

BRIDGNORTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Bridgnorth Town Council held in the Annexe, College House on Tuesday 6th September 2022 at 7.15pm.

Present:

Aked
Baines MBE
Buckley
Chetter
Connolly
Ireland
Marshall
Neal
Rochelle
Sawbridge BEM (Chair)
Wellings

In Attendance:

Mrs R Williams, Interim Town Clerk
Mrs R Follette, Interim Responsible Financial Officer

1 member of the press
2 members of the public

0141/2223 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

It was proposed by Councillor K Sawbridge, seconded by Councillor R Ireland, and unanimously **RESOLVED:** to accept the apologies below:

Councillor A Buffey – Personal commitment
Councillor S Barlow – Personal commitment
Councillor D Cooper – Personal commitment
Councillor N Cooper – Personal commitment
Councillor R Seabright – Personal commitment

0142/2223 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil

Councillor L Neal arrived at this point in the meeting

0143/2223 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Mr T Langford of Mill Street

Mr Langford stated that he had concerns about a number of traffic related issues within the town; pollution, environmental degradation; negligent driving and speeding.

What are the statutory requirements of the Town Council?

When will enforcement be carried out?

Answer from the Chair

Councillor K Sawbridge informed Mr Langford that the Town Council share the same concerns.

The Council have previously discussed measures that it feels could improve the situation in certain aspects; an initiative entitled, '20 is plenty' has recently been suggested by BTC to Shropshire Council and possible measures to stop HGV vehicles from crossing the bridge in Low Town.

A supplementary question from Mr Langford

There was a report in 2008 with regards to the pollution in Pound Street.

What matters most, people or traffic? There has got to be a better way to control the situation.

Mr Langford was informed that Shropshire Council are the Highways Authority. Members stated that the problems with anti-social driving were being discussed at agenda item number 7.

It was proposed by Councillor K Sawbridge, seconded by Councillor R Ireland and unanimously

RESOLVED: to bring agenda item number 7 forward to this point in the meeting.

0144/2223 **POLICING CHARTER – SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM**

Members were informed that unfortunately, the SNT team were unable to attend the meeting due to operational duties. The Interim Town Clerk updated Members on discussions that she had held with SNT with regards to anti-social driving. Following a discussion on the current policing priorities of Council it was proposed by Councillor A Chetter, seconded by Councillor J Buckley and unanimously

RESOLVED: to defer this item to the Town Council meeting being held on 20th September 2022 to enable the Police to attend and provide the relevant data on offences etc.

0145/2223 **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor I Wellings, seconded by Councillor C Aked and majority

RESOLVED: to approve the minutes of the meeting of Bridgnorth Town Council held on Tuesday 16th August 2022.

Councillors R Ireland and L Neal abstained, due to not having attended the relevant meeting.

0146/2223 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. Members noted the Mayor's Diary for August 2022.
- b. Members noted that a contractor had been appointed to carry out the eradication of Japanese Knotweed on the riverbanks on a 3-year contract. It was also noted that the Direct Labour Force are to attend the relevant training to enable any future works to be carried out in house.

Members asked for letters to be sent to both Shropshire Council and Apley Estates informing them of the situation and politely asking if they could now look to eradicate Japanese Knotweed on their land.

- c. Councillor I Wellings informed Members that letters to residents, informing them of the pending road closure of the High Street for the Italian Moto Festival on Sunday 11th September 2022, appear to have only been sent, at this current time, to residents in Cartway, Waterloo Terrace and parts of the High Street. It was felt that important points from the conditions of the road closure had failed to be implemented and respect for residents was lacking.

0147/2223 **MEMBERS QUESTION TIME**

Nil

0148/2223 **OUTDOOR & PROPERTY REPORT**

Members noted a report completed by the Direct Labour Force Supervisor and Senior Property Maintenance Operative. Members were extremely pleased with the contents of the report and spoke about disbandment of the Task & Finish Group for reviewing the Quinquennial report. It was proposed by Councillor I Wellings, seconded by Councillor K Sawbridge and unanimously

RESOLVED: to delegate to the maintenance team the choice of paint colour for the two notice boards in the entrance way to Castle Hall and

RESOLVED: to disband the Review of Quinquennial Report Task & Finish Group.

0149/2223 **REQUEST FROM THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRIDGNORTH COMMUNITY HALL**

Members considered a report and recommendation to compensate the Bridgnorth Community Hall for the refund that they had issued to a hall user. It was proposed by Councillor K Sawbridge, seconded by Councillor R Connolly and unanimously

RESOLVED: to issue a cheque in the sum of £90 to Bridgnorth Community Hall.

0150/2223 **SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL COMMUNITY TREE SCHEME**

Members considered correspondence from Shropshire Council with regards to a community tree scheme. It was proposed by Councillor L Neal, seconded by Councillor L Rochelle and unanimously

RESOLVED: to delegate to the Outdoor & Property Manager the task of securing suitable trees for the Grove Park to replace ones that had been stolen/vandalised.

(Clerk's note: Councillor L Neal has offered to collect the trees from the relevant nursery on behalf of the Town Council)

0151/2223 **RISK MANAGEMENT SCHEDULE**

Members reviewed the Risk Management Schedule. It was proposed by Councillor K Sawbridge, seconded by Councillor A Chetter and unanimously

RESOLVED: to delegate to Councillors C Aked and L Rochelle to meet with the Interim Town Clerk and review the document in detail before being returned to the Town Council for adoption.

0152/2223 **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN – YEAR END 31ST MARCH 2022**

- a. Members noted the review of Bridgnorth Town Council's Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR).
- b. Members noted the satisfactory review by the external auditor (PKF Littlejohn LLP) of Bridgnorth Town Councils Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR), without additional comment.

Members attention was drawn to the External Auditors comments on Section 3 with regards to the incorrect minute number recorded on Section 1. Members were content that an administrative error had occurred by recording the minute number as 0042/2223cii instead of 0043/2223cii.

- c. Members noted a copy of the notice of conclusion of audit and that the publishing of the notice and sections 1, 2 & 3 of the AGAR occurred on the 31st August 2022 on the Town Councils website and notice boards.

0153/2223 **PUBLIC BODIES**

It was proposed by Councillor K Sawbridge, seconded by Councillor L Rochelle and majority

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.

Councillor J Buckley abstained.

0154/2223 **STAFFING MATTERS**

Members received a brief from the chair of the Workforce Committee, Councillor C Aked, with regards to the Town Clerk recruitment.