

BRIDGNORTH TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of Bridgnorth Town Council held in the Mayor's Parlour,
College House on Tuesday 3rd April 2018 at 7.15pm**

Present: The Town Mayor, Councillor R Whittle OBE in the Chair,
Councillors Mrs C Baines MBE, Ms S Barlow,
Dr J Buckley, D Cooper, G Davies, R Fox, Mrs K Hurst-
Knight, Helen Howell, E Marshall,
Mrs J Onions, Mrs C Walden and Mrs C Whittle

In Attendance: Acting Town Clerk, Mr B Ince
Minutes' Secretary and transcribed by Mrs P Russell
Mrs A Kendrick

Two Members of Public

0808/1718 **FIRE SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT**

The meeting commenced with a fire safety announcement by the Mayor.

0809/1718 **RECORDING OF MEETINGS**

The Chairman informed the meeting that recording, including filming, audio recording, taking photographs, blogging, tweeting and using other social media websites is permitted at Council meetings which are open to the public - however, anyone wishing to do is requested to speak to the Town Council staff prior to the meeting as there are rules which must be followed.

0810/1718 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

(i) **RESOLVED:** to receive the apologies as listed below:

Councillor Mrs S Stevens	Personal Commitment
Councillor A Hinton	Absent

(ii) No formal approval of the reasons for absence for the purposes of S85 Local Government Act 1972 was required.

0811/1718 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

0812/1718 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No written questions had been received prior to the meeting.

- i) The minutes of the meeting of Bridgnorth Town Council held on Tuesday 20th March 2018 were submitted as circulated.

Councillor D Cooper requested the following amendments to the minutes.

“0796/1718 **PERMISSION TO USE COUNCIL PROPERTY**

- i) *Bridgnorth Music and Arts Festival – use of Castle Grounds, under the Town Hall and Quayside – various dates.*

It was pointed out that the Music and Arts Festival was a free event and that the organisers undertake fundraising activities to cover the costs incurred.

RESOLVED: *that the above request be upheld.*

Councillor D Cooper requested the following amendments to the minutes.

0806/1718 **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

- i) *Interview Panel*

RESOLVED: *that an interview panel of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillor R Fox is set up and that a consultant is appointed to advise on the selection process to appoint a new Town Clerk at a daily charge of £450 + VAT per day (part days on a pro rata basis), plus expenses at cost. These will include travel costs (standard rail fares), mileage at £0.45 per mile, overnight accommodation and subsistence. At this point in the meeting, it was **RESOLVED:** that Standing Orders be suspended to allow the meeting to continue over the 2.5 hour limit.*

Councillor D Cooper requested the following amendments to the minutes.

- ii) *Compliance matters*

RESOLVED: *that the Acting Town Clerk was to seek professional advice from NALC regarding this matter.*

0807/1718 **COUNCIL MATTERS**

Councillor D Cooper advised that he did not feel that the issues raised in the report circulated would receive adequate consideration at this juncture in the meeting and that he would withdraw this item from consideration at this meeting and requested that it be brought back to the next meeting.

RESOLVED: that subject to the above amendments, the minutes of the Bridgnorth Town Council minutes of the meeting held on on Tuesday 20th March 2018 be received and adopted.”

0814/1718 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

0815/1718 **MEMBERS QUESTION TIME**

There were no Members' questions.

0816/1718 **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

- i) The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 19th March 2018 were submitted as circulated.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 19th March 2018 be received and adopted.

0817/1718 **MATTERS ARISING FROM COMMITTEE MINUTES**

There were no matters arising.

0818/1718 **NOTES OF OTHER MEETINGS**

- i) Notes of the Arts Trail Meeting held on 5th March 2018

RESOLVED: that the notes of the Arts Trail Working Party meeting held on 5th March 2018 be noted.

- ii) Notes of the Arts Trail Meeting held on 19th March 2018

RESOLVED: that the notes of the Arts Trail Working Party meeting held on 19th March 2018 be noted.

