

**Minutes of the Meeting of Bury St Edmunds Town Council,
held at the Guildhall, Bury St Edmunds,
on Wednesday 25th February 2026 at 7pm**

Present: Cllrs Higgins (Town Mayor), Armitage, Augustine, Chung, Hind, Iannelli-Popham, Lindberg, McGoochan, Mager, O'Driscoll, Sayer, Stamp and Stennett.

Also present: Jodie Budd (Town Clerk), Nicola Whittle (Responsible Financial Officer/Assistant Town Clerk), Beverley Kipling (Civic Officer), PCSO's Mark Ellis and Jo Whiting, County Councillor M Robinson, the Press, Mr M Cordell, CEO of Bury St Edmunds Business District, plus representatives from the organisations requesting grant funding, except the Spinning Wheel Theatre.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Halpin, Mackenzie and Mager.

2. To receive declarations of interest, additions to register and any gifts or hospitality received.

All District Councillors declared: '*That I may vote differently at District or County Council level from that recorded at this meeting*'. Cllrs Armitage, Chung, Higgins, Hind, Lindberg, O'Driscoll, Sayer, Stamp, and Stennett declared a local non-pecuniary interest as District Councillors. The following councillors declared non-pecuniary interest as follows; Cllr Stamp in item 12.1. Cllr Iannelli-Popham in item 12.7 and Cllr Chung in item 13. Cllr Stennett declared a pecuniary interest in item 12.3 and didn't take part in discussions or vote. Cllr Hind declared a pecuniary interest in item 12.2 and didn't take part in discussions or vote.

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 from the Full Council held on 21st January 2026
Resolution Record No. **BSETC/456/25/Feb/26**

RESOLVED that the Full Council minutes from the meeting held on 21st January 2026 be agreed and signed, as an accurate record.

5. Public Forum

One member of the public attended as well as representatives from the organisations requesting grant funding, except the Spinning Wheel Theatre.

6. Mayor's announcements

The Mayor, Cllr Higgins advised Members that the Mayoral team had attended the following events representing the Town Council:

- St Edmundsbury Cathedral - Enthronement for the new Diocesan Bishop, Bishop Joanne.
- Teardrop Memorial Abbey Gardens – Memorial Service
- The Priory School – Celebration Assembly
- Brave Futures - It's Not Ok Week Roadshow
- Lady Chapel - St Edmundsbury Cathedral - Solace & Grace Service
- County Upper School - School Production Buggy Malone
- BSE New Ambulance Hub - Tour of Facility
- Abbey Garden Friends - Margaret Wilkin Winter Garden Opening
- Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk - Presentation of the Kings award for Excellence
- Abbey Gardens - Day of Prayer to Support 4th Anniversary of Russia's War with Ukraine
- Royal British legion - Luke Southgate Memorial

7. Town Clerk's report

The Town Clerk advised Members as follows:

- Met with Mark Cordell from the BID to discuss Christmas 2025. Details of the meeting are including in the document you all received. Mark will answer questions later on in the meeting.
- At the beginning of February, I officially started my Community Governance course with 2 study days away in Swindon. Looking forward to it, although apprehensive.

- The Mayor, Deputy and I all met with the Acting Inspector for Bury St Edmunds, Lindsey James. We discussed the issue of speeding and the creation of Speedwatch Groups. Following on from this, Constable Guy Ainsworth will attend the annual residents meeting on the 18 March to discuss with everyone what is required of you as part of a Speedwatch group.
- I attended the West Suffolk Town and Parish Forum in Honington, where discussions were held regarding new legislation for the introduction of 20mph zones.
- I met with Michelle from Crafty Foxes where she showed me her proposals for the Christmas Decorations and the Scarecrows, as well as how she can join the Abbeycroft family fun day in August.

8. To note the PCSO's report

Councillors noted the crime figures submitted by the PCSO.
PCSO Whiting gave an update on the figures.

9. Mr M Cordell from Bury BID attended the meeting to present to members the expenditure for Christmas 2025.

Cllr Higgins and Hind thanked Mark Cordell for the success of the Christmas Fair.

10. To consider adopting 2 red telephones boxes on behalf of the Churchgate Association.

The Town Clerk advised members that the telephone boxes can only be adopted by a Town or Parish Council and that the Churchgate Association would fund all costs and these are to be used for a Books Library or to hold a defibrillator.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/457/25/Feb/26**

RESOLVED to obtain more details from Churchgate Association including electric and all other costs involved and represent at Full Council 25th March 2026.

11. To consider the Town Council taking the lead in the 'Town of Culture' Project.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/458/25/Feb/26**

RESOLVED members agreed to take the lead in the 'Town of Culture' Project.

