

**Minutes of the Meeting of Bury St Edmunds Town Council,
held at the Guildhall, Bury St Edmunds, on Wednesday 23 November 2022 at 7pm**

Present: Cllrs Thompson (Town Mayor), Augustine, Higgins, Hind, Iannelli-Popham, Murray, Parker, Sayer, Waterman and Whittingham.

Also present: Greg Luton (Town Clerk), Jacqueline Howells (Responsible Financial Officer/Assistant Town Clerk), Julie Sturgeon (Allotment and Administrative Officer), PCSO Jo Whiting, plus six members of the public.

Addendum: A vote took place to move Agenda Item 11 forward to appear after Item 6, due to the necessary early departure of the RFO.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Chung, Everitt, Raynor, Rout, and Stamp. Cllrs Bouché and Turner were absent, but no apologies were received.

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 Augustine, Hind, Thompson 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 of the 26 October 2022 meeting of the Council

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/56/23/Nov/22:**

That the minutes of the meeting of 28 September 2022 be agreed and signed, as an accurate record.

5. Public Forum

Two members of 'Musica' spoke about the activities for funding. The curator from Suffolk Regiment Museum answered questions on the grant request. A staff member from Abbey Croft Leisure spoke about the 2023 Festive Food project and the success of the previous years.

6. To note the PCSO's verbal report

PCSO Jo Whiting confirmed that there were no specific issues to report. Local drug dealing was discussed and PCSO Whiting reiterated that any specific concerns should be reported to the Town Clerk for passing to the PCSOs. PCSO Whiting was thanked for attending the meeting.

7. To consider the 2023/2024 Budget and precept projections

A discussion took place about the proposed draft Budget and precept projections put forward by the Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer. There was general agreement to keep the precept and allotments income at current levels and to revert to a standard annual Locality payment of £2,500 per councillor. Other budget lines were considered, and Councillors were requested to submit any final suggestions to the Town Clerk by Friday 2 December in order that the 2023/2024 Budget and Precept can be finalised at the next Full Council meeting on 14 December 2022.

8. To note the Responsible Financial Officer's report

The RFO presented the financial report which was noted. No areas of concern were identified.

9. To note the Clerk's report

The Clerk reported on the recent success of the annual Armistice and Community Awards events. He reminded councillors of the upcoming 'pre-election period' in late April and encouraged early use of Locality budgets. He confirmed the RFO's substantive appointment after selection and interview of candidates. He reported that the ongoing FOI requests were very time-consuming and diverting resources from core activities. He noted the current pavements work in Whiting Street, the first PPS done since 2019.

10. To consider grant applications as follows:**10.1 Musica, for music workshops for people of all ages who have been disadvantaged through disability, ill health, poverty, addiction, or isolation**

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/57/23/Nov/22:**

RESOLVED that under the Power of the Local Government Act 1972, s145, Musica be awarded grant funding of £7,938 to provide music workshops for people of all ages who have been disadvantaged through disability, ill health, poverty, addiction, or isolation.

10.2 The Suffolk Regiment Museum, for the Museum to tell the story of the Suffolk Regiment, our county regiment

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/58/23/Nov/22:**

RESOLVED that under the Power of the Local Government Act 1972, s144 the Suffolk Regiment Museum be awarded grant funding of £8000, for the Museum to enhance the exhibition telling the story of the Suffolk Regiment.

10.3 Abbeycroft Leisure for the 2023 Festive Food project

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/59/23/Nov/22:**

RESOLVED that under the Power of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s19 Abbeycroft Leisure be awarded £7,200 for the 2022/23 Festive Food project.

Note. Agenda Item 11 moved forward to after Item 6, due to the necessary early departure of the RFO.

12. To consider signing a renewed twinning agreement with the towns of Compiegne (France) and Kevelaer (Germany) and to inform the Friends of Compiegne and Friends of Kevelaer of the proposal.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/60/23/Nov/22:**

That the signing a renewed twinning agreement with the towns of Compiegne (France) and Kevelaer (Germany) and to inform the Friends of Compiegne and Friends of Kevelaer be **APPROVED**.

13. To approve the payments list for October 2022.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/61/23/Nov/22:**

RESOLVED that the payments list for October 2022 be **APPROVED**.

14. To receive the report and adopt the recommendations of the Planning, Licensing and Finance committee meetings of:**14.1 26 October 2022**

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/62/23/NOV/22:**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning, Licensing and Finance meeting of 26 October 2022 be **ADOPTED** and signed.

14.2 9 November 2022

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/63/23/NOV/22:**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning, Licensing and Finance meetings of 9 November 2022 be **ADOPTED** and signed.

15. Date of next meeting

Date of next meeting: **Wednesday 14 December 2022.**

The meeting ended at 8.52 pm.

Signed: _____ Dated _____