

**Minutes of the Meeting of Bury St Edmunds Town Council,
held at the Guildhall, Bury St Edmunds,
on Wednesday 26th February 2025 at 7pm**

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

Also present: Jodie Budd (Town Clerk), Jacqueline Howells (Responsible Financial Officer/Assistant Town Clerk), PCSO's Mark Ellis and Jo Whiting, four members of public.

1. To receive apologies for absence

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

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. Armitage, Higgins, Hind, Lindberg, Mager, O'Driscoll, Sayer, Stennett, Stamp and Waterman declared a local non-pecuniary interest as District Councillors.

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 22nd January 2025

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/325/26/Feb/25**

RESOLVED that the Full Council and P&C minutes from the meeting held on 22nd January 2025 be agreed and signed, as an accurate record.

5. Public Forum

Members of public spoke about local issues.

6. Mayor's announcements

Cllr Hind advised Members that she had attended the following events representing the Town Council:

- 24th January – Burns supper Chair of Babergh District Council
- 27th January – Holocaust Memorial Service
- 6th February – New store opening Ernies Outdoor Living
- 24th February – Luke Southgate Annual Memorial Service

Cllr Hind also declared that she had received gifts of wine, chocolates and cake from Bury St Edmunds Ukrainian Community

7. Town Clerk's report

The Town Clerk advised Members as follows:

- Before I start my report, could I please request that you reply to the invite to the Mayor's Civic Service asap.
- The website is functional. Not all pages are complete, but the information that must be on it is.
- Met online with 125 other councils from around the UK to hear from the Chair of Chippenham Town Council. Chippenham fall under Wiltshire Council who became a Unitary authority in 2009.
- Met with the MP and members of the Moreton Hall Residents Association regarding the problem with HGV's driving through Moreton Hall, and also the parking along Primack Road.
- Also met with West Suffolk Officers and Moreton Hall Residents Association regarding the Splash Fountain.
- Met with Alex Wilson at West Suffolk regarding a Unitary Council and what roles Town Councils may consider taking on. We will discuss this further at the March meeting.

DL

8. To note the PCSO's report

Councillors noted the crime figures submitted by the PCSO's.

PSCO Jo Whiting advised that crime figures were very similar to the same period last year. Shops are being encouraged to report crime and there has been an increased police presence outside the Poundland store in the centre of town.

It was also noted that there has been a spate of handbag thefts in the town centre which is being addressed.

9. To discuss proposed Devolution Plan and how to respond to consultation

Councillors discussed the consultation document.

Resolution Record No. Resolution Record No. **BSETC/326/26/Feb/25:**

RESOLVED that the following Town Councillors meet with the Town Clerk to submit a response to the consultation regarding the Devolution Plan:

Cllr Iannelli-Popham

Cllr McGoochan

Cllr O'Driscoll

Cllr Stennett

10. To approve grant for Abbeycroft Leisure for school holiday activities programme 2025/2026

A representative from Abbeycroft Leisure was unable to attend the meeting therefore this agenda item was postponed until the Full Council meeting in March 2025

11. To approve expenditure for installation of dropped kerbs in town centre

The Mayor advised that funding had been received from UKSPF for improvements to the town centre. SCC Highways have submitted a quote for installing a number of dropped kerbs in the town centre area.

Resolution Record No. Resolution Record No. **BSETC/327/26/Feb/25:**

RESOLVED that the Town Council **APPROVES** expenditure of £7,027.11 (excl. vat) for installing dropped kerbs in Bury St Edmunds town centre

12. To consider funding for the VE and VJ commemorations

Councillors discussed a request from WSC for funding towards events to commemorate both the VE and VJ anniversaries.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/328/26/Feb/25:**

RESOLVED that the Town Council pays up to £5000 towards each of the VE and VJ commemoration events (total £10,000) on the proviso that invoices do not include WSC staff wages.

13. To accept the Property Matter instruction from WSC relating to the new allotment plots at Moreton Hall

The Town Clerk advised that land at Moreton Hall has now been released by WSC and tenants have been offered plots.

Until the final legal agreement with WSC has been completed WSC has prepared an interim agreement in order for the Town Council to release plots to tenants.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/329/26/Feb/25:**

RESOLVED that the interim Property Matter instruction from WSC relating to the new allotment plots at Moreton Hall be signed by the Town Clerk on behalf the Town Council.

14. To receive the report and adopt the recommendations of the Planning, Licensing and Finance committee meetings of 22nd January and 12th February 2025

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/330/26/Feb/25:**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning, Licensing and Finance committee meetings held on 22nd January and 12th February 2025 be **ADOPTED**

16. 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.

17. To approve and sign payments list for January 2025

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/331/26/Feb/25:**

RESOLVED that the payments list for January 2025 be **APPROVED** and **SIGNED**

18. To approve and sign Barclays bank balances as of 31st January 2025

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/332/26/Feb/25:**

RESOLVED that Barclays bank balances as of 31st January 2025 be **APPROVED** and **SIGNED**

The meeting ended at 8.25pm

Signed: Diane Hines Dated 26-3-25