



Minutes of the Meeting of Bridgwater Town Council held on Thursday 1 August 2019 at 7.00pm in the Charter Hall, Town Hall, Bridgwater.

Present - Councillors

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

In Attendance:

David Mears PSLCC – Town Clerk and Neighbourhood Police Team Sergeant Joe Piscina. There were 8 members of the public and one member of the press present.

7.00pm Cllr M Lerry in public question time spoke in support of the core grant application for Victoria Park Community Centre and gave an overview of the benefit of the funding.

Sergeant Joe Piscina Wheller discussed local issues concerning ASB in the Town Centre (with over 120 calls received in the last two weeks concerning ASB), drug issues and homelessness with councillors.

TC2019/72 To receive Apologies for Absence and to approve the reasons given (LGA 1972 s85 (1))

Apologies were received from Cllr G Granter who had a conflicting engagement and Cllr D Loveridge was unwell.

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

TC2019/73 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 L Redman declared a Pecuniary interest in item TC2019/89 as a member of Devon and Somerset Fire Authority.

Cllr M Lerry declared a Pecuniary interest in item TC2019/81 as a trustee of Victoria Park Community Centre.

Cllr J Cordiner declared a Pecuniary interest in item TC2019/81 as a trustee of Victoria Park Community Centre.

Cllr L Leavy declared a Non-Pecuniary interest in item TC2019/83

TC2019/74 To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Thursday 6 June 2019 (LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41(1))

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Thursday 6 June 2019 be signed as a correct record.

TC2019/75 Mayor Announcements

The Mayor informed councillors, that he is planning a 'memory walk' for the Alzheimer's Society plus a tea dance for OAPs.

TC2019/76 Town Council Leader– Cllr Smedley to update members on matters of interest and forward plan (*N.B no decisions can be taken*)

Cllr Smedley provided updates on the forward plan. The Mayor review should be concluded in October. Cllr Rodrigues queried why the Youth Awards were in the Forward Plan. Cllr Smedley apologised as it was Mayor initiative for 2019 and this will be removed.

TC2019/76i Portfolio Holders – to receive written reports (if any) from Portfolio Holders

Portfolio Holders made oral reports. Cllr G Burrows provided a written report, which will be attached to the minutes. Councillor Slocombe questioned Cllr Redman on the property report and in relation the moving of the Mayor's Parlour. The Town Clerk explained this had been discussed at the Premises Committee and that by moving the Mayor's Parlour allows for more flexibility with renting of the rooms in the former location and with the Parlour being located next to the Bridgwater Room provides much improved facilities.

TC2019/77 Town Clerk's Oral Report – including use of delegated powers and update on progress since the last meeting (*N.B no decisions can be taken¹*)

The Town Clerk informed members that he will be on annual leave from 7 August until 15 August – both dates inclusive. He will also be away from the office on 19 and 21 August. An update was provided on the recent water leak at the town hall.

The Town Clerk also informed members that the Cemeteries Administrator has now relocated into the Town Council offices as part of the review into the cemeteries.

TC2019/78 Twinning – to receive updates on matters relating to Twinning in Bridgwater (*N.B no decisions can be taken¹*)

Twinning week was a success (13-19 July) with an extension in Bridgwater Library. Formal signing of the Twinning Charter with Camacha, Madeira will take place on a Twinning Visit 3-7 October.

TC2019/79 Forums – to receive minutes of recent forum(s) meetings and to discuss issues raised (*N.B no decisions can be taken*)

Transport and Town Development Minutes were circulated.

TC2019/79i Single Use Plastic Working Party update

Cllr K Pearce provided an update on the recent work of the working party. A draft policy on Single Use Plastic will be circulated to councillors for comments and will be presented to the October Council meeting for adoption.

TC2019/80 Finance – Grant request from Engine Room for a grant of £1,885 to assist with workshops in the holidays for young people aged 6 to 18 to help them explore climate change and environmental issues (to be taken from youth budget). *N.B due to late submission and no Youth Council meeting, the Town Council are asked to consider*).

Representative from the Engine Room explained the project. Cllr Rodrigues felt that this application should have Youth Council input. The Town Clerk explained that this application needed a prompt decision.

RESOLVED – that the grant application be approved and the funds be taken from the Youth Budget as it is for a Youth Project.

