

**Minutes of the Meeting of Bury St Edmunds Town Council,
held at the Guildhall, Bury St Edmunds,
on Wednesday 24 January 2024 at 7pm**

Present: Cllrs Hind (Town Mayor), Armitage, Augustine, Chung, Halpin, Higgins, Iannelli-Popham, Lindberg, McGoochan, Mager, Sayer, Stamp, Stennett and Waterman

Also present: Jodie Budd (Town Clerk), Jacqueline Howells (Responsible Financial Officer/Assistant Town Clerk), Julie Sturgeon (Allotment and Administrative Officer), PCSO Mark Ellis, representatives from Bury St Edmunds Rotary Club, Bury Town Trust, Newbury Community Centre, the Press and members of public.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mackenzie and O'Driscoll.

2. To receive declarations of interest and additions to registers

All District Councillors declared: '*That I may vote differently at District or County Council level from that recorded at this meeting*'. Cllrs. Augustine, Chung, Halpin, Higgins, Hind, Lindberg, Mager, Sayer, Stamp, Stennett and Waterman declared a local non-pecuniary interest as District Councillors. Cllr Chung declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Trustee of the Bury Society.

3. To consider written applications by a member for dispensation, from the restrictions in section 31(4) of the Localism Act 2011 and specify the period for which any dispensation has effect

None.

4. To confirm, adopt and sign the minutes of the 13 December 2023 meeting of the Council

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/163/24/Jan/24:**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of 13 December 2023 be agreed and signed, as an accurate record.

5. Public Forum

A member of the BSE Rotary Club advised members of the upcoming Online Charity Auction and urged Councillors to support the project.

A representative from the Bury Town Trust informed Councillors about the intention of Suffolk County Council to move the Records Office from premises in Bury St Edmunds to the Hold in Ipswich.

A representative from the Newbury Community Centre expressed concerns about the recent spate of vandalism that had taken place at the Centre.

6. Town Clerk's report

The Clerk told members that she was settling in very well. The Clerk is keen to work with Councillors on existing and new projects. Councillors are more than welcome to call into the office or phone at any time. All members of staff will try and accommodate your requests.

7. Responsible Financial Officer's report

The RFO presented the monthly financial report outlining key information extracted from the monthly budget report. No issues for concern were identified.

8. To note the PCSO's verbal report

PCSO Mark Ellis attended the meeting. He advised that if the December crime figures for the Southgate ward excluded reported incidents at the Police Investigation Centre and West Suffolk Hospital, the actual figures would be very low. Apart from anti-social cases at the Newbury Centre there has been relatively few incidents to report in the Bury area.

9. To approve and adopt the Town Council budget for 2024/2025Resolution Record No. **BSETC/164/24/Jan/24:****RESOLVED** that the Town Council budget for 2024/2025 be **APPROVED** and **ADOPTED****10. To approve and sign the Precept for 2024/2025**Resolution Record No. **BSETC/165/24/Jan/24:****RESOLVED** that the Town Council precept for 2024/2025 be **APPROVED** at £41.95 (-0.83% decrease) per Band D Property Equivalent in the sum of £609,059.00 and the Precept Demand Form signed by the Town Mayor and Town Clerk in the presence of the Council.**11. To formally adopt the General Power of Competence**

The Town Clerk advised that as she has obtained the CiLCA qualification the Town Council is able to adopt the General Power of Competence.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/166/24/Jan/24:****RESOLVED** that the Town Council **ADOPTS** the General Power of Competence.**12. To consider the Meetings schedule for June 2024 – May 2025**Resolution Record No. **BSETC/167/24/Jan/24:****RESOLVED** that the meeting schedule for June 24 – June 25 be **ADOPTED**.**13. To consider replacing existing Speed Indicator Devices**

The Town Clerk advised Councillors that the two existing Speed Indicator Devices owned by the Town Council were no longer sufficient and more devices were required.

After further discussion it was agreed that a decision would be made at a later date when further information will be made available.

14. To discuss opportunity to work with community group for allotment improvements

The Town Clerk informed Councillors about the opportunity of working with a community group to carry out improvements on the allotment sites. The Council will need to provide toilet facilities and drinking water at a cost of approximately £300.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/168/24/Jan/24:****RESOLVED** that the community group be invited to work on the allotments as directed by the Allotments Officer**15. To appoint a representative to join the proposed working party to ensure that Bury St Edmunds is able to retain its archives in the town**

Councillors discussed the proposal from SCC to move the Archive Office currently situated in Bury St Edmunds to the Hold in Ipswich.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/169/24/Jan/24:****RESOLVED** that the Mayor Cllr Hind and the Town Clerk Jodie Budd be appointed as representatives on the working party to discuss ways of retaining the Archives in Bury St Edmunds. Cllr Stamp will attend if required subject to availability.**16. To receive the report and adopt the recommendations of the Planning, Licensing and Finance committee meetings of 13th December 23 and 10th January 24****16.1** Resolution Record No. **BSETC/170/24/Jan/24:****RESOLVED** that the minutes of the P,L&F meeting on 13th December 23 be **ADOPTED****16.2** Resolution Record No. **BSETC/171/24/Jan/24:****RESOLVED** that the minutes of the P,L&F meeting on 10th January 24 be **ADOPTED****17. To approve and sign the payments list for November and December 2023**Resolution Record No. **BSETC/172/24/Jan/24:****RESOLVED** that the payments list for November and December 2023 be **APPROVED** and **SIGNED**.

18. To approve and sign Barclays bank balances as at 30 November and 29 December 2023

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/173/24/Jan/24:**

RESOLVED that Barclays bank balances as at 30 November and 29 December 2023 be **APPROVED** and **SIGNED**.

19. Date of next meeting: **Wednesday 28th February 2024**

The meeting ended at 8.15pm

Signed: _____ Dated _____