

Minutes of the meeting of Bury St Edmunds Town Council held at the Guildhall, Bury St Edmunds, on Wednesday 15 December 2021 at 7.02pm.

Present: Cllrs Thompson (Town Mayor), Chung (Deputy Town Mayor), Augustine, Everitt, Higgins, Murray, Rayner, Stamp, Waterman and Whittingham.

Also present: Sue Hindry (Assistant Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer), Police Community Support Officer Mark Ellis, representatives from Citizens Advice West Suffolk, Bury St Edmunds Heritage Trust and New Bury Community Association, a West Suffolk Councillor, a 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 Cllrs Bouché, D Hind, K Hind, Iannelli-Popham, Parker, Rout and Turner. The Clerk was self-isolating.

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, Everitt, Rayner, Stamp, Thompson and Waterman 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 24 November 2021 meeting of the Council

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/75/15/Dec/21:**

That the minutes of the meeting of 24 November 2021 are agreed and signed as an accurate record.

5. Public Forum

Representatives from Citizens Advice West Suffolk, Bury St Edmunds Heritage Trust and New Bury Community Association each spoke in connection with their relevant agenda item.

6. To note the Clerk's report

None.

7. To note the Responsible Financial Officer's report

It was noted that the grant funding budget line was overspent but unallocated reserves were available to cover this element.

8. To note the PCSO's verbal report

Noted. The latest crime statistics were discussed.

9. To consider the 2022/2023 Budget and precept projections

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/76/15/Dec/21:**

That the Responsible Financial Officer provides a second version of the draft budget with the grant funding budget line increased to £100,000 for consideration; this is in addition to the original version of the draft budget with £50,000 in the grant funding budget line.

The Assistant Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer was thanked for her work on the draft budget.

10. To consider a grant funding application by Citizens Advice West Suffolk for £6,859 to purchase office equipment

Cllr Chung declared a local non-pecuniary interest as West Suffolk Council's representative to Citizens Advice West Suffolk.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/77/15/Dec/21:**

That a grant of £6,859 to Citizens Advice West Suffolk, to purchase office equipment, be approved.

11. To consider a grant funding application by Bury St Edmunds Heritage Trust for £15,000 for the 'Ration Books to Rock 'n' Roll' exhibition

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/78/15/Dec/21:**

That a grant of £15,000 to Bury St Edmunds Heritage Trust, for the 'Ration Books to Rock 'n' Roll' exhibition, be approved.

Agenda item 19 was moved to this point in the agenda

19. To consider a grant funding application by the New Bury Community Association for £20,000 in respect of business start-up funds for the New Bury Community Centre

Cllr Chung declared a local non-pecuniary interest as a committee member of the Newbury Community Centre Project.

It was suggested the motion be amended so that if the funds were to be used for 'snagging' items, the Town Council would be recompensed to the value of those funds.

'Match funding' for the project was discussed, as was whether some of the items included in the list of costs were items which the developer should have provided. It was resolved that the application was to be deferred to the 26 January Full Council meeting, to seek clarity from the applicant about these issues. Councillors were asked to send any queries about the application to the Clerk by 17 January, so the applicant could provide answers.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/79/15/Dec/21:**

That consideration of the grant funding application by the New Bury Community Association for £20,000 for business start-up funds for the New Bury Community Centre, be deferred to the 26 January 2022 meeting of the Council.

12. To finalise a response to Suffolk County Council's review of recommended lorry routes, for submission by 17 December 2021