Cllrs J Cordiner, M Lerry, L Redman and D Rodrigues left the room at 20.29

TC2019/81 Finance – Core Grant Request from Victoria Park Community Centre (£20,000) – Councillors to authorise the Town Clerk to release the funds.

RESOLVED – that the grant application be approved.

Cllrs J Cordiner and M Lerry re-joined the meeting at 20.33

TC2019/82 Finance – Core Grant Request from Sydenham Community Centre (£20,000) – Councillors to authorise the Town Clerk to release the funds.

Cllr M Cresswell declared a Pecuniary interest due to being a member of the committee. Standing Orders were suspended at 20.33 to allow for Cllr Cresswell to explain the benefit of the funding.

Cllr M Cresswell left the room at 20.35 and Standing Orders were restated

RESOLVED – that the grant application be approved

Cllrs M Cresswell and D Rodrigues re-joined the meeting at 20.36

TC2019/83 Finance – Core Grant Request from Hamp Community Association (£20,000) – Councillors to authorise the Town Clerk to release the funds.

Cllr L Leavy left the meeting at 20.36

A representative of Hamp Community Association explained the benefit of the grant funding.

RESOLVED – that the grant application be approved

TC2019/84 Cemeteries – to consider a request from a member of the public to install a memorial (approx. cost of £800) to recognise Pauper Graves at St John’s Cemetery at Bristol Road.

RESOLVED – that the request at this stage be refused and the member of the public is encouraged to work with the Civic Society on this project.

TC2019/85 To create a ‘Tree Fund’ initially to assist with replacement trees at Hamp Green - *Motion Received from Cllr B Smedley*

RESOLVED – that a tree fund be set up and that Hamp Green be seen as test case with the view of rolling out the scheme across the town.

TC2019/86 Banner – to setup a Druids’ banner working party to cost its repair and then to display it in a public location in the town hall (*Motion Received from Cllr B Smedley*)

RESOLVED – that a working party be set up to cost its repair and to look into the possibility to display it in a public location in the town hall. Members to be Cllrs Burrow and Smedley with representatives of TUC and Civic Society.

TC2019/87 Cultural Strategy - to setup a BTC Culture working party to study the TUC cultural strategy and that of Sedgemoor District Council and produce a Cultural Strategy for Bridgwater

RESOLVED – that Bridgwater Cultural Partnership should lead on this project.

TC2019/88 Councillor Wards – to consider a small allocation of funding to be made annually to each Town Council ward, to enable Town Councillors to communicate with their electorates, via meetings, publicity and social media. *Motion received from Cllr G Burrows.*

RESOLVED – that this be discussed as part of the 2020/21 budget preparation.

TC2019/89 Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service – Councillors to consider if to make any comments on the current consultation on changes to the fire and rescue service in Devon and Somerset

RESOLVED – that Bridgwater Town Council supports the Fire Brigade Union’s position and relays their concerns.

TC2019/90 Bridgwater Memorial Homes – to appoint another councillor as a trustee. (Cllr Leavy appointed, however two are required)

RESOLVED – that Cllr M Cresswell be appointed.

TC2019/91 To formally set up a multi-agency Liaison Group to tackle antisocial behaviour, drug problems and Homelessness within Bridgwater (a similar item was proposed during the police report at the last meeting and needs to be ratified formally as an agenda item)

RESOLVED – that a multi-agency Liaison Group to tackle antisocial behaviour, drug problems and Homelessness within Bridgwater with Cllrs G Burrows, L Gibson, R Lilley, K Pearce and B Smedley.

TC2019/92 to approve the sealing of the following legal deeds and to appoint two councillors to act as witnesses

I. Trinity Hall under lease to On Your Bike

RESOLVED – to approve the sealing of the lease and Cllrs K Pearce and L Redman to act as witnesses

II. Lease of land from SCC for a shed for the use by Youth Unlimited for the Rollercoaster

RESOLVED – to approve the sealing of the lease and Cllrs K Pearce and L Redman to act as witnesses

III. Office Space leases for Mind in Somerset, Somerset Community Foundation and Sedgemoor Labour Group

RESOLVED – to approve the sealing of the leases and Cllrs K Pearce and L Redman to act as witnesses Mind in Somerset and Somerset Community Foundation. Cllr Lilley and Slocombe to act as witnesses for Sedgemoor Labour Group.

With no further business the meeting closed at 21:20

Signed

Date