

BRIDGNORTH TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of Bridgnorth Town Council held in the Mayor's Parlour,
College House on Tuesday 18th June 2019 at 7.15pm**

Present:

Councillors:

R Whittle OBE (in the Chair)
C Baines MBE
S Barlow
J Buckley
D Cooper
G Davies
C Dyson
R Fox
H Howell
K Hurst-Knight
E Marshall
C Walden
C Whittle

In Attendance:

L Jakeman, Town Clerk

0072/1920 **CHANGE OF ORDER OF BUSINESS**

RESOLVED to bring forward the item on Climate Change and the Planning Application in relation to the erection of four poultry buildings, to immediately after public questions

0073/1920 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Members noted the apologies as listed below:

Mayor Councillor J Onions - unwell
Councillor S Stevens – unwell

0074/1920 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllrs Baines and Cooper each declared an interest in the grants item relating to a request from Crucial Crew (of which both sit on the management committee).

Name: Mrs Mary Gilbert of Pool Drive, Bridgnorth

Topic: Climate Change

As we know, the IPCC has gathered together the best climate science evidence and told us that we have 11 precious years in which to reduce our carbon emissions to near zero in order to avoid the disastrous consequences of a greater than 1.5+ degree change to the global climate.

Even though Bridgnorth is a small place in the scale of things, we all have a responsibility to play our part in both taking action and encouraging others to do the same.

Many other local councils across England have declared climate emergencies, from large towns such as Birmingham, Sheffield and Bristol to small local councils like Frome in Somerset to Hay on Wye and up to Kendal in the lake district, where increased severe flooding as a result of climate change has already blighted communities.

As a result of this groundswell the UK Government has also declared a climate emergency demonstrating the power of local action.

We understand the limitations of the Town Council resources and so, in return, sustainable Bridgnorth members and others pledge to provide expertise and support to the Council in order to deliver on the objectives. We would like the council to work with an appointed small (4-6 individuals) task and finish group who, through providing their skills free of charge, would assist the clerk in the delivery of the actions and then work with the council to unlock sources of funding that may be required to implement the measures in a pragmatic manner (This group can be time limited and task orientated, providing recommendations only and in no way seeks to replace the governance of the Council). Also the group is well positioned to liaise with other local councils in the area and beyond in order that we can share best practice and avoid 're-inventing the wheel'.

And so we ask: "Will the Town Council take action to reduce its carbon emissions and become carbon neutral by 2030?"

The Deputy Mayor provided a verbal response:

'As you know from viewing the agenda for the meeting the matter is being discussed this evening as a result of a motion put forward by Councillor Clive Dyson. What the outcome of that might be we will need to wait and see. However, as some comfort you would wish to be aware that the Town Council is in the process of finalising a contract to upgrade its footway lighting to LED technology which I hope you agree might be considered a positive step.'

Members consider a draft motion received from Councillor C Dyson.

“We welcome the decisions taken by the UK Government and Shropshire Council to take continued action towards reducing carbon emissions and to declare a “Climate Emergency”.

This Council recognises that Climate Change, other forms of pollution, and habitat destruction all present a serious threat to humanity, with potentially catastrophic impacts on weather systems, food supplies, and the survival of other species.

Therefore, this Council **RESOLVES:**

1. To aim for its own operations to become carbon neutral by 2030, including meaningful offsets.
2. To achieve this, to request the Town Clerk to evaluate each of its activities and establish a plan to reduce its carbon emissions. This should be carried out on an annual basis as a routine part of the review of each activity.
3. As a specific part of point 2, to request the Town Clerk to report, within 12 months, on the state of the Council’s properties, their carbon emissions and way or reducing those emissions.
4. To consider Climate Change and biodiversity when responding to consultations by other bodies.
5. To encourage local organisations and residents to establish some form of “Climate Action Partnership” to promote the need for local individuals and organisations to reduce their carbon emissions and take other action to address Climate Change.
6. To declare a “Climate Emergency”.

We consider that the task of changing public opinion is best addressed by national government, our Principal Authority and local and national climate groups. We will work with and encourage this activity within the remit and resources of the Town Council.

RESOLVED

- i. **That Bridgnorth Town Council recognises a climate emergency**
- ii. **To aim for its own operations to become carbon neutral by 2030, including meaningful offsets.**

AND

- iii **That an advisory group be created (in line with an offer made by Sustainable Bridgnorth to provide advice, support and recommendations) that can report formally to the Town Council on how the Town Council might best proceed to reduce and measure any reduction in its (net) carbon footprint (Town Clerk to arrange for some appropriate terms of reference to be drawn up). Once a process had been identified a regular report (most likely annually) should be provided to the Town Council.**

AND

- iv **In the meantime (The Council) to be mindful of carbon emissions (with the aim of reducing them) in carrying out its routine or any new business.**

0077/1920 **PLANNING APPLICATION – AMENDMENT TO 17/01033/EIA**

Erection of four poultry buildings with feed bins, one gate house, one boiler house and circular water tank; and associated infrastructure and landscaping scheme – Footbridge Farm, Tasley, Bridgnorth, WV16 5LZ

Cllr Cooper provided some detailed observations regarding the planning and ammonia pollution and a general discussion followed.

