

Minutes of the meeting of Bury St Edmunds Town Council held remotely via video conferencing on Wednesday 25 November 2020 at 7.04pm

Present: Cllrs Thompson (Town Mayor), Augustine, Bouché, Chung, Everitt, Higgins, D Hind, K Hind, Iannelli-Popham, Parker (7.08pm), Rayner (7.05pm), Rout, Turner, Waterman, Whittingham and Williamson.

Also present: Greg Luton (Town Clerk), Sue Hindry (Assistant Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer), Julie Sturgeon (Allotments and Administrative Assistant), representatives from the Bury Water Meadows Group and Destination Management Organisation ('Bury St Edmunds and Beyond'), one member of the public and a reporter from the Bury Free Press.

1. To receive apologies for absence and reasons

Apologies had been received from Cllr Everitt, who subsequently was able to join the meeting during item 9.

2. To receive declarations of interest and additions to registers

All District Councillors are advised to declare as follows: '*... that I may vote differently at District Council level from that recorded at this meeting at that other tier of local government*'. Cllrs Augustine, Chung, D Hind, Rout, Thompson, Waterman and Williamson declared a local non-pecuniary interest as a District Councillor.

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 of the 28 October 2020 meeting of the Council

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/199/25/Nov/20:**

That the minutes of the Council meeting of 28 October 2020 be agreed and signed as an accurate record.

Cllr Rayner joined the meeting.

5. Public Forum

Cllr Parker joined the meeting.

Representatives from Bury Water Meadows Group (BWMG) and Bury and Beyond – the Destination Management Organisation, (DMO) spoke in support of their respective agenda item. The DMO noted it would welcome another representative of the Town Council to join its board of directors.

Cllr Hind declared a local non-pecuniary interest as a member of the BWMG.

6. To note the Clerk's report

The Clerk reported on the importance of the November FC meeting in terms of resolving a draft budget, and updated on a variety of issues, including the work of the PSCOs and the renewal of their contract, the forthcoming grants cases and the 'end of season' activities on the allotments.

7. To note the RFO's report

The written report was noted.

8. To note the PCSO's verbal report

Neither PCSO was present, due to leave. A written statistical report would be requested.

9. To consider the 2021/2022 Budget and precept projections

The draft budget and precept projections was tabled, with many budgeted amounts being broadly unchanged from the current year's budget. A 0% increase in the amount of council tax payable by a property in band 'D' (£42.30), was considered. It was noted that the predicted underspend in the current financial year would result in a higher than normal level of funds held in general reserves, some of which could be used to fund the proposed 2021/2022 budgeted expenditure, and could be used to reduce the precept. Members also considered items such as funding a Christmas Fayre Entertainment (£10,000), the Abbey Millennium Celebrations (£20,000) and the Community and Environment Regeneration Fund (£40,000).

An updated budget draft is to be considered at the December Council meeting for the final approval of the draft budget, and the confirmation of the precept demand will be agreed at the January 2020 Council meeting.

Cllr Everitt joined the meeting.

10. To consider providing up to £500 for a small project to investigate the costs of secure cycle storage in the Town, including possible locations of where it might go, and the ongoing costs of security and maintenance

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/200/25/Nov/20:**

That £500 be approved for a small project to investigate the costs of secure cycle storage in the Town, including possible locations of where it might go, and the ongoing costs of security and maintenance.

11. To consider a request for additional funding for £15,000 for the Destination Management Organisation ('Bury St Edmunds and Beyond') for each of the financial years 21/22 and 22/23

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/201/25/Nov/20:**

That £15,000 of additional funding for the Destination Management Organisation ('Bury St Edmunds and Beyond') for each of the financial years 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 be approved.

12. To consider that locality budget funding for all Councillors be increased by £1,000 for one year only (2021/2022) to bring about projects/and or events to ease the burden of the Covid-19 pandemic

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/202/25/Nov/20:**

That locality budget funding for all Councillors be increased by £1,000 for one year only (2021/2022), to bring about projects or events to ease the burden of the Covid-19 pandemic.

13. To consider a grant funding application from Bury Water Meadows Group for £9,277 to develop a management plan for 'No Mans Meadows' and the Crankles, and for bird boxes, planting, equipment and tools and additionally, for an initiative to further increase awareness of the group and the training for volunteers

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/203/25/Nov/20:**

That grant funding of £9,277 be awarded to the Bury Water Meadows Group to develop a management plan for 'No Mans Meadows' and the 'Crankles', and for bird boxes, planting, equipment and tools, and additionally, for an initiative to further increase awareness of the group and the training for volunteers.

14. To consider the allocation of up to £5,000 to provide support for vulnerable people over the 2020 Christmas period

Due to technical problems, Cllr K Hind left and re-joined the meeting during this discussion.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/204/25/Nov/20:**

That up to £5,000 be allocated to provide support for vulnerable people over the 2020 Christmas period by the creation of healthy menus, and recipe cards for personal use. Also, to be provided is an interactive video; the main effort is to be the distribution of 'meals in a box' for those on their own, using local agencies with existing links to those in need.

15. To consider a 'Town Council Christmas shopping initiative' to promote visits to the town centre by a variety of means, and to create a modal shift with an emphasis on being more Covid secure

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/205/25/Nov/20:**

That a budget of up to £7,500 be approved to provide secure cycle storage in the Cathedral grounds, and a 'park and walk' facility from the Olding Road car park as part of a Christmas shopping initiative.

16. To receive the report and adopt the recommendations of the Planning Licensing and Finance committee meetings of:

16.1 28 October 2020

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/206/25/Nov/20:**

That the September 2020 bank reconciliations, budget line item expenditure, final payments list and cash book reports be adopted and signed.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/207/25/Nov/20:**

That the minutes of the Planning, Licensing and Finance committee meeting of 28 October be received.

16.2 11 November 2020

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/208/25/Nov/20:**

That the October 2020 bank reconciliations, budget line item expenditure, final payments list and cash book reports be adopted and signed.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/209/25/Nov/20:**

That the minutes of the Planning, Licensing and Finance committee meeting of 11 November 2020 be received.

17. To approve the payments list for November 2020

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/210/25/Nov/20:**

That the November 2020 payments list be approved.

18. To approve and accept the External Auditor's report on the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ended 31 March 2020

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/211/25/Nov/20:**

That the External Auditor's report on the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ended 31 March 2020 be approved and accepted.

19. Date of next meeting

Date of next meeting: **Wednesday 16 December 2020**

The meeting ended at 9.04pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____