

**Minutes of the Meeting of Bury St Edmunds Town Council,
held at the Guildhall, Bury St Edmunds,
on Wednesday 24 July 2024 at 7pm**

Present: Cllrs Hind (Town Mayor), Armitage, Augustine, Chung, Halpin, Higgins, Lindberg, Mager, McGoochan, O'Driscoll, Sayer, Stamp, Stennett and Waterman

Also present: Jodie Budd (Town Clerk), Jacqueline Howells (Responsible Financial Officer/Assistant Town Clerk), Julie Sturgeon (Allotments & Administration Officer), PCSO Mark Ellis, Mark Cordell CEO BSE BID, representatives from Abbey Garden Friends, Radio West Suffolk and Abbeycroft Leisure, the Press and members of public.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Iannelli-Popham 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, Augustine, Chung, Halpin, Higgins, Hind, Lindberg, Mager, O'Driscoll, Sayer, Stamp, Stennett and Waterman declared a local non-pecuniary interest as District Councillors.

Cllr Halpin declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 11.2.

Cllr Hind declared that she had received the gift of a book.

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 and P&C meeting held on 26th June 2024

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/260/24/Jul/24:**

RESOLVED that the Full Council minutes including P&C minutes from the meeting held on 26th June 2024 be agreed and signed, as an accurate record.

5. Public Forum

Libby Ranzetta spoke in support of the grant application submitted by the Friends of Abbey Gardens (agenda item 11.1).

Julie Macleod spoke in support of the grant application submitted by Radio West Suffolk (agenda item 11.2)

6. Mayor's announcements

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

27th June – Jankyn Smyth event

29th June – Attended performance of Sister Act by Stagecoach

16th July – Bury in Bloom judge's event.

17th July – Inspire Graduation event at the Hunter Club

18th July – Opening of 'My World Uncompromised' art exhibition by Ukrainian artist.

19th July – Ipswich Mayor Civic event

7. Town Clerk's report

The Town Clerk advised Members that she:

- Attended a successful Jankyn Smyth ceremony. This was enjoyed by everyone that attended.
- The Anglia in Bloom judges were extremely impressed by Bury. Fingers crossed for a good result.

- Attended a meeting with Alex Wilson from West Suffolk Council regarding work that could be taken on by the Town Council incorporating a Town Warden. These discussions are in the preliminary stages.
- The new SID devices are due to be delivered to the Sudbury Wardens today. All the new brackets should be installed on Monday along with the two new devices.
- Youth worker provision – Teen Chill – this is regularly being attended by over 40 young people. As you are aware Town Councillors approved expenditure of up to £15,000 for the provision of a youth worker. Unfortunately, our first procurement from Haverhill Town Council left the role. Cllr Higgins and I met with Abbeycroft Leisure and we are hoping to recruit a youth worker in conjunction with them.

8. 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.

9. To note the PCSO's verbal report

PCSO Mark Ellis attended the meeting. He said that PCSO's continue to patrol the streets in the town centre as well as surrounding estates. No real areas of concern have been identified.

10. Report from Our Bury St Edmunds BID

Mark Cordell, CEO Bury St Edmunds BID attended to give an update on projects undertaken and the benefits of tourism.

The BID has recently been backed by local businesses for another five years. Partnership working has been one of the BID's successes and the value of tourism to the local economy has increased to over £5m – 15% of the total value. There has been an increase of 22% in visitors to the town.

Campaigns are now being developed for the autumn and winter seasons which are the most challenging times of year for local businesses.

Mr Cordell thanked the Town Council for its continuing support.

11. To consider grant applications:

11.1 Abbey Gardens Friends

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/261/24/Jul/24:**

RESOLVED that Abbey Gardens Friends be awarded grant funding of £3800.00 for a 'Mirror Baubles' Christmas project.

11.2 Radio West Suffolk

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/262/24/Jul/24:**

RESOLVED that Radio West Suffolk be awarded grant funding of £4357.00 for station licences for 2024/2025.

12. To approve expenditure of up to £25,000 for Abbeycroft Leisure to provide free children's holiday activities

Councillors discussed a proposal from Abbeycroft Leisure which would enable children in the town catchment area to access free activities during the summer holidays 24, October 24 half term and February 25 half term. These activities would include climbing, archery, axe throwing and swimming.

The Town Council has Earmarked Reserves of £50,000 for children's activities during summer holidays.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/263/24/Jul/24:**

RESOLVED that Abbeycroft Leisure receives up to £25,000 to provide holiday activities for children in the town catchment area during school holidays.

That the Town Clerk arranges for Abbeycroft Leisure to receive payment following sessions provided during each holiday period.

Diane Hind

13. To receive the report and adopt the recommendations of the Planning, Licensing and Finance committee meeting of 26th June and 10th July 24

13.1 Resolution Record No. **BSETC/264/24/Jul/24:**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the P,L&F meeting on 26th June 24 be **ADOPTED**.

13.2 Resolution Record No. **BSETC/265/24/Jul/24:**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the P,L&F meeting on 10th July 24 be **ADOPTED**

14. To note the use of the Town Crest as the official logo for the Town Council

Councillors discussed a proposal from the Town Clerk to use the Town Crest on all official paperwork instead of the 'Tower' logo currently being used. The Tower logo is used by a number of organisations in the town, and it was felt that the Town Council should differentiate itself by using the official Town Crest. Resolution Record No. **BSETC/266/24/Jul/24:**

RESOLVED that the Town Council agrees to the use of the Town Crest as its official logo and the Town Clerk advises on the best way of implementing its usage.

15. To consider adopting a Local Purchase Policy

Councillors discussed a proposed Local Purchase policy which sets out criteria for purchasing from local suppliers whilst maintaining value for money.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/267/24/Jul/24:**

RESOLVED that the Town Council adopts the Local Purchase policy.

16. To consider the transfer of further funds to the CCLA Public Sector Deposit fund

The RFO advised that both deposit accounts with the Cambridge Building Society have now been closed in accordance with resolution made at the April 2024 Full Council meeting. At that meeting it was agreed that the balance from these accounts be paid into a second Barclays Fixed Term treasury account.

However, the interest currently being paid monthly from the CCLA Public Sector Deposit fund account is a better rate than offered by Barclays and funds can be accessed instantly without penalty.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/268/24/Jul/24:**

RESOLVED that a further £100,000 is deposited in the CCLA Public Sector Deposit fund account.

17. To approve payments list for June 2024

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/269/24/Jul/24:**

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

18. To approve and sign Barclays bank balances as of 28th June 2024

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/270/24/Jul/24:**

RESOLVED that Barclays bank balances as of 28th June 2024 be **APPROVED** and **SIGNED**

19. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 25th September 2024

The meeting ended at 8.20pm

Signed: Diane Hind Dated 25/9/2024