

**Minutes of the meeting of Bury St Edmunds Town Council held at the Guildhall, Bury St Edmunds, on Wednesday 24 November 2021 at 7.03pm.**

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

**Also present:** Greg Luton (Town Clerk), Sue Hindry (Assistant Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer), Police Community Support Officer 3350 Mark Ellis, representatives from the Abbeycroft Leisure, Bury St Edmunds Cricket Club and Bury Town Trust, 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 Cllrs Bouché, K Hind, Iannelli-Popham and Parker.

**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, D Hind, Rayner, Rout, Stamp, Thompson and Waterman declared a local non-pecuniary interest as a District Councillor. Cllr Rayner declared a local non-pecuniary interest in agenda items 11 and 12.

**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 20 October 2021 meeting of the Council**

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/63/24/Nov/21:**

That the minutes of the meeting of 20 October 2021 be amended to include "The Town Council Officers to write a letter to MP Jo Churchill expressing Town Council solidarity".

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/64/24/Nov/21:**

That the minutes of the meeting of 20 October 2021, as amended, be agreed, and signed as an accurate record.

**5. Public Forum**

A member of the public asked the Council to increase the funding to the 2021 Christmas meal programme. Representatives from the Bury Town Trust, Bury St Edmunds Cricket Club and Abbeycroft Leisure each spoke in connection with their relevant agenda item.

Cllr Higgins declared a local non-pecuniary interest as a trustee of the Bury Refuge. Cllr Stamp declared a local non-pecuniary interest because the organisation she works for had donated to Abbeycroft's 2020 Christmas meal project.

**6. To note the Clerk's report**

Noted. The Clerk advised that the sound system was not in use yet, due to set-up problems. He encouraged councillors fund new projects from their locality budgets and mentioned that the Heritage Partnership had invited the Town Council to become a trustee. He informed councillors that a consultation paper on 'hybrid working' had been circulated to staff for comment.

**7. To note the Responsible Financial Officer's report**

Noted. No points were raised by Councillors.

**8. To note the PCSO's verbal report**

Noted. The latest crime statistics were discussed; assaults and public order offences were lower than in the previous month. Dog attacks should be reported to the Police in the first instance. Requests to deploy a speed gun as a deterrent to speeding drivers, should be made to the Clerk.

**9. To consider the Bury Town Trust Heritage Assessment for the South African War Memorial**

Noted. The plans received a favourable reception and a request for funding support for this project would follow in due course.

**10. To consider the 2022/2023 Budget and precept projections**

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/65/24/Nov/21:**

That (1) the 'Elections' earmarked reserve be increased to £20,000 in light of the cost of the May 2021 bye-elections in St Olaves and Southgate ward; (2) 'Christmas Fayre Entertainment' (£10,000) and 'Community & Environment Regeneration Fund' (£40,000) budget lines should remain at the levels shown; (3) the 'Minimum Protected General Reserve' (the level set by Council, below which reserves will not be allowed to drop, except in for emergencies) be increased to £100,000 to reflect higher precept/expenditure level.

**11. To consider a grant funding application by Bury St Edmunds Cricket Club for £10,000 to replace the outdoor cricket nets**

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/66/24/Nov/21:**

That a grant of £10,000 to Bury St Edmunds Cricket Club to replace the outdoor cricket nets be approved. Evidence was to be supplied to the Council of the Club's outreach work and the benefits to the local community.

**12. To consider funding of £7,000 to work in partnership with Abbeycroft Leisure to deliver a Christmas meal programme for residents in the town, with a follow-on provision of food packages, delivered with Bury Rickshaw**

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/67/24/Nov/21:**

That funding totalling £6,722 be approved to work in partnership with Abbeycroft Leisure, to deliver a Christmas meal programme for residents in the town, with a follow-on provision of food packages, delivered with Bury Rickshaw (£3,772), and the Reducing Isolation with Food 2022 scheme (£2,950).

Abbeycroft was encouraged to submit a further proposal for additional funding.

**13. To consider the current Suffolk County Council Community Review of Lorry Routes**

The deadline for submission of the Council's three issues to Suffolk County Council is Friday 17 December 2021. To meet this deadline, Councillors must submit their short-listed issues, in no more than 200 words per issue (to help achieve clarity), by email to all three Town Council Officers, by Tuesday 7 December 2021, for discussion at the Planning Licensing & Finance committee meeting on Wednesday 15 December 2021, so the Committee can make a recommendation to the Full Council meeting on the same date.

**14. To note an update on Christmas activities in Bury St Edmunds town centre**

A verbal update was given.

**15. To approve the payments list for November 2021**

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/68/24/Nov/21:**

That the payments list for November 2021 be approved.

**16. To approve the use of variable Direct Debit instructions (as per Financial Regulation 6.6)**

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/69/24/Nov/21:**

That the use of variable Direct Debit instructions be approved.

**17. To receive the report and adopt the recommendations of the Staffing and Employment Committee of 2 November 2021**

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/70/24/Nov/21:**

That the minutes of the Staffing and Employment Committee of 2 November 2021, be received.

**18. To receive the report and adopt the recommendations of the Planning Licensing and Finance committee meeting of:**

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/71/24/Nov/21:**

That the September 2021 bank reconciliations, budget line-item expenditure, final payments list and cash book reports be adopted and signed.

18.1 20 October 2021

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/72/24/Nov/21:**

That the minutes of the Planning, Licensing and Finance committee meeting of 20 October 2021, be received.

18.2 10 November 2021

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/73/24/Nov/21:**

That the October 2021 bank reconciliations, budget line-item expenditure, final payments list and cash book reports be adopted and signed.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/74/24/Nov/21:**

That the minutes of the Planning, Licensing and Finance committee meeting of 10 November 2021, be received.

**19. Date of next meeting**

Date of next meeting: **Wednesday 15 December 2021.**

The meeting ended at 8.58pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_