- iii) Bridgnorth Arts Trail Update

- a) Revised map of proposed sites and press cutting showing first full sized statue produced.

Councillor Dr J Buckley updated everyone on the Arts Trail and requested permission to submit an application for a grant of £10,000 to support artist activity and profile. The discussion was as to which elements of the art trail project could be included as eligible costs. Members were informed that Shropshire Council had been consulted with regard to the locations. With Council permission, the Arts Trail Working Party wish to send letters on Council letter headed paper to all residents that may be affected by the location of the trains.

Councillors asked a number of questions regarding the grant and how it would be used the proposal needed to have a wider remit to include more eligible costs. Councillor E Marshall said as a Town Council we must be clear on what we are asking for so that it is not seen to be requesting funding under false pretences, and after a lengthy discussion it was **RESOLVED**: That a more detailed breakdown for the use of the money be obtained and that this be deferred to the next Town Council meeting on the 17th April 2018.

0819/1718 **SEALING OF DOCUMENTS**

RESOLVED: that the Common Seal be affixed to the following documents.

Section E477 and 483
Oak Grove 66A and 182L

0820/1718 **PENSION DEFICIT**

Members noted the correspondence with regard to the Pension Deficit for 2018/2019.

0821/1718 **WOMEN'S VOTE CENTENARY GRANT SCHEME (GOVERNMENT EQUALITIES OFFICE).**

“Permission was requested by Councillor Dr J Buckley to submit an application for a small grant (£2,000) to run a programme to encourage young girls/women to learn more about participating in civic life. Councillor Dr Julia Buckley proposed an open competition to young girls/women living in Bridgnorth, aged between 14-18.”

“Up to ten young girls/women would be selected from different schools and organisations (e.g. girl guides)

- a) To form a group to learn about different ways to become involved in politics/local government, and understand how it works.
- b) To "Buddy up" with a female Councillor on the Town Council. Sit beside them for a full Council meeting and jointly prepare a motion for the agenda and speak to the item in full session.
- c) Suggested that they could attend and observe a full council session at Shropshire Council and ask a question from the public gallery.
- d) Travel to Westminster to meet a local female MP for a tour of the Houses of Parliament, observe a debate and visit the tearoom.
- e) Upon their return, prepare a press release and give a "press conference" to the local press about their experience.

All Councillors would be invited to participate; This is about empowering girls and women to improve their understanding of democracy in the UK and encourage and inspire participation in civic life.

Deadline 18 May 2018, project to start by 31 August 2018.”

Numerous comments were made and questions asked and, as there was time available before the application had to be submitted it was: **RESOLVED:** that this item be deferred to the next Town Council on the 17th April 2018.

0822/1718 **OUTDOORS AND PROPERTIES MANAGER’S REPORT**

Members noted the following report.

FLORAL DISPLAYS

Baskets and mangers have now been delivered to the contractor to grow our displays ready for delivery at the start of June.

RIVERSIDE CLEARING

The riverside clearance of the higher vegetation only will be on-going throughout the year.

TREE COPPICING AND PRUNING ON WELL MEADOW

The tree coppicing on Well Meadow along with other open spaces has now been suspended until the autumn and the grass cutting season will soon start on all agreed areas.

Councillor R Whittle OBE asked that a recorded thanks to the members of the working party that helped with the clearing of the riverside

0823/1718 **STRATEGY PLAN**

Following informal discussions to enable the Town Council to move forward with a Strategy Plan, Members were asked to agree to the recruitment of a strategy consultant, Mr Andrew Tubb, the Chief Executive Officer from Cirencester Town Council, over a three day period on the basis of payment of travel and subsistence only to assist with this task.

RESOLVED: that this would be on a 3 day basis with expenses only.

Councillor R Whittle OBE requested a meeting regarding properties on Tuesday 10th April 2018 at 7.15pm In the Castle Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.