

**Minutes of the Meeting of Bury St Edmunds Town Council,
held at the Guildhall, Bury St Edmunds,
on Wednesday 21st January 2026 at 7pm**

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

Also present: Jodie Budd (Town Clerk), Nicola Whittle (Responsible Financial Officer/Assistant Town Clerk), PCSO's Mark Ellis and Jo Whiting, the Press and one member of public.

1. To receive apologies for absence

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

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, Mager, O'Driscoll, Sayer, Stamp, and Stennett 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 17th December 2025
Resolution Record No. **BSETC/449/21/Jan/26**

RESOLVED that the Full Council minutes from the meeting held on 17th December 2025 be agreed and signed, as an accurate record.

5. Public Forum

No members of the public attended.

6. Mayor's announcements

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

- Unveiling of the Mission Mistress Memorial at Moreton Hall Community Centre
- Opening of a new care suite at Glastonbury Court Care Home
- Tree planting at Moreton Hall allotments
- Enthronement for the new Diocesan Bishop at St Edmundsbury Cathedral
- Will be attending 2 Holocaust Memorial services on the 27.01.26

7. Town Clerk's report

The Town Clerk advised Members as follows:

- Code of Conduct Training – Some Councillors expressed concern over the cost of this training. Only one councillor had requested they attend. Unfortunately, the current session was fully booked. Councillors were asked if they were interested in such a course so that it could be arranged as a large group.
- Helped prepare and deliver 250 Christmas meals to residents in Bury St Edmunds. Very tiring but rewarding day.
- Plans for Suffolk Day are coming along. As the town is classed as the food capital of Suffolk, the focus will be on food with a farmers' market on Angel Hill, plus a musical event in the Cathedral during the evening. To coincide with it also being 'World Make Music Day' regular buskers will be invited to perform at various locations within the Abbey Gardens.
- Had the induction to my 2-year University Course.
- Met with Abbeycroft Leisure to discuss the plans for school holiday activities now that Frank has left.

8. To note the PCSO's report

Councillors noted the crime figures submitted by the PCSO.

PCSO Whiting advised that December had been generally quiet in respect of crimes which was encouraging. A prolific Shoplifter had today been arrested for ongoing thefts.

9. To agree and sign Precept for 2026/2027.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/450/21/Jan/26**

RESOLVED that the Town Council precept for 2026/2027 be **APPROVED** at £43.02 (an increase of 78p) per Band D Property equivalent in the sum of £646,090 and the Precept Demand Form signed by the Town Mayor and Town Clerk in the presence of the Council.

10. To consider and adopt the Town Council budget for 2026/2027

Councillors were asked to approve the 2026/2027 budget including the increased amount for the PCSO's.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/451/21/Jan/26**

RESOLVED that Town Council budget for 2026/2027 be **APPROVED** and **ADOPTED**

11. To receive the report and adopt the recommendations of the Planning, Licensing and Finance committee meeting of 17th December 2025 and 7th January 2026.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/452/21/Jan/26**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning, Licensing and Finance committee meetings held on 17th December 2025 and 7th January 2026 be **ADOPTED**

12. To note the Councillors Internal Audit Report.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/453/21/Jan/26**

13. Responsible Financial Officer's report

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

14. To approve and sign payments list for December 2025

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/454/21/Jan/26**

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

15. To approve and sign Barclays bank balances as of 31st December 2025

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/455/21/Jan/26**

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

19. Date of next meeting Wednesday 25th February 2026

The meeting ended at 7.35pm

Signed: _____ Dated _____