

BRIDGNORTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Bridgnorth Town Council held in the Annexe, College House on Tuesday 1st November 2022 at 7.15pm.

Present: K Sawbridge BEM (Mayor)
C Aked
C Baines MBE
S Barlow
J Buckley
A Chetter
R Connolly
D Cooper
N Cooper
R Ireland
E Marshall
L Neal
L Rochelle
R Seabright
I Wellings

In Attendance: Mrs R Williams, Interim Town Clerk
5 members of the public

0216/2223 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Nil

0217/2223 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil

0218/2223 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Question from Mr Daniels

1. Does the Town Council have an estimate for the cost of the removal of the Arts Trail Statues and the making good of the ground on which they stand, and if so what is the estimate?
2. How much money has been set aside for this purpose and is available to the Council?

A written response will be provided to Mr Daniels on due course.

Members noted the response sent to Mr Daniels by the Interim Town Clerk following his public question in the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 27th September 2022.

“If the Town Council, having previously given public undertakings to remove all the statues of the Arts Trail, resolves now to keep some of them permanently, what confidence in its future undertakings does it expect the public to have?”

A: There are three statues in question, all located on land owned by the Town Council. The locations being: Foundry Park, Quayside and Castle Grounds. The statues have been sponsored by local organisations who have stated that they are happy for them to remain in place. The Council have received many positive comments about both the Arts Trail and the statues since they have been installed. Therefore, leading to the question of if the statues should be left in situ.

Please be rest assured that Council does not wish for any of its residents to feel that they cannot have confidence in it or its decision making. Council always tries to take the interests of the town, as a whole and its residents into account when debating issues.

Should Council decide to leave the statues in situ, I can assure you that the decision will be taken following debate and with due regard.

0219/2223 **APLEY ESTATES**

The briefing from Apley Estates was conducted prior to the start of the meeting.

0220/2223 **MINUTES**

Councillor S Barlow queried the contents of the confidential minutes with regards to an omission. Councillor K Sawbridge informed the meeting that the item was to be brought back to a subsequent meeting.

1. It was proposed by Councillor K Sawbridge, seconded by Councillor R Seabright and majority

RESOLVED: to approve the minutes of the Bridgnorth Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 18th October 2022.

2. Members noted the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on Tuesday 11th October 2022.

0221/2223 **MEMBERS QUESTION TIME**

Nil

0222/2223 **WINTER WARMTH HUBS**

It was proposed by Councillor N Cooper, seconded by Councillor D Cooper and unanimously

RESOLVED:

- To publicise the local warm hub venues on our website, Facebook feed and notice boards.
- To invite local warm hub initiatives to apply for support (financial or use of facilities) from our Grants Budget.

0223/2223 **LOW TOWN COMMUNITY HALL TRUSTEES**

Councillor R Seabright left the meeting at this point

Councillor N Cooper raised her concern about the Management Committee of the Bridgnorth Community Hall, given there were just 4 members, three of whom were Councillors (Councillors E Marshall, N Cooper and C Baines) and felt it was necessary to attract more volunteers, be they Councillors or residents. Following a debate it was proposed and seconded to suspend Standing Orders to allow members of the public to ask questions with regards to the 'duties' and likely time commitments of a member of the Management Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor L Neal, seconded by Councillor A Chetter and unanimously

RESOLVED: to request the Management Committee of the Bridgnorth Community Hall to produce a 'job description' along with the aims of the Committee to encourage members of the public to apply to be on the Management Committee. An advertising campaign should be entered into to include the Bridgnorth Journal, the Councils website page and social media platforms.

RESOLVED: to appoint Councillor R Connolly onto the Committee for the remainder of the financial year.

0224/2223

GRANT APPLICATION

It was proposed by Councillor D Cooper, seconded by Councillor R Connolly and unanimously

RESOLVED: to defer consideration of the grant application until further information had been received; specific details of the activities to be undertaken, where the activities will take place, the number of children that will benefit, a detailed program of the initiative, including relevant financial data.

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