 Town Council Leader– Cllr Smedley to update members on matters of interest and forward plan

Cllr Smedley presented the forward plan.

TC2020/06 Portfolio Holders – to receive written reports (if any) from Portfolio Holders

Cllr Lerry submitted a written report.

TC2020/07 Town Clerk’s Oral Report –update on progress since the last meeting and items of information *(N.B no decisions can be taken¹)*

The Town Clerk updated councillors on two new staff appointments and that there is a new Police Sergeant for Bridgwater (PC Ash Catlow). The Town Clerk has held meetings with the Police and Sedgemoor District Council concerning Rough Sleeping and begging within the Town Centre. Newly refurbished offices will be ready from February.

TC2020/08 Forums – to receive minutes of recent forum(s) meetings and to discuss issues raised

Cllr Burrows submitted a Transport Forum report.

TC2020/09 Town Team - to consider and reach a decision on the request received from Sedgemoor District Council to host and administer Bridgwater Town Team

RESOLVED – that the Town Council takes responsibility for the administration and hosting of the Town Team.

TC2020/10 Finance - Budget for 2020/2021 - Members to approve the budget and precept demand for the financial year 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021

RESOLVED – that a budget of £818,344.02 with a precept demand of £642,349.00 be set for the financial year 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

TC2020/11 The Old Mill, Blake Museum – to resolve that the restoration of The Old Mill is an aspiration of this Council and that the Council will seek and apply for funding for an options appraisal to understand the viability and sustainability of the restoration.

RESOLVED - that the restoration of The Old Mill is an aspiration of this Council and that the Council will seek and apply for funding for an options appraisal to understand the viability and sustainability of the restoration

TC2020/12 Cemeteries – to note and approve the Town Clerk’s decision to enter into a lease agreement for a drop side van for the Cemeteries Team (as delegated by full council #TC2019/109 and the Finance and Policy Executive Committee FEC2019/50)

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk’s use of delegated powers be approved and that lease period be for two years.

TC2020/13 Youth Council – to approve two grants that were approved by the Youth Council – Youth Unlimited £2,000 and Fuse Performance £1,500 (referred due to exceeding the £500 per grant limit delegated to the Youth Council)

RESOLVED - to approve two grants as approved by the Youth Council for Youth Unlimited £2,000 and Fuse Performance £1,500

TC2020/14 Tidal Barrier – to agree a response (a form of words) for the consultation for the Bridgwater Tidal Barrier Scheme

RESOLVED - that Bridgwater Town Council confirms strong support for the delivery of the Bridgwater tidal barrier and the scheme as submitted for the vital flood defense that it will provide for Bridgwater and surrounding area.

In so doing, the Town Council supports the long term ambition of increased navigation on the Parrett linked to the canal, which the Town Council will play an active part in seeking to secure, but which the Town Council recognise cannot be directly advanced by the Bridgwater Tidal Barrier project.

TC2020/15 Finance – to note the Year to Date Budget as of 10 January 2020

RESOLVED – to note

TC2020/16 Finance –Accounts for Payment and Income - to note items of expenditure and income for November and December 2019

RESOLVED – to note

With no further business the meeting closed at 20:07

Signed

Date