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/80/15/Dec/21:**

That the following three issues be submitted to Suffolk County Council's review of recommended lorry routes: **(1)** Since the A11 from Fiveways to Thetford has been dual carriageway in December 2014, HGVs travelling South on the A11 and wanting to get to the A14 are frequently using the A11 to the Fiveways roundabout and taking the first exit onto the A1101 and getting onto the A14 by negotiating the Tollgate junction, then along Fornham Road. It is reported that this occurs throughout the day but as a count has not been undertaken we cannot be specific on numbers. The A1101 is not wide enough (especially through Icklingham) for this sort of traffic and an HGV ban, except for access, should be imposed from the Fiveways interchange on the A1101 both ways to its junction with the B1106

at Fornham. HGVs using the Tollgate interchange is not a good idea. According to the information on the County Council Lorry Review the B1106 Fornham Road already has a ban on vehicles over 7.5 Tons but this is not known of or enforced. We have been unable to find any signage to this effect. Therefore, the suggestion is to have an HGV ban from the A1101 at 5 ways to Station Hill in Bury St Edmunds; **(2)** Ban HGVs in College Street, Bury St Edmunds and route them via Westgate Street, Crown Street and Churchgate Street (if they cannot be banned from the historic town grid altogether). This is due to the HGVs being unable to turn left from College Street into Churchgate Street, resulting in damage to street furniture. Also, the size of the HGVs accessing the grid means they use the pavements, and this causes damage making them unsafe; **(3)** The important issue on Moreton Hall is the noticeable increase in HGVs of all sizes using Orttewell Road as a short cut. Suffolk Business Park which is an integral part of Moreton Hall Ward on West Suffolk Council has expanded rapidly since the last review in 2011 with the very large increase in floor space on the Business Park with warehousing and distribution operators over the past 3 years. In short since 2017 there has been a substantial and noticeable increase in HGVs not following the designated routes and using Orttewell Road as a short cut through the middle of the residential housing either gain access to the A14, the various Moreton Hall industrial estates and business parks, or indeed reverse traffic using Orttewell Road as a short cut to join the A143 or A134. Since 2017 many representations have been made to Suffolk County Highways by our local County Councillor both to Cabinet Members and Officers. Indeed, the Residents Association have written to the previous 4 Cabinet Members for Highways at the County to no avail. Earlier on in September this year the issue was also debated by the Overview and Scrutiny committee of West Suffolk Council following a Ward Members Councillors call for action. The Residents Association carried out a survey of residents living in those roads closest to Orttewell Road this year. Possible courses of action to help to alleviate the problem: (a) Reinstate the road under the Railway Bridge to take two-way traffic. The proposed 1400 house development at Cattishall will feed into the Barton/Orttewell Road junction and the section from Mount Road to the traffic lights is heavily congested especially at peak times; (b) Ban HGVs from using Orttewell Road for its entire length apart from local traffic for Lawson place and public transport. This could be done as an experimental traffic order for a 6-month trial and then introduced permanently.

13. To approve expenditure from the Pavements and Public Spaces (PPS) budget line for PPS work on Whiting Street at £47,233.48

A debate took place about the length of pavement being repaired, whether the surface was suitable and related issues about the culverts.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/81/15/Dec/21:**

That approval of expenditure from the Pavements and Public Spaces (PPS) budget on Whiting Street at £47,233.48 be deferred to the next meeting, in order that more information be provided on the length of pavement to be repaired, whether the proposed new surface was suitable and if the culverts from the downpipes of the properties would be kept clear.

14. To consider a review, to update the Town Council grant funding policy

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/82/15/Dec/21:**

That a working party of 5-7 people to review the grant funding policy be established and members wishing to participate should notify the Clerk.

15. To approve the payments list for December 2021

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/83/15/Dec/21:**

That the payments list for December 2021 be approved.

16. To receive the report and adopt the recommendations of the Planning Licensing and Finance committee meeting of 24 November 2021

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/84/15/Dec/21:**

That the minutes of the Planning, Licensing and Finance committee meeting of 24 November 2021, be received.

17. To wish everyone a happy Christmas

Noted.

The Mayor thanked all staff for their efforts over the last year. Mutual seasonal greetings were exchanged.

18. Date of next meeting

Date of next meeting: **Wednesday 26 January 2022.**

19. To consider a grant funding application by the New Bury Community Association for £20,000 in respect of business start-up funds for the New Bury Community Centre

This item had been moved to earlier in this agenda after item 11.

20. Date of next meeting

Date of next meeting: **Wednesday 26 January 2022.**

The meeting ended at 8.54pm.

Signed: _____ Dated _____