

**Minutes of the Meeting of Bury St Edmunds Town Council,  
held at the Guildhall, Bury St Edmunds, on Wednesday 14 December 2022 at 7pm**

**Present:** Cllrs Thompson (Town Mayor), Augustine, Chung, Everitt, Higgins, Murray, Rayner, Rout, Sayer, Turner (arrived at 7.30pm), Waterman and Whittingham.

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

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Bouché (via others), Hind, Iannelli-Popham, Parker and Stamp.

**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, Chung, Everitt, Rout, Thompson and Waterman declared a local non-pecuniary interest as District Councillors.

Cllr Higgins declared that she is a trustee of the local Women's Aid charity.

Cllr Rayner declared that she is West Suffolk Council Portfolio Holder for Leisure.

**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 23 November 2022 meeting of the Council**

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/64/14/Dec/22:**

That the Minutes of the meeting of 23 November 2022 be agreed and signed, as an accurate record.

**5. Public Forum**

Representatives from West Suffolk Hive and Bury St Edmunds Women's Aid gave further information about their respective grant aid applications being discussed at agenda item 10. West Suffolk Councillor Birgitte Mager (as a member of the public) informed councillors about the 'splash park' project being discussed at agenda item 11.

**6. To note the PCSOs' verbal report**

PCSO Mark Ellis confirmed that there were no specific issues to report with the crime figures and that it was fairly quiet in the town. PCSO Ellis reiterated that any specific concerns should be reported to the Town Clerk for passing to the PCSOs. He was thanked for attending the meeting.

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

The Town Clerk reported that the pavement repairs in Whiting Street were nearly complete with about two more days of work necessary. (Councillors requested that SCC Highways be contacted again to request that further highways work previously identified be undertaken.) He updated on the ongoing discussions with fencing contractors to answer the muntjac problem on the Cotton Lane allotment site. Volunteers were asked to come forward to help with the distribution of Christmas food parcels on 23 December. Any person able to help was asked to contact the Clerk.

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

The RFO presented the financial report which was noted. Facts were to be discussed at Item 9. No areas of concern were identified.

**9. To consider the draft 2023/2024 Budget and precept projections (final version)**

Councillors were requested to consider the final draft budget proposal and inform the Town Clerk before the end of December if any further adjustments were needed.

No changes after that could now be made since the final budget would be signed off at the Full Council meeting on 25 January in order to be submitted to West Suffolk Council.

**10. To consider grant applications as follows:****10.1 'West Suffolk Hive' for a Community garden, education, and an outreach centre**

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/65/14/Dec/22:**

**RESOLVED** that under the Power of the Local Government Act (Miscellaneous Provisions)1976, s19, West Suffolk Hive CIC be awarded grant funding of £1363.99 for the Priory School forest school, community garden and outreach project.

**10.2 Bury St Edmunds Women's Aid for the purchase of office furniture**

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/66/14/Dec/22:**

**RESOLVED** that under the Power of the Local Government Act (Miscellaneous Provisions)1976, s19, Bury St Edmunds Women's Aid be awarded grant funding of £1817.00, for the purchase of office furniture for their refuge and outreach offices in Bury St Edmunds.

**11. To consider the future management and care of a community 'splash park' at the Flying Fortress Park (Cllr Thompson)**

Councillors discussed the proposal for a new splash park to be installed at the Flying Fortress Park on the Moreton Hall estate. The organiser, Cllr. Mager informed Town Councillors that enough funds had been secured for the project to go ahead. It will be built on land owned by West Suffolk Council. The request being considered was for the Town Council to take ownership of the splash park once it has been built and to be responsible for future management and insurance and other costs in the future.

Cllr Rayner confirmed that West Suffolk Council would be willing to take on the management of the site at a recharge cost of up to £10k per annum to the Town Council. Several councillors had concerns about the risks of taking on such an asset but agreed that the Town Council should be involved in the future.

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/67/14/Dec/22:**

**RESOLVED** that under the Power of the Public Health Act 1875, s164 Bury St Edmunds Town Council agrees to take possession of the splash park at the Flying Fortress Park, following the successful installation and completion of the facility by West Suffolk Council. A legal contract between the two parties would be required. The Town Council will then engage West Suffolk Council to undertake maintenance management of the facility, at a cost of up to £10K per annum.

**12. To approve the payments list for November 2022.**

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/68/14/Dec/22:**

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

**13. To receive the report and adopt the recommendations of the Planning, Licensing and Finance committee meeting 23 November 2022**

Resolution Record No. **BSETC/69/14/Dec/22:**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning, Licensing and Finance meeting of 23 November 2022 be **ADOPTED** and signed.

**14. Date of next meeting**

Date of next meeting: **Wednesday 25 January 2023.**

The meeting ended at 8.50 pm.

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