

Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge is a largely urban area consisting of 2 towns in Somerset adjacent to Junction 22 of the M5. The parish has a population in the region of 20,000 residents and a precept of £707,399. Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge Town Council serves both towns' communities.

Burnham-on-Sea has a retail centre in its high street area, adjacent to the seafront. Burnham-on-Sea is largely a residential area. As a town by the sea, Burnham relies on the visitor economy for a large part of its income, and there are many guest houses and caravan parks in the parish.

The neighbouring town of Highbridge is also largely residential, with a railway station in the town centre. The main business park is located in Highbridge, offering significant employment opportunities.

18 town councillors serve on Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge Town Council and are elected for a term of office of four years. The next election will take place in May 2022 and the term will last for 5 years due to local government reorganisation moving Somerset councils to a unitary authority.

The council operations are carried out by 10 permanent office and open spaces staff, assisted by temporary theatre staff and volunteers.

Council meetings tend to take place on Mondays, but might include other evenings if required. The council operates a committee system covering Finance & Resources (with Human Resources sub-committee), Planning, Town Improvements, Princess Theatre Management and cemetery management. From time to time working groups are set up. The council uses the Ibabs electronic meetings management system, with computer tablets provided to councillors.

The parish has in place an approved Neighbourhood Plan & has recently embarked on a Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan. The council has achieved plastic free status and has pledged to support a climate/ sustainability event later in 2022.

The town council owns its own premises at Jaycroft Road, where the office has a public reception staffed Monday to Thursday. Council meetings take place in the on-site council chamber.

The council owns and manages the refurbished Princess Theatre and Arts Centre and is also responsible for the management of three cemeteries and 2 allotment sites. The council is responsible for the upkeep of a number of on-street assets and will see a play area and large artwork installed on Burnham seafront later this year.

For further information, see the town council's website www.burnham-highbridge-tc.gov.uk