

Burnham-on-Sea & Highbridge Town Council

Town Projects Committee

Minutes of meeting held at 7pm on Monday 25th September 2017 in the Old Courthouse, Jaycroft Road, Burnham-on-Sea

Present: Cllrs: Clarke (Chair), Keen (Vice-Chair), Burridge-Clayton, Harvey, Lawson and Tolley.

In attendance: Tatiana Cant: Town Clerk, Lorna Williams: Deputy Town Clerk, 6 members of the public, 2 representatives from the press

109/17/TPC Apologies and Declarations of Interest:

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Cox (family) and Matthews (health).

Cllr. Weavell was not present.

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations granted.

Public Speaking

A member from the Highbridge Chamber of Trade remarked on the poor information signage at Highbridge Railway Station: large uninspiring signs, a very small obscure bus timetable sign, and a heritage sign which was in a very poor state of repair with a map in need of updating.

Cllr Lawson joined the meeting.

The new owner of the Victoria Hotel commented regarding Burnham's Christmas tree.

- The location on the premises had improved as there was now more space and a fence which had been causing an obstruction had been removed
- There is CCTV all around the premises
- Fairly well protected from high winds coming off the sea
- Offered to continue to pay for the electricity used to light the tree
- The Christmas lights switch-on is to be outside the Victoria, so it would make sense for the town to have a tree on the premises

Members thanked the gentleman for his kind offer. The matter was for further discussion later on the agenda.

A resident from Priory Gardens asked the committee if they would consider requesting that double yellow lines were painted on the bend opposite Boniface Walk to allow a passing point for safety reasons. Since double yellow lines had been added at the top end of Priory Gardens the problem of cars passing safely had been moved further down the road.

ACTION: Clerk to write to County Highways

110/17/TPC Action List

The Clerk gave a verbal update to members on several ongoing actions:

- **Cash machine/phone box (82/17/TPC)** – The Clerk was continuing to chase but had been unable to resolve.

ACTION: The Clerk to escalate through legal channels if necessary

Corporate Strategy (103/17/TPC) – the Clerk asked for members to consider setting up a working group. The Strategy would link to the CIL Policy (11/17/P&F)
ACTION: Cllrs Harvey, Lawson and Burridge-Clayton would form a working group.

Victorian Quarter Street Sign (86/17/TPC) – Supplier had confirmed installation would be September, but was not installed
ACTION: Clerk to chase supplier

111/17/TPC Signage at Highbridge Station

ACTION: Members agreed to visit the site and for the matter to be discussed at the next Town Projects meeting.

112/17/TPC Footfall Statistics

Members NOTED the report covering the period 11th September to 17th September. It was noted that there was a noticeable improvement on the figures for the same period in 2016. This has been attributed to the opening of the B&M store in contrast with the vacant Morrisons store last year.

113/17/TPC Location of 2017 Christmas tree in Burnham-on-Sea

The Clerk gave a verbal update regarding suggested options.

Members discussed the various locations and options.

Cllr Burridge-Clayton **PROPOSED**, Cllr Tolley seconded and all **AGREED** that Burnham would have 2 Christmas trees this year to help spread the Christmas cheer to both ends of the town.

Highbridge would continue to have the 18ft tree in its same location.

ACTION: The Clerk to source an 18ft tree to be installed at the Victoria Hotel and a slightly smaller tree to be sited by the Town Council's water feature, check the electric provision is adequate and make any necessary recommendations.

114/17/TPC Hanging Baskets for 2018

Members considered a tabled report from the Clerk. The Council has 28 baskets that would need to be planted, installed and watered.

Cllr Burridge-Clayton **PROPOSED**, Cllr Tolley seconded and it was **AGREED** for safety and continuity that Sedgemoor District Council (SDC) should be asked to install, water and remove the baskets at a cost of £2,310 (Option 1).

ACTION: Clerk to make arrangement for hanging baskets with SDC.

115/17/TPC Funding relating to SS&L

Members considered the information provided and were very disappointed to learn the ESFA was to cut its funding dramatically to SS&L and that Burnham's centre may have to close. Members felt that the centre was a very important local resource for their residents for both vocational and non-vocational courses. Members all **AGREED** to show their support to reinstate funding through lobbying their local MP and Somerset County Council.

ACTION: The Clerk to write to James Heapey and Somerset County Council to express the Council's support for the continuation of courses delivered by SS&L.

116/17/TPC Parking problems experienced by the lifeboat crew

Cllr Tolley asked members if they would consider lobbying Sedgemoor District Council on behalf of the RNLI on two issues:

1. To obtain parking permits. He informed members that when on a Shout the crew have limited space to park their cars in their small car park and have to spend time parking sometimes some distance from the yard.

2. Cars are parking directly opposite the entrance which makes it incredibly difficult to manoeuvre the rescue craft out of the yard.

ACTION: Members asked the Clerk to write to Sedgemoor District Council to investigate the possibility of supplying parking permits free of charge and also to ask what could be done to prevent cars parking opposite the entrance.

117/17/TPC Speed Indicator Device Survey

Members NOTED the survey for Stoddens Road between 16th August and 28th August 2017.

118/17/TPC Remembrance Sunday arrangements

The Clerk had attended a recent meeting with the Royal British Legion who had requested a contribution from the Town Council towards the road closure costs of £428. Members AGREED to make a small contribution subject to clarification of costs.

ACTION: Clerk to check costings and bring the information to the full Town Council meeting.

119/17/TPC Correspondence and items of information

An open invitation had been received from The Victoria Hotel to sample their new Dark Night full menu on Wednesday 11th October at 7:30pm.

120/17/TPC Date of next meeting

Members NOTED the next meeting date for this committee: Wednesday 6th December

The following being confidential Town Council business, it was proposed by Cllr Mrs Keen, seconded by Cllr Harvey and unanimously agreed that members of the Press and Public were asked to leave in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

121/17/TPC Update on this year's Civic Awards for 2017

The Clerk gave a verbal update on this year's Civic Awards.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20:10