12. To consider grant applications from the following;

12.1 Abbeycroft – Reducing Isolation through Food (RIF)

To provide heat at home meals of up to 90 meals each delivery on 5 occasions during the year excluding Christmas which focus on the wellbeing of the community and have used physical activity as a tool to address not only physical health but mental health, loneliness and isolation, food poverty, and anti-social behaviour as well as tackling inequalities.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/459/25/Feb/26**

RESOLVED that Abbeycroft be awarded £6,100 for the Bury St Edmunds Rickshaw.

12.2 The Friends of Moyes Hall Museum

To provide an Exhibition, Edmund and the Great Heathen Army, Element of exhibition the project supports: reclaiming lost history of the town.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/460/25/Feb/26**

RESOLVED that Moyes' Hall Museum be awarded £3,900 to contribute to reclaiming lost history of the town.

12.3 River Lark Catchment Partnership

To maintain water quality and to purchase new equipment for the maintenance of 5 water quality sensors installed in the River Lark.

Resolution Record No. Resolution Record No. **BSETC/461/25/Feb/26**

RESOLVED that River Lark Catchment Partnership be awarded £5,000 to contribute to the water quality of the River Lark.

12.4 Spinning Wheel Theatre

RESOLVED Members had questions to ask, so this application will be discussed at the March meeting of full council, when a member of the organisation will attend.

Resolution Record No. Resolution Record No. **BSETC/462/25/Feb/26**

12.5 Crafty Foxes - Suffolk Day Scarecrows

The Bury St Edmunds Society have been approached by the crafty foxes which will host a workshop on Suffolk Day June 21st in Abbey Gardens, making smaller scale scarecrows with members of the public. A

way to unite Bury St Edmunds families to celebrate Suffolk day, celebrate Father's Day (same day), celebrate agriculture and an appreciation for all that Suffolk has to offer. Alongside the craft workshop will be music, food stalls and drink as arranged by West Suffolk Council.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/463/25/Feb/26**

RESOLVED that The Bury St Edmunds Society be awarded of £1,500 to contribute to a workshop Suffolk Day Scarecrows.

12.6 The Bury Society – Town of Culture

To become a Town a Town of Culture, to enhance the popularity of the town of Bury St Edmunds as a place to stay and visit, and to raise the profile of the Town and to bring in more tourism.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/464/25/Feb/26**

RESOLVED that The Bury Society is awarded £5,000 to become a Town of Culture.

12.7 Restore Women's Aid

To provide specialist training programmes to the Bury St Edmunds team which will significantly strengthen their internal capacity to deliver life-changing support to survivors.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/465/25/Feb/26**

RESOLVED that Restore Women's Aid is awarded £3,870 for training costs.

12.8 Cricket Club

To provide a new Electronic Scoreboard to The Victory Sports Ground which regarded as one of the best sports grounds in East Anglia to elevate the ground to an even higher level.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/466/25/Feb/26**

RESOLVED that the Cricket Club is awarded £2,500 to contribute towards their new Electronic Scoreboard.

13. To establish who may be interested in becoming a nominated Feoffee with effect from 1st June 2026.

Currently the Town Council's representative is Cllr P Chung. His term ends on the 31st May 2026.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/467/25/Feb/26**

RESOLVED That Cllr D Hind becomes the representative from the 1st June 2026.

14. To adopt the meeting schedule from May 2026 – May 2027

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/468/25/Feb/26**

RESOLVED Members agreed to adopt the meeting schedule for May 2026 to May 2027.

15. To approve costings for the installation of a new litter bin in the alleyway between the Howard Estate and Marham Park.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/469/25/Feb/26**

RESOLVED to approve the cost of £539.80 (excl. Vat) to install a new litter bin and ongoing weekly emptying costs of £3.85 (Excl. Vat) per week in the alleyway between the Howard Estate and Marham Park.

16. To discuss ideas for bus improvements within Bury St Edmunds

Members discussed and suggested ideas for bus improvements to run Buses in the evenings, provision past 6pm and on Sundays for rural areas and estates, for Bury Town Council to put on their website and Facebook for public to give feedback.

17. To receive the report and adopt the recommendations of the Planning, Licensing and Finance committee meeting of 28th January 2026 and 17th February 2026.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/470/25/Feb/26**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning, Licensing and Finance committee meetings held on 28th January 2026 and 17 February 2026 be **ADOPTED**

18. To note Responsible Financial Officer's report

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/471/25/Feb/26**

Report noted.

19. To approve and sign payments list for January 2026

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/472/25/Feb/26**

RESOLVED that the payments list for January 2026 be **APPROVED** and **SIGNED**

20. To approve and sign Barclays bank balances as of 30th January 2026.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/473/25/Feb/26**

RESOLVED that Barclays bank balances as of 30th January 2026 be **APPROVED** and **SIGNED**

21. Motion/Resolution to exclude temporarily the Public and Press:

That pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed concerning: Future activities within the Town

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/474/25/Feb/26:**

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting for Agenda Item 21 to be discussed.

22. Date of next meeting Wednesday 25th March 2026

The meeting ended at 9.35pm

Signed: _____ Dated _____

DRAFT