

BURNHAM-ON-SEA & HIGHBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Projects Committee meeting held on Wednesday 25 January 2017 at 7pm in the Old Courthouse, Jaycroft Road, Burnham-on-Sea.

Present Cllr Mrs Keen (Deputy-Chairman)
Cllr Tolley,
Cllr Burridge-Clayton
Mrs D Emery – Town Clerk, Mrs J Manning – Accounts and Admin Assistant

Cllr Keen presented certificates and prizes to the winners of the Christmas Lighting Competition.

61/17/TPC Apologies and Declarations of Interest:
Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Young (work)
Cllrs Cox, Ms Lawson and Ms Weavell were not present.

There were no declarations of interest.

Public Speaking Time – The meeting was suspended to allow members of the public who had registered to speak in accordance with Minute nos. 14/96/TC and 49/97/TC.

Members NOTED the comments from:

Mr Burt spoke about the bins in Technical Street:

- Communal waste bins were placed on yellow lines.
- Beer barrels from the Somerset and Dorset Inn were obstructing the pavement.
- There was food waste and hot oil waste on the pavement.
- Bins and food waste were visible from High Street.

Mr Burt asked if it this issue could be registered as an official complaint with SDC and SCC and asked if district councillors had taken this up with SDC.

Members would discuss the bins under item 7 on the agenda.

Mr Regan spoke as the Vice-Chair of Sedgemoor Hackney and Private Hire Drivers' Association:

He had e-mailed the Town Clerk and had nothing further to add. He was here to listen to the discussion this evening and to report back to the trade and its members.

Members would discuss the taxi rank under item 3 on the agenda.

62/17/TPC Two taxi spaces in College Street

The Clerk provided some background to this item and advised that she had been misquoted on burnham-on-sea.com. We had considered this matter two years ago and had asked SDC if we could acquire the spaces. SDC had rejected this proposal, as the spaces formed part of their Transport Strategy, and they were not intending to make changes to the strategy.

Members discussed the matter of the taxi spaces:

- It was a well-used taxi rank and gaining two parking spaces would have little or no effect on the overall parking provision in this part of the town.
- Taking taxi spaces away might mean that more cars would come into the town.

- Businesses pay for licences and the taxi ranks provide a safe drop-off point.

Overall, members agreed not to continue with enquiries with SDC to remove the two spaces. Cllr Burrige-Clayton proposed, Cllr Tolley seconded and all agreed that the Clerk should contact SDC accordingly.

ACTION: Clerk to contact SDC.

63/17/TPC Highway Matters

Members considered amendment order plans sent from County Highways. The amendment orders related to designated areas of the following streets as marked on the maps sent by Highways:

Technical Street – no loading
Burnham Road – single yellow line
College Street – no loading
High Street – limited waiting
Margaret Crescent – no waiting at any time
Market Street – limited waiting
Priory Gardens – no waiting at any time

After discussion, members agreed there were no objections to the above plans. Cllr Burrige-Clayton proposed, Cllr Tolley seconded and all AGREED to support the plans.

Members considered an e-mail request from Jewsons for double yellow lines along both sides of Tylers End, Highbridge, up to the entrances of Jewsons and Somerset Cuisine. The e-mail was accompanied by photographs of vehicles blocking the road.

- Access to Jewsons was being blocked by vehicles parked directly opposite their entrance.
- Refrigerated Lorries were parking overnight, and large delivery vehicles were damaging gates at Jewson's entrance when trying to turn in the access road because of the parked cars across the street

Councillors discussed the issues:

- It would be fair to ask business premises across the road for their opinions. At this stage, it was too early to make recommendations.
- We could send pictures to Highways, suggesting double yellow lines at the points where vehicles were blocking the road.

Members AGREED to take the request from Jewsons to full Council for further discussion.

64/17/TPC Request from a resident for a Grit Bin in Cookson Close

Members noted that there was a grit bin in the centre of town, but that it would not be feasible to agree to requests for grit bins in residential areas. The Clerk advised that the local authority grits A roads, and B roads where there are regular bus services, but does not grit residential roads. The resident from Cookson Close had written to Highways, who had referred her request back to the Town Council. Members AGREED not to provide a grit bin for Cookson Close, and asked the Clerk to write to the resident accordingly.

65/17/TPC Rotary Club – fingerpost on the South Esplanade

The Rotary Club had requested permission to erect a fingerpost on the sea front. This would have up to six fingers pointing in agreed directions. The Clerk reported that SDC managed the Esplanade, the Rotary club had approached them and they were supportive of the idea. As the Town Council had considered distance markers along the Esplanade the fingerpost may contribute to this project in the future.

Members discussed the fingerpost and a number of queries were raised:

- Would a plan be available so members could see what the fingerpost would look like?
- Who would be responsible for on-going maintenance?
- Would the Rotary Club pay for the installation?

The Clerk confirmed that it was anticipated that the Rotary Club would pay the installation costs, and maintenance could be managed either jointly or through the Town Council maintenance programme. It would be put on the Town Council insurance. All AGREED unanimously to RECOMMEND approval of the fingerpost to the full Council.

ACTION: Clerk to confirm with the Rotary the future maintenance of the fingerpost.

66/17/TPC Response from SDC – bins in Technical Street

The Clerk reported that we had written to Adrian Gardner at SDC, and had explored every avenue possible.

Adrian Gardner had advised that bins had been stored on Technical Street for a long time, and that the Clean Surroundings team were managing the issue by regularly cleaning round the bins. There appeared to be no easy solution. Environmental Health had visited, and had found the area to be tidy. However, they would continue to monitor, particularly at holiday periods.

A discussion followed and a number of points raised:

- Why is it legal to store bins on the pavement?
- Seven years ago, there were no bins in Technical Street, as they were stored on the premises.
- The bins were causing an obstruction, particularly to the elderly and mothers with pushchairs, who were forced to walk in the road.
- Storage of bins on the pavement gave visitors a bad impression of the area.
- The bins caused unpleasant odours in the summer, and meant that local residents were forced to keep their windows closed to avoid the smell.

Councillors discussed the need for the Departments concerned to work together to find a solution and it was suggested that District Councillors could assist with this process. It was decided that the Clerk would reply to Adrian Gardner, to say the Town Council was not happy with the situation, and would continue to seek a better outcome. Correspondence would be copied to Duncan McGinty, and Kerry Rickards.

ACTION: Clerk to contact SDC.

67/17/TPC Decision Notice from BT regarding the removal of payphones in the Sedgemoor area

Members NOTED the decision notice from BT.

68/17/TPC E-mail from Tom Dougall SDC and the request from the Bridgwater Harley Owners Group to use Pier Street South car park instead of the South Esplanade.

The Clerk reported that Tom Dougall had asked for members' thoughts on the use of Pier Street car park by the bike users.

Members discussed the request from the Bridgwater Harley Owners Group:

- The Harley Bike Owners gathering was a popular event.
- It would be safer for visitors to view the bikes in an enclosed area.
- SDC had in the past asked for a contribution for loss of earnings.
- What percentage of the total number of 186 spaces would be used for the event?
- On a sunny day, loss of revenue would be more than on a rainy day.

Members agreed that we would need the full facts before making a recommendation.

ACTION: Clerk to contact SDC.

68/17/TPC Date for the next meeting of the Committee

Members NOTED that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Wednesday 15 March 2017.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.05 pm.