

**BRIDGNORTH TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting of Bridgnorth Town Council held in the Castle Hall on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 at 7.15pm**

(Draft until signed at a subsequent meeting)

Present:

- Councillors: Aked
- Baines MBE
- Barlow (Chair)
- Buffey
- Connolly
- D Cooper
- N Cooper
- Neal
- Rochelle
- Sawbridge
- Wellings

In Attendance: L Jakeman - Town Clerk

0212/2122 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Members noted that apologies had been received from:

- Councillor Buckley – personal commitment
- Councillor Chetter – personal Commitment
- Councillor Round – work commitment
- Councillor Seabright - unwell

0213/2122 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil

0214/2122 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Nil

0215/2122 **MINUTES**

- i) **RESOLVED: to approve the minutes of the Meeting of Bridgnorth Town Council held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021.**

0216/2122 **TWINNING**

Members welcomed Mr Ron Whittle, the recently appointed Chair of the Bridgnorth Twinning Association who provide members of the Council with an overview of the Association, its activities, and its relationship with the Town Council. A summary of the most prominent points is provided below:

Bridgnorth is twinned with the German town of Schrobenhausen and the French town of Thiers as a triumvirate. The act of twinning is enshrined in a formal document signed by the Mayor and the Town Clerk at the time that the twinning was agreed. Each of the 3 towns host (on a rotational basis) an organised annual visit for the other 2 towns.

There is a formal civic relationship (through the Town Council) however much of the co-ordination of activities is undertaken through the Twinning Association which is separate from the Town Council and is its own stand-alone organisation. Notwithstanding that, the Town Council has in effect delegated many of the responsibilities to the Twinning Association.

Funding of the Association is largely provided by the Town Council, the level of which fluctuates depending upon whether or not it is Bridgnorth's turn to host the annual activity.

This year's planning meeting will take place in Schrobenhausen over the weekend of 6<sup>th</sup> November. Much of that meeting will be relating to next years event which will be hosted by Bridgnorth. It is hoped that the visit to Bridgnorth will be held over the extended bank holiday weekend to coincide with the Platinum Jubilee. Consideration should be given in future years to sending the Mayor to the annual planning meeting of the 3 towns, along with the Chair of the Association, to match the representation of Triers and Schrobenhausen.

There is an aspiration to drive up membership numbers, membership for the current year is £1 and councillors were encouraged to join as individuals.

0217/2122 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- i) Remembrance Sunday – Members were briefed on the general arrangements for Remembrance Sunday events.
- ii) Events & Christmas Committee meeting – Councillor Connolly advised members that the next meeting of the subject committee will be held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 6:30pm.

- iii) Casual Vacancy – Members were advised that the closing date for the calling of an election due to the current casual vacancy on the Council was Monday 1st November. The Clerk had been advised by Shropshire Council elections team (today) that an appropriate request had been received to hold an election for the vacancy. The timetable for the election is being prepared and will likely be forwarded in the next few days.

0218/2122 **MEMBERS QUESTION TIME**

Nil

0219/2122 **BRIDGNORTH YOUTH PARTNERSHIP**

Members noted a report on an initial scoping meeting of a potential Bridgnorth Youth Partnership which included some informal notes of the meeting held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

0220/2122 **BUDGET PREPARATION 2022/23**

Members noted and considered a report (tabled) (TC/23/2122) following on from a meeting of the Budget Working Group held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

0221/2122 **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.

*(Clerk's note: While the discussions are confidential the decisions made are documented for the public record)*

0222/2122 **VEHICLE LEASES**

Members considered a report regarding the provision of vehicles for the Grounds Maintenance Team and noted the 3 quotes obtained.

**RESOLVED: To approve the quote for the leasing of 3 vehicles from Days Rental (for a 3-year period 2022 – 2025)**

Members expressed a desire for the replacement vehicles in 2025 to be powered by electricity.

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