



## **Minutes of the Meeting of Bridgwater Town Council's Finance Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 18 December 2018 at 4.00pm in the John Turner Room, Town Hall, Bridgwater.**

**Present** - Councillors

B Smedley - Chair

A Glassford

G Granter

P Johnstone

M Lerry

A Moore

P Morley

K Pearce

### **In Attendance:**

David Mears PSLCC – Town Clerk. There were no members of the public or press present.

### **FC2018/01 Apologies**

Cllr Heywood – conflicting meeting (Cllr P Morley deputising)

**FC2018/02 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)

### **FC2018/03 To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 18 December 2018** (LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41(1))

**RESOLVED** - that the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 18 December 2018 be signed as a correct record

**RESOLVED** - that agenda item 4 (min no #FC2018/04 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

### **FC2018/04 Art Centre** – to review grant funding conditions for 2017/18 and 2018/19

Councillors were not content with the situation at the Art Centre, or with the Board's Plan for the 6 month closure and were not convinced that additional money at this point would help the situation and:-

### **RESOLVED** –

1. that item 1 of the report be approved (to un-restrict the £5,000 2017/18 grant).
2. that items 2-3 not be approved and deferred until the Condition Survey is completed and to be reviewed after receiving a new Business Plan for the Art Centre. (Proposal was to approve the £5,000 project bid for 2018-19 submitted to the November Finance committee meeting but deferred and to earmark a 2019-20 Core fund of £20,000 to be available from April 2019).
3. Item 4 was not considered at this stage (stop gap funding to support the Arts Centre over the next couple of months), due to reasons in point 2.

4. Item 5 could be a potential BTC policy decision in relation to a plan for use of CIL money relating to heritage assets but to be determined during 2019/20 budget setting discussions.

The meeting went back into open session.

**FC2018/05 Financial Year 2019/20** - To review draft budget for 2019/20

After discussion it was:-

**RESOLVED** – that the Town Clerk and Cllr Smedley (Committee Chair) review the budget with the view of making efficiency savings to rationalise grant funding and other budget headings.

Cllr Moore left the meeting at 4.43pm.

**FC2018/06 Town Hall Theatre** – to approve replacement winch for the chandelier(s)

**RESOLVED** – to delegate to the Town Clerk with the view to replace all three winches to electric winches.

**FC2018/07 Christmas Tree** – to approve installing a sump to secure the Christmas Tree for 2019 and beyond

**RESOLVED** – to install a sump to secure the Christmas Tree.

**FC2018/08 Membership** – to approve membership of Society of Local Council Clerks

**RESOLVED** – to approve membership of Society of Local Council Clerks

**FC2018/09 Council Office I.T** – to approve the purchase of new I.T equipment and software for the Office and Town Hall Steward

**RESOLVED** – to move the current phone system to a VOIP system and to upgrade to superfast broadband with QSS I.T, which will generate significant savings and to authorise the Town Clerk to purchase 3 desktop PCs and to appoint Microshade VSM for the council's hosted computing.

Meeting closed at 5.25pm

Signed .....

Date.....