

**Minutes of the Meeting of Bury St Edmunds Town Council,
held at the Guildhall, Bury St Edmunds,
on Wednesday 18 December 2024 at 7pm**

Present: Cllrs Hind (Town Mayor), Armitage, Chung, Higgins, Iannelli-Popham, Lindberg, Mackenzie, McGoochan, O'Driscoll, Sayer, Stennett (left the meeting at 9pm), Stamp and Waterman.

Also present: Jodie Budd (Town Clerk), Julie Sturgeon (Allotments and Admin Officer), Mark Cordell, Mike Kirkham, Lesley Mercer, Jane Frost, Emma Hennessey, Dean Joe Hawes, the Press and members of public.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Augustine, Halpin and Mager.

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, Mackenzie, 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 27 November 2024.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/305/18/Dec/24:**

RESOLVED that the Full Council minutes from the meeting held on 27 November 2024 be agreed and signed, as an accurate record.

5. Public Forum

Emma Hennessey from Bury St Edmunds & District Deaf and Hard of Hearing Association gave information on the requirement for them to replace all the windows on their building in Northgate Street, in support of their grant aid application.

Dean Joe Hawes from St Edmundsbury Cathedral outlined a £10 million project for the Abbey Ruins. The Dean will attend a meeting in the new year to discuss this project, as funding isn't required immediately. Mark Cordell from Bury St Edmunds BID (On behalf of the BSE Christmas Partnership) to discuss budget funding for Christmas 2025 in Bury St Edmunds.

6. Mayor's announcements

Cllr Hind advised Members that she had attended a few events including the following:

- 29th November – Opening of the David Lloyd Health Club
- 1st December – Started the Brave Futures Snow Dash run
- 2nd December – Attended a Carol Concert on behalf of the West Suffolk Council Chairman.
- 5th December – Attended a Yuletide event by the USAF
- 9th December – Attended the Emergency Services Carol Concert.

7. Town Clerk's report

The Town Clerk advised Members that:

- It had been a quiet month for visiting. She had attended the opening of the new Healing Wood at Howard Community School, along with planting a tree.
- Continuing to work on the website.
- On the 10th January Lt Col Mark Watson from RAF Mildenhall and some of his personnel have been invited by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to have a guided tour of the Guildhall, specifically the Operations Room.

8. To note the PCSO's report

Unfortunately, due to illness PCSO Ellis was unable to attend.

9. Grant Aid applications:**9.1 Bury St Edmunds & District Deaf and Hard of Hearing Association**Resolution Record No. **BSETC/306/18/Dec/24:**

RESOLVED that Bury St Edmunds & District Deaf and Hard of Hearing Association be awarded grant funding of £20,000 towards the replacement windows in their building in Northgate Street.

10. To approve the 2025/2026 Budget and precept projections

Councillors discussed the draft 2025/26 Town Council budget which had been circulated. Following on from Mark Cordell's presentation, councillors approved that budget line 4259 (Christmas entertainment) be increased from £25,000 to £50,000.

Resolution Record No: **BSETC/307/18/Dec/24:**

RESOLVED That the 2025/2026 budget, with the above amendment be APPROVED. The precept to West Suffolk will be £621,240 and the outstanding expenditure of £42,925 be taken from General reserves. It was also approved that an EMR of £100,000 is created for Pavements, Public Spaces (PPS) for 2025/26. This is in addition to funds allocated in the 2025/26 budget.

11. To consider and adopt Town Council policiesResolution Record No. **BSETC/308/18/Dec/24:**

RESOLVED that the following Town Council policies be **ADOPTED**:

- 11.1** Risk Management Document
- 11.2** Sickness Absence
- 11.3** Staff Allowances & Expenses (amended)
- 11.4** Collection & Debt recovery
- 11.5** Compliments & Complaints
- 11.6** Filming & Recording of Meetings
- 11.7** Service Standards (amended)

12. To receive the report and adopt the recommendations of the Planning, Licensing and Finance committee meeting of 27th November 24Resolution Record No. **BSETC/309/18/Dec/24:**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning, Licensing and Finance committee meeting held on 27th November 24 be **ADOPTED**.

13. To approve payment of an invoice from Abbeycroft Leisure

The cost of the invoice is £5,128.89 (excluding VAT). This is for the Youth Outreach Worker up to the 31st March 2025.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/310/18/Dec/24:**

RESOLVED that payment of this invoice is approved.

14. To approve and sign payments list for November 2024Resolution Record No. **BSETC/311/18/Dec/24:**

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

15. To approve and sign Barclays bank balances as of 30th November 2024Resolution Record No. **BSETC/312/18/Dec/24:**

RESOLVED that Barclays bank balances as of 30th November 2024 be **APPROVED** and **SIGNED**

16. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 22nd January 2025.

The meeting ended at 8.11pm

Signed: Diane Hind Dated 22-1-25