



Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Bridgwater Town Council held at Westfield United Reform Church Hall, West St, Bridgwater TA6 7EU on Thursday 17 June 2021 at 19:00hrs

Present - Councillors

L Redman – (Mayor)
S Aujla
G Burrows
G Slocombe
B Smedley
M Lerry

L Leavy
R Lilley
K Pearce
G Granter
T Heywood
D Loveridge

In Attendance:

David Mears PSLCC – Town Clerk and Amy Storey – Office Administration Assistant. There were no members of the public or press in attendance. Two members of the local Police Beat Team attended the meeting to discuss policing in Bridgwater.

The representatives from Bridgwater's Police Beat Team updated the Council on the post COVID out of court disposal programme, which helps identify prior to offence. The police are aware of the antisocial behaviour in town and the 'hot hatches' racers, there are a number of PCSOs around to monitor this. There has been a drastic change during COVID of crime rate - it has decreased. There is a new PCSO on the Wyndham Ward, to overlook the gang culture and damage being caused.

TC2021/41 To receive Apologies for Absence and to approve the reasons given (LGA 1972 s85 (1))

Apologies received from Councillors Rodrigues, Gibson and Creswell who had conflicting engagements and from Councillor Cordiner who was unwell.

TC2021/42 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)

No declarations of interests declared.

TC2021/43 To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on Wednesday 5 May 2021 (LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41(1))

RESOLVED: Amendment to be made to minute number TC2021/39 as Councillor Rodrigues and Councillor Aujla shadow portfolio holders are the wrong way round.

TC2021/44 Mayor Announcements

The Mayor has attended the BMA gym opening and Mallard opening in May. Supporting County Lines. The Mayor is sponsoring the following events on behalf of Bridgwater Town Council,

Cricket 28th August Bridgwater Cricket club from 12:30hrs, Bridgwater Variety show 30th October – 4th November, and 5th November Bridgwater Fireworks followed by Mayor's Wine tasting charity event.

TC2021/45 Town Council Leader- Cllr Smedley to update members on matters of interest and forward plan *(N.B no decisions can be taken¹)*

- Awaiting Town Deal update
- Progress with the docks – dependent on town deal update
- Discussions ongoing to move Twinning to 24th July 2021.
- History day in November will feature the slave trade
- Seed the Day – 11 September 2021

TC2021/46 Town Clerk's report¹

- The Full Council will be held at Bridgwater House for August's meeting and with the COVID-19 testing centre due to leave the Town Hall in September, October's meeting could be held in Bridgwater Town Hall. Meetings will now be paperless as new screens are being installed.
- Grass cutting at Quantock Road Cemetery has been complete, and Bristol Road Cemetery is 90% finished. With help from contractors, both cemeteries will be cut every 10-14 days.
- The grant money for the solar panels is being incorporated into the refurb for the Town Hall, which the Town Clerk will be receiving quotes for.
- The tenants for the lodge moved in last week.
- The Town Clerk is attending the Town Deal meeting and an officer only Docks meeting.
- The Bridgwater Food and Drink Festival will be held on 24 July 2021.

TC2021/47 Portfolio Holders report

I Transport Forum – Consultation for the Bus Improvement Plan: to adopt the recommended comments/proposals and authorise the Town Clerk in conjunction with Cllr Burrows to submit to Somerset County Council

II Climate - to adopt the recommended Pesticide Policy

Schools have been contacted for the Youth Council ready to start in September/October

Biodegradable weed killer being used at the cemetery and battery powered strimmer's will be trialled.

£3m funding for transport. The deadline for the improvement plan is 31st October. Public transport has halved since 2010, the transport forum is trying to increase the usage of public transport to help with climate change.

RESOLVED: to adopt the recommended comments/proposals and authorise the Town Clerk in conjunction with Cllr Burrows to submit to Somerset County Council; and to adopt the recommended Pesticide Policy

TC2021/48 Outside Bodies reports – to receive reports from councillors who represent the Council on outside bodies

No further comments.

TC2021/49 Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Review – to set up a working party to work with the Town Clerk to draft a response to the consultation and that delegated authority be given to the Town Clerk in conjunction with the Working Party to agree and submit the response.

RESOLVED: that delegated authority be given to the Town Clerk in conjunction with the Working Party to agree and submit the response that Councillors, Lerry, Smedley, Leavy, Burrows, Pearce, Lilley and Slocombe be appointed to the panel

TC2021/50 Finance – to note the Annual Internal Audit Report for 2020/21

RESOLVED: to note

TC2021/51 Finance – to approve the Annual Governance Statement (s.1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21)

The Town Clerk read the 9 assertions.

Proposed: Councillor Smedley Seconded: Councillor Slocombe

RESOLVED: that the Annual Governance Statement (s.1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21 be approved

TC2021/52 Finance – to approve the Annual Statement for the year ending 31 March 2021 (s.2 Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21)

The Town Clerk/RFO explained the variances compared to the previous financial year.

RESOLVED: the Annual Statement for the year ending 31 March 2021 (s.2 Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21) be approved

TC2021/53 Finance – Accounts for payments and Income – to note item of expenditure as approved under delegated authority or previous resolutions and income for March, April and May 2021

RESOLVED: to note

TC2021/54 Finance – to note the year to Date Budget as of 8 June 2021

RESOLVED: to note

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

Signed Date