

**Minutes of the Meeting of Bury St Edmunds Town Council,
held at the Guildhall, Bury St Edmunds,
on Wednesday 22nd January 2025 at 7pm**

Present: Cllrs Hind (Town Mayor), Armitage, Chung, Higgins, Iannelli-Popham, Lindberg, 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, Frank Carn-Pryor (Abbeycroft Leisure).

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mackenzie and McGoochan.
Cllrs Augustine and Halpin were absent but no apologies received.

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, Chung, Higgins, Hind, Lindberg, Mager, O'Driscoll, Sayer, Stennett, Stamp and Waterman declared a local non-pecuniary interest as District Councillors.
Cllr Stamp declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 12.

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 18th December 2024

Resolution Record No. Resolution Record No. **BSETC/313/22/Jan/25:**

RESOLVED that the Full Council minutes from the meeting held on 18th December 2024 be agreed and signed, as an accurate record.

5. Public Forum

Mr Carn-Pryor thanked Councillors on behalf of Abbeycroft Leisure for their support with the Christmas food project. He also thanked the Town Council for the financial support with the school holiday activities programme planned for 2025.

6. Mayor's announcements

Cllr Hind advised Members that she had accompanied serving personnel from the USAF on a visit and tour of the Guildhall.

She had also attended the ribbon cutting ceremony at the show house at the new St Edmunds Gate housing development.

7. Town Clerk's report

The Town Clerk advised Members as follows:

- Focusing on the new website which will go live on Monday 3rd February. There will be a statement on the home page informing that the site is currently under construction. This will remain for a month or so to enable you all to look at it, read it for spelling etc, inform me of any errors, or items you feel need adding or changing.
- I have met with West Suffolk Council and other local Town Clerks over the devolution plans/unitary councils. We will continue to meet regularly to receive updates.
- Unfortunately, the Notice Board on Cornhill was slightly damaged by a car that accidentally drove into it. We are currently going through the process of making a claim. Until it is replaced, we are limited with the information we can display. Agendas will take priority.
- The annual residents meeting will be on Wednesday 19th March. The format will be slightly different, in that only organisations that have received grants for the first time, will be invited to speak. All organisations can have a stall.

D. Hind

8. To note the PCSO's report

Councillors noted the crime figures submitted by the PCSO.

PCSO Ellis advised that December had been unusually quiet in respect of crimes which was encouraging. Shoplifting figures were also down despite it being the Christmas period.

9. To approve the increase in cost of the PCSO's

The Town Clerk advised that she had been informed that the cost of two PCSO's supported by the Town Council will rise to £50,520 per annum for each PCSO. The new contract will be for one year until 31st March 2026 and be negotiated annually thereafter.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/314/22/Jan/25:**

RESOLVED that the increase in cost be agreed making a total of £101040.00 for two PCSO's for the financial year 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026.

The additional cost will come out of General Reserves and not affect the proposed Precept.

10. To consider and adopt the Town Council budget for 2025/2026

Councillors were asked to approve the 2025/2026 budget including the increased amount for the PCSO's.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/315/22/Jan/25:**

RESOLVED that Town Council budget for 2025/2026 be **APPROVED** and **ADOPTED**

11. To approve and sign the Precept for 2025/2026

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/316/22/Jan/25:**

RESOLVED that the Town Council precept for 2025/2026 be **APPROVED** at £42.24 (an increase of 29p) per Band D Property equivalent in the sum of £621,240.00 and the Precept Demand Form signed by the Town Mayor and Town Clerk in the presence of the Council.

12. To agree additional funding for February 2025 outdoor cooking activities organised by Abbeycroft Leisure

Mr Carn-Pryor had informed Members about additional funding needed for 2025 February half term children's activities.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/317/22/Jan/25:**

RESOLVED that Abbeycroft Leisure be awarded an additional £3058.65 to support February 2025 half term children's activities.

13. To consider Meetings schedule for June 2025 – May 2026

Members discussed the meetings schedule for June 2025 – May 2026

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/318/22/Jan/25:**

RESOLVED that the meetings schedule for June 2025 – May 2026 be **ADOPTED**

14. To discuss opportunity for Councillors to make use of Thermal Imaging Camera

The Town Clerk advised that Councillors have the opportunity to use a thermal imaging camera to help residents identify sources of heat loss in their premises.

The camera will be available between 12th and 25th February and a training video gives instructions for use. The Town Clerk was requested to formulate a timetable and forward more information to Councillors.

15. To receive the report and adopt the recommendations of the Planning, Licensing and Finance committee meetings of 18th December 2024 and 8th January 2025

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/319/22/Jan/25:**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning, Licensing and Finance committee meetings held on 18th December 2024 and 8th January 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 December 2024

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/320/22/Jan/25:**

RESOLVED that the payments list for December 2024 be **APPROVED** and **SIGNED**

18. To approve and sign Barclays bank balances as of 31st December 2024

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/321/22/Jan/25:**

RESOLVED that Barclays bank balances as of 31st December 2024 be **APPROVED** and **SIGNED**

19. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 26th February 2025

20. 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: Ongoing issues at Cotton Lane allotment site

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/322/22/Jan/25:**

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

The public left the meeting.

21. To discuss ongoing issues at Cotton Lane allotment site

The Confidential report is shown at Resolution Record No: **BSETC/323/22/Jan/25**

The meeting ended at 8pm

Signed: Diane Hind Dated 26/2/2025