



## Minutes of Bridgwater Town Council held in the Bridgwater Room on Monday 29 April 2024 at 09:30

### Present:

Councillors: Smedley (Chair), Lerry, Loveridge, Mander, Marsh, Pearce and Solomon.  
Also in attendance: Councillors Slocombe (ex-officio) and Redman (non-committee member).

**Officers:** David Mears (CEO & Town Clerk), Sally Jones (Director of Finance and Corporate Services & RFO), Amy Storey (Democratic Services Officer), and Rachel Blatchford (Finance Officer).

There were no members of the press or public present.

### FEC2024/20 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

**RESOLVED:** No apologies for absence were received.

**FEC2024/21 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).

**RESOLVED:** No declarations of interests were received.

**FEC2024/22 MINUTES** To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Finance and Policy Executive Committee Meeting held on Monday 19 February 2024.

**RESOLVED:** To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Finance and Policy Executive Committee Meeting held on Monday 19 February 2024.

**FEC2024/23 TO RECEIVE THE REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES REGARDING STAFF PARKING AND TO CONSIDER STAFF PARKING ARRANGEMENTS**

**RESOLVED:** To delegate the decision of staff car parking arrangements to the Staffing Sub-Committee.

**FEC2024/24 TO REVIEW AND ADOPT THE FIXED ASSET AND CAPITALISATION POLICY**



**RESOLVED:** To adopt The Fixed Asset and Capitalisation Policy with the amendment in 4.1 to include the following wording: 'the enhancement of fixed assets'.

**FEC2024/25 TO REVIEW THE PETITION IN REGARD TO MEMBERS ALLOWANCE**

Councillors discussed the Petition in detail and noted that the majority of larger Town Councils in Somerset now pay allowances. Bridgwater Town Council will be taking a significant amount of service delivery in May, and this will increase workloads for Councillors. Bridgwater Town Council councillor allowances were set by the independent remuneration board and are £1,200 per annum, £100 per month, £3.29 per day. Councillors thanked the public for taking an interest in this matter.

Members thanked those that engaged with the petition and Councillors discussed the matter in detail. Councillors noted that the Members Allowance was recommended by an independent panel of Somerset Council with the increase responsibility of Bridgwater Town Council and in line with a number of other Town Councils in Somerset, the matter of allowances will not be reviewed.

**RESOLVED:** To note the Petition in regard to Members Allowances and not to undertake a further review of Members Allowances. Unanimous.

**FEC2024/26 TO REVIEW THE INSURANCE RENEWAL FOR 2024-25** and recommend to Full Council noting that the Clerk has used 4.5 of the Financial Regulations to authorise this renewal.

**RESOLVED:** To note the decision of the use of the Town Clerk's delegated powers under 4.5 of the Financial regulations to authorise this renewal and to recommend to Full Council the renewal of the insurance for 2024-25 for a 3-year fixed term.

**FEC2024/27 CONSULTATION ON NEW PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER FOR BRIDGWATER**

**RESOLVED:** To make the recommendation that the whole of Blake Gardens should be on the Alcohol Map, however, if this delays the consultation, it is requested that it is reviewed in the future.

**FEC2024/28 FINANCE - ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AND INCOME** To note items of expenditure as approved under delegated authority or under previous Council/Committee decisions and income received up to 31 March 2024

**RESOLVED:** To note.



**FEC2024/29 FINANCE - TO NOTE THE YEAR TO DATE BUDGET AS OF 31 MARCH 2024**

**RESOLVED:** To note.

**FEC2024/30 TO NOTE THE YEAR END BALANCE SHEET FIGURES**

**RESSOLVED:** To note.

**FEC2024/31 TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS** and to agree that agenda item FEC2024/32 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.

**RESOLVED:** That the members of the public and press be excluded under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

**FEC2024/32 STAFFING UPDATE** To receive an oral general staff update and an update of staff annual leave balances from the Clerk.

**RESOLVED:** The Town Clerk gave an oral report on the general updates with staffing.

The Chairman closed the meeting at **11:15**

**End of document**

**Signed**.....

**Dated**.....