RESOLVED:

- i. **To object to the subject planning application (in general terms, in line with the previous submission - *minute 0227/1718 dated 23 Aug 1997 refers*).**
- ii. **To delegate the matter to the Town Council’s Planning Committee to approve a precise form of words that are consistent with the views discussed (to object) that could be submitted to the Local Planning Authority.**

0078/1920 **MINUTES**

- i) Members noted receipt of the draft minutes of the Meeting of Bridgnorth Town Council held on Tuesday 4th June 2019.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Meeting of Bridgnorth Town Council held on Tuesday 4th June 2019 be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

0079/1920 **DEPUTY MAYOR'S DIARY**

Members noted that the Deputy Mayor had attended the following events since the last Town Council meeting:

- 6/6 Carnival Royalty Crowning Ceremony
- 9/6 RAF Cosford Air Show
- 14/6 Mayor's Sports Fund Awards Presentation

0080/1920 **MEMBERS QUESTION TIME**

Nil

0081/1920 **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

- i) Planning Committee – minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June 2019

RESOLVED: to receive the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 3rd June 2019 and noted the resolutions contained therein.

- ii) Personnel Committee – minutes of the meeting held on 28th May 2019

RESOLVED: to receive the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 28th May 2019 and noted the resolutions contained therein.

0082/1920 **FINANCE**

- i) Accounts Paid – May 2019

Members noted receipt of a list of retrospective payments for approval.

RESOLVED: that the accounts amounting to £61,424.92 be retrospectively approved for payment.

- ii) Budget Report

Members noted the Budget Summary report, including Earmarked Reserves.

- iii) Balance Sheet

Members noted the balance sheet as at 31st May 2019 (£1,116.85.00)

- iv) Town Council Bank Reconciliation Statement

Members noted the bank reconciliation statement as at 31st May 2019.

v) Receipts and Payments Summary

Members noted the in-year receipts and payments summary as at 31st May 2019.

vi) Accounts for Payment

Members noted receipt of a list of payments for approval.

RESOLVED: that the accounts amounting to £41,603.45 be approved for payment.

0083/1920 **GRANT REQUESTS**

(Cllrs Baines and Cooper departed the meeting)

RESOLVED:

- i) To Grant Crucial Crew £250.

(Cllrs Baines and Cooper returned to the meeting)

- ii) The Town Council confirms that it will forward (its budgeted) £250 of funding to the Twinning Association.

0084/1920 **CASUAL VACANCY**

- i) Members noted that a casual vacancy exists on the Town Council following the resignation of Adrian Hinton on 28th May. The closing date for the calling of an election is 18th June 2019.

- ii) Members noted that it is likely that sufficient signatures have been submitted to the returning officer (subject to confirmation). Further details were awaited from Shropshire Council in the next few days.

- iii) **RESOLVED: to write to Adrian Hinton to thank him for his contribution to the Council.**

0085/1920 **BANK MANDATES**

RESOLVED: to remove Mr Adrian Hinton for both internet banking and as a cheque signatory

0086/1920 **BRIDGNORTH (LOW TOWN) COMMUNITY HALL**

- i) Accounts for Payment

Members noted a list of accounts for Payment.

RESOLVED: that the accounts amounting to £1,195.07 be approved for payment.

0087/19 20 **ARTS TRAIL**

(8.55pm Cllr Barlow departs)

Members received the notes of the Working Group meetings held on 8th April 2019 and 10th June 2019 and considered the following recommendations:

- i) That Julia Buckley prepares applications for all 3 funds and seek endorsement from BTC to submit timely applications for small grants, as per the pervious application

And

- ii) Bridgnorth Town Council approve the use of a 'donate now' button on the website and Facebook page.

RESOLVED:

- i) **That (Cllr) Julia Buckley prepares applications for all 3 funds to submit timely applications for small grants, as per the previous application.**

AND

- ii) **That that any virtual payment method connected to the Council's bank account be in line with financial regulations and confirmed as suitable by the Town Council following a recommendation from the appropriate Council officer(s).**

0088/1920 **PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960**

RESOLVED in terms of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, the following items will be likely to disclose exempt information relating to establishment and contractual matters and it is, therefore, **RESOLVED** that pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded.

0089/1920 **TOWN COUNCIL DEBTORS**

Members considered a report from the RFO.

RESOLVED:

To note a debtors report and approve the actions being undertaken to address unpaid invoices due to the Town Council.

0090/1920 **STAFFING MATTERS**

The Town Clerk advised members that a temporary receptionist had been appointed to fill a vacancy that had arisen.

0091/1920 **FOOTWAY LIGHTING – LED UPGRADE**

Members noted advice from the Internal Auditor regarding the requirement to tender and a previous decision of the Council to replace lanterns with LED technology (Minute 0755/1718 dated 6th March 2018) through the current maintenance contract.

Members further noted that that bulk upgrade of footway lighting will achieve cost savings in the region of £75 per lantern as opposed to ad-hoc one at a time replacement.

RESOLVED:

- a. **To create a new budget line ‘LED Upgrade’ and fund it to a value of £41.5k from the general reserve.**

AND

- b. **Delegates to the Clerk to renegotiate an extension of the current street lighting contract (with the Council’s current footway lighting contractor) to upgrade the Town Council’s complete inventory of footway lighting to LED (on no worse terms than that quoted).**