



Burnham-on-Sea & Highbridge Town Council

Mayor: Cllr. Bill Hancock
Town Clerk: Tatiana Cant

The Old Courthouse
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Town Projects Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 29th May 2018 at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber, The Old Courthouse, Jaycroft Road, Burnham-on-Sea

Present: Cllrs: Michael Clarke (Chair), Peter Clayton, Janet Keen, and Nick Tolley. Also Cllrs Brewer and Hoggarth.

In attendance: Tatiana Cant: Town Clerk, Lorna Brewer: Admin Officer, James Heapey MP, Sgt Ryan Edwards, Steven Hellard (SDC), 10 members of the public, 1 representative from the press

18/18/TPC Apologies and Declarations of Interest:

Apologies were received and accepted from:

- Cllr Phil Harvey (family)
- Cllr Martin Cox (health)
- Cllr Kate Lawson (work)

Cllr Weavell was not present at the meeting.

Cllr Brewer wished to discuss the item on the Government consultation on powers for dealing with unauthorised developments and encampments, but as he was not a member of the committee would not take part in any vote.

19/18/TPC Action List

Members NOTED the progress on the Action List.

20/18/TPC Government consultation on powers for dealing with unauthorised developments and encampments

Members considered the consultation on powers for dealing with unauthorised developments and encampments which they had been invited to respond to. James Heapey stressed the importance of a thorough response from the Town Council as Burnham is cited as the first case study on a national level regarding unauthorised encampments of various groups of travellers. Councillors agreed that this was a significant problem for the community and the current enforcement system was not adequate to deal with the problem. Representatives from the police and Sedgemoor District Council described the difficulties they faced with managing the frequent episodes. The technicalities of the removal process lead to delays in the ability to move groups on and often they relocated to a nearby site resulting in simply shifting the problem slightly further down the road. The authorities were working closely together to develop a joint protocol which was currently in draft form; collaborative working was needed to try to solve these issues.

Signed by Chairman Date

The Town Council agreed to convene a Task & Finish group which would meet urgently in order to prepare a full response to the consultation by the end of this week.

21/18/TPC Scheme to provide electric car charging points in suitable town centre locations.

A proposal to join a scheme to help electric car owners was considered. Currently there were very few electric car charging points in the nearby area and therefore visitors with electric cars were not being encouraged to visit the town. James Heapey welcomed the opportunity to make more charging points available for people using the M5 who would then be encouraged to come off the motorway, spend some time enjoying the local attractions and boosting income to the cafes and businesses. He advised the Council to research the various schemes available and decide on the best model for the town and identify the ideal locations.

22/18/TPC Update on the Town Council's involvement in the Plastic Free Coastline Campaign

A short update was provided on the work of the Partnership which was working hard to meet the criteria of the Surfers Against Sewage campaign to achieve Plastic Free Town status. James Heapey applauded the town's innovative approach which had inspired Sedgemoor District Council to adopt a similar policy. He encouraged a comprehensive approach to improving the local environment. It was noted that there was ongoing work with Litter Free Somerset which was introducing a Business Award Scheme to help businesses address all aspects of their purchasing and waste disposal.

23/18/TPC Town Parking Issues and Issues at Birch Lawn

Members considered the parking issues at Birch Lawn and Kingsway Drive, Burnham-on-Sea, also the issue at Beaufort Court where an ambulance had not been able to gain access.

ACTION The Clerk would write to County Highways

24/18/TPC Anti-Social Behaviour at Priory Gardens

A resident of Priory Gardens spoke about the anti-social behaviour problems of teenagers gathering during school holidays and light evenings. Drug dealing is taking place, underage drinking, verbal and physical abuse, damage to trees and gravestones in the Nun's graveyard. The area is right next to the grounds of St Joseph's school so there were concerns regarding protection of the children of junior school age. The police and SDC had been involved and had been asked to visit regularly. Options suggested for ways to address this were:

1. a weekly visit just to clear litter and rubbish
2. removal of low vegetation to eliminate hiding places
3. fencing off the corner area.

Members agreed to support the residents of Priory Gardens in implementing options 1 and 2.

25/18/TPC Junior Civic Awards

Cllr Tolley reported to members that that Bacavor Desserts had offered to support and fund this initiative. Other sources of funding were: Colin Rufus from Burnham Lions and Mark Newman. King Alfred School had offered the School Theatre for the presentations. Details for requesting nominations and determining age brackets would be decided by the working group with the aim to have an award ceremony in September.

Signed by Chairman Date

26/18/TPC Report from Working Group re audit of town centre faults

Cllr Clayton reported to members the unsatisfactory state of the pavements throughout the town. The chewing gum, seagull mess, cigarette ends, broken drainage gullies, missing blocks filled with concrete, overflowing bins in Technical Street and the openness of the Tuckers Garage site were all of concern.

ACTION Cllr Clayton to write a report on this.

The Ritz had offered to move the notice board currently displayed on the old Tuckers site to the Ritz and to maintain the board. Members AGREED this proposal.

27/18/TPC Request to Support a Recommendation for a Seasonal Restriction Notice on Berrow Road

A resident of Trinity Close who was an organiser of the Christmas Light displays in aid of charity spoke about the problems caused by the amount of visitors parking in the surrounding streets during the display. Traffic cones had been used but this pushed the traffic and parking to Berrow Road. Last Christmas a significant complaint had been made to SDC Health & Safety Group which had forced them to take further action. It was also noted that there was no provision for disabled parking but there did not appear to be a practical way to accommodate this at the moment. The proposal described a temporary traffic restriction in the form of double yellow lines from Trinity Rise to Stoddens Road for the month of December.

Cllr Clayton PROPOSED that this scheme be trialled for one year. This was seconded by Cllr Keen and all members AGREED.

28/18/TPC 67 Bus Route

A volunteer from BiARS described the complaints received at the Information Centre from people who had been stranded at Wedmore as there was no bus connection. The Clerk had reported this to Somerset County Council and read an email response received. It was agreed that this matter would be explored fully with Mendip Community Transport before awarding further Town Council grant funding.

The Town Council had been consulted regarding a proposed change to the route of the 67 bus.

Cllr Clayton PROPOSED the alteration to the route be made as suggested and all members AGREED.

29/18/TPC Footfall statistics for the town

Members NOTED the latest footfall statistics.

30/18/TPC Usage of Town Crest

Members AGREED to grant a dispensation to allow the Burnham-on-Sea & Highbridge Fritsler Society to use the Town Crest on an embroidered wall hanging to celebrate 30 years of twinning.

31/18/TPC Insert for Town Guide

Members considered the draft insert and agreed to proceed subject to suggested changes.

32/18/TPC Date of next meeting

The next meeting of this Committee was scheduled for Monday 9th July at 6.30pm

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.16hrs.

Signed by Chairman Date