



# Burnham-on-Sea & Highbridge Town Council

Mayor: Cllr. Bill Hancock  
Town Clerk: Tatiana Cant

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## Town Projects Committee

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, The Old Courthouse, Jaycroft Road, Burnham-on-Sea**

**Present:** Cllrs: Michael Clarke (Chair), Peter Clayton, Martin Cox, Phil Harvey, Janet Keen, Kate Lawson and Nick Tolley.

**In attendance:** Tatiana Cant: Town Clerk, Lorna Brewer: Admin Officer, 3 members of the public, 1 representative from the press

### **10/18/TPC Apologies and Declarations of Interest:**

There were no apologies or declarations of interest or dispensations granted.

Cllr Weavell was not present at the meeting.

**Public Speaking Time** – The meeting was suspended to allow contributions from 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 a resident.**

A member of the public who was acting in his own capacity and did not represent any groups explained that he was currently responsible for collecting statistics on vacant premises, and that this rate had recently doubled and was now higher than the national and regional average. The rate of improvement in footfall had also deteriorated. Members were requested to address urgently the need to ensure town centre vibrancy and consider a strategy for managing the change which is taking place in many high streets due to the trend towards online and out-of-town shopping. It was important to attract more shoppers and improve the shopping experience by enhancing town centre amenities, eg better finger post maintenance and pavement repair at the site of the cash point which had been removed.

### **The meeting was re-convened.**

Cllr Clayton arrived at the meeting.

**11/18/TPC** A presentation was received from John Strickland:

### **Commemoration of Burnham's first passenger train in 1858 on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018**

- On 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 – exactly 160 years ago, to the day the first passenger train came to Burnham
- A blue memorial plaque to be installed on the buffer stop at Pier Street to be unveiled as part of the celebrations
- Public slideshows to be held in the Town Council Chambers on 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> May to raise funds for Burnham Football Club

Members approved the installation of the blue plaque and AGREED the wording.

Signed by Chairman ..... Date .....

Cllr Keen arrived at the meeting.

**12/18/TPC Action List**

Members NOTED the ongoing items on the action list. Members were pleased that Sedgemoor District Council had granted a concession to the RNLI for cars belonging to lifeboat staff displaying an official RNLI staff sticker.

**ACTION:** Request SDC to extend the concession to the crew of BARB, when on a shout.

**13/18/TPC New Town Guide**

Suggestions for contributions for publication in this year's Town Guide which is aimed at local residents:

- Railway Anniversary
- Youth Group membership promotion
- Launch Council Chamber room hire
- Town Crier

**14/18/TPC Footfall statistics and vacant premises in Burnham-on-Sea Town Centre**

Members were concerned at the high percentage of vacant premises and the rapid change in retail trends.

**ACTION:** Cllrs Tolley and Clayton AGREED to carry out an audit of the town to identify problem areas and small projects to encourage shoppers to the town.

**ACTION:** Request for consultation with Sedgemoor District Council for definition of the town centre areas:

- Primary – High Street
- Secondary – side streets

Members considered improved signage especially for coach visitors possibly to show how many minutes it would take to walk to certain areas eg: The Esplanade, St Andrew's Church, Post Office etc

The possibility of a museum in the Town Centre was discussed.

**ACTION:** Investigate options for improved signage

**15/18/TPC CCTV Usage**

Cllr Tolley reported that under the Residential/Commercial Protection of Freedom Act 2012 (gov.uk website) - CCTV must be installed correctly and obtain a licence.

Businesses will need to make themselves aware of the lawful requirements

**ACTION** The Clerk to produce a simple press release for the website.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Tolley for the information.

**16/18/TPC Correspondence and Information from the Clerk**

**GWR Partnership:** Great Western Railway had launched an initiative 'In Partnership for Britain's Prosperity' with its partners. This will include £4.5m spent on projects that meet social needs, educate or engage young people such as bringing disused buildings back to life, developing history or heritage activities or encouraging bicycle use. It was AGREED to arrange an exploratory meeting with Great Western Railway.

**Street parties for the Royal Wedding** Members AGREED that residents would organise their own street party events.

**17/18/TPC Next meeting Date**

Members NOTED the next meeting of the Committee – **6.30pm Weds 9<sup>th</sup> May**

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 19.25hrs.

Signed by Chairman ..... Date .....