



Minutes of Bridgwater Town Council held in the W101 Bridgwater Room on Thursday 23 January 2025 at 19:00

Present:

Councillors, Solomon (Chair), Aujla, Hubble, Leavy, Lerry, Lilley, Loveridge, Mander, Pearce, Rodrigues, and Smedley

David Mears, CEO and Town Clerk, Sally Jones, Director of Finance and Corporate Services, Rob Semple, Director of Communities, Scott Mason, Director of Amenities, Melissa Webb, Communications and Marketing Officer, and Amy Storey Democratic Services Officer

There were seven members of the public present and two members of the press from BBC News Somerset and Bridgwater Mercury.

TC2025/1 Apologies of absence

Apologies of absence have been received by Councillors, Loveridge, Redman, and Slocombe.

TC2025/2 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 were declared.

TC2025/3 To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Council meetings held on Thursday 12 December 2024 and Thursday 19 December 2024

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Full Council meetings held on Thursday 12 December 2024 and Thursday 19 December 2024 be signed as a correct record.

TC2025/4 Mayor announcements

The Mayor has featured on Portuguese TV, enjoyed a limo ride, and received questions from children.

The Mayor looks forward to meeting the Italian and USA Exchange students, who will be visiting England in the next month and the pantomime.



TC2025/5 To receive an oral report from the Leader of the Town Council

The Leader of the Town Council updated the members that due to taking on more services since April 2024, oral reports will be continued until Bridgwater Town Council has settled with the new changes.

The Leader of the Town Council had nothing more to report, as most matters are covered within officers reports.

RESOLVED: To note.

TC2025/6 To receive an oral report from the CEO and Town Clerk

The CEO and Town Clerk attending a meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner, Chamber of Commerce and Director of Community to discuss Anti-Social Behaviour within the Town and how the police are tackling it.

The Hamp Community Association have identified activities which could take place at the ReCreation and are hoping to expand outreach work.

Rollercoaster is almost ready for completion.

The Celebration Mile is causing some disruption with businesses, however, the Communications and Marketing Officer is working closely with businesses to make the public aware that the shops are still open.

The Docks is moving forward and working along a timeline to ensure completion for middle of the year. The Docks is still under Somerset Council and will need be transferred over to Bridgwater Town Council until later in the year.

The CEO and Town Clerk would like to thank Councillor Mander and the Director of Amenities for their feedback on the legal packs for the six principal parks from Somerset Council.

RESOLVED: To note.

TC2025/7 To receive and approve the following recommendations from the Transport Forum

- I. Bridgwater Town Council to write to Cllr Richard Wilkins and specifically support the Somerset Bus Partnerships Proposals.
- II. Bridgwater Town Council to support and explore the installation of new Cycle Security Storage in the area.

RESOLVED: To approve the following recommendations from the Transport Forum:

- I. Bridgwater Town Council to write to Cllr Richard Wilkins and specifically support the Somerset Bus Partnerships Proposals.
- II. Bridgwater Town Council to support and explore the installation of new Cycle Security Storage in the area.



TC2025/8 To receive the budget report and 2025/26 budget proposals from Director of Finance and Corporate Services and Councillors to resolve to set the budget for 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 and precept demand

RESOLVED: To approve the budget of £4,930,671 for 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 and a precept demand of £4,299,101.

TC2025/9 Strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England Consultation The Government is seeking views on proposals to introduce measures to strengthen the standards and conduct regime for local authorities in England. Council to consider a response to the consultation. Report from the Chief Executive and Town Clerk for further information and suggested responses

RESOLVED: To adopt the CEO and Town Clerk's recommended responses for the Strengthening the Standards and Conduct Framework for Local Authorities in England Consultation

TC2025/10 Local audit reform: a strategy for overhauling the local audit system in England Consultation Report from the Chief Executive and Town Clerk for further information

RESOLVED: To adopt the CEO and Town Clerk's recommended responses for the Local Audit Reform: a strategy for overhauling the local audit system in England Consultation.

TC2025/11 To receive and review the report for the council's energy contractors and to resolve which provider and tariff the Council should move to for its energy provision

RESOLVED: To switch to Corona on a 72 month contract.

TC2025/12 To note the receipts and payments for December 2024

RESOLVED: To note.

TC2025/13 To note the year to date income and expenditure report as of the 7 January 2025

RESOLVED: To note.



BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL
Town Hall, High Street, Bridgwater TA6 3AS
01278 427692
townclerk@bridgwater-tc.gov.uk

The Chairman closed the meeting at **20:20**

End of document

Signed.....

Dated.....