

**Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2024  
in the Council Chamber, The Old Courthouse, Jaycroft Road,  
Burnham-on-Sea at 7 pm**

**Present:** Councillors S. Perry (Chair), P. Clayton, M. Facey, J. Flurry, G. Gudka, A. Hendry, B. Metcalfe, M. Murphy, K. Pearce, C. Searing, B. Vickers, P. Wynn

**In attendance:** K. Noble (Town Clerk), two members of the Public and Police Sergeant Hardaway.

**Public Participation:**

There were no representations made.

**318.0.T24 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Millard, Barber and Elrick.

**319.0.T24 To receive any declarations of interest on items included on this agenda**

Councillor Pearce declared a non pecuniary interest in item 333.1.

**320.0.T24 To receive and approve the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Town Council, held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024, were presented by the Mayor.

**Resolved** that the minutes be taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

**321.0.T24 Matters arising from previous minutes**

There were no issues raised.

**322.0.T24 To receive Mayors report**

Councillor Perry read out the following statement;

“Firstly, I would like to offer my congratulations to Councillor Kate Pearce, recently elected to represent Highbridge on the Town Council.

I was given a very warm welcome to Beaufort House when I attended their summer fete on 29<sup>th</sup> June. It was a beautiful summer’s day and there was a lovely family atmosphere at the fete. I enjoyed talking to residents, their relatives and neighbours, who were entertained by a singer throughout the afternoon.

At the beginning of July, I met with the Reverend Cheryl Hawkins, the new Vicar at St Andrews Church in Burnham. We had a wide-ranging



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discussion about her ministry in Burnham and her previous roles outside the Church.

On 6<sup>th</sup> July, I attended Matilda Junior – the musical, which was staged by BEES at the Princess Theatre. What a joyous production! The production standards were very high and the performances of the talented children involved were so professional. It was a pleasure to be in the audience. Special mention must go to the adult organisers of BEES who give generously of their time to ensure that the children get to experience the process of putting on live performances.

In July I also welcomed the judges from South West in Bloom to Burnham-on-Sea to judge our floral displays. They could see the efforts of our volunteers to improve the flower beds on the Esplanade and we were very fortunate that, in the previous week, the Rotary Club of Burnham had purchased plants for the tubs on the Esplanade by the Bay View Café. They also visited St Andrew's School, where a year three teacher has been instrumental in encouraging children in all year groups to enjoy the natural world and to enjoy gardening. It was interesting to hear his plans for a Forest School. Special thanks to Mr Dave Perrett who has been dedicated enough to tend to the flower beds in town almost every other day. The results of the judging will be known in October.

Other events I attended included a Fritzlars Committee meeting, where a photo presentation of the recent visit to Germany was viewed. Also, I was asked to attend a walking cricket match where the Highbridge walking cricket team, which meets weekly at the YMCA in Highbridge, hosted Lansdown walking cricket group from Bath.

I was pleased to be invited to the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party of Go Socialise, a group for autistic adults, which meets at the Ritz Social Club. They have recently received a grant from the Town Council to purchase more board games and it was great to spend time with them all and see what they had bought. They were very grateful for the grant.

Finally, I met with our new MP, Sir Ashley Fox, on 31<sup>st</sup> July. We had a lengthy discussion about the work being done in both Burnham and Highbridge by various groups to suggest improvements to both towns and about the challenges facing the Town Council. He is eager to help support us in the process to access any help or funding that may be available to us and is keen to build a collaborative working relationship with the Council.”



**323.0.T24 To receive report from the Police**

Sergeant Hardaway gave an overview of stats for the past 3 months. There had been 1368 incidents, 334 of those were crimes and 285 anti-social behaviour issues. The figures were slightly down from that same period last year.

Issues regarding theft from shops in Highbridge were raised. Incidents must be reported directly to the Police.

Other queries raised by Councillors were answered.

**324.0.T24 To receive any reports from Somerset Councillors**

No queries were raised on the circulated report.

**325.0.T24 To receive minutes of previous committee meetings**

Planning Committee - 26<sup>th</sup> June and 17<sup>th</sup> July

No questions were raised.

Finance and Governance Committee - 15<sup>th</sup> July

No questions were raised.

Assets and Amenities Committee - 23<sup>rd</sup> July

No questions were raised.

**326.0.T24 To receive list of payments up to 29<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

The attached list of payments was received and noted. The joint funding invoices were queried and it was confirmed the credits were due to incorrect invoices being received.

**327.0.T24 To receive Town Council Accounts for month of June 2024**

The accounts for June 2024 were received and no queries raised.

**328.0.T24 To agree release of earmarked reserves**

**Resolved** that monies be released from EMR 374 to cover the costs for the participation events for older members of the community throughout the year.

**Resolved** that EMR 320 is used to cover the alarm call out annual fee for this year.

**329.0.F24 To consider recommendation from the Asset and Amenities Committee to release £2,376.61 from earmarked reserves for technical equipment at the Princess Theatre**

**Resolved** that the request is approved and £2,376.61 is released from EMR 331.



**330.0.F24 To consider recommendation from the Asset and Amenities to release £3,568.71 from earmarked reserves for refreshment facilities to be installed at the Princess Theatre**

**Resolved** that the request is approved and £3,100 is released from EMR 323 and £468.71 from EMR 343.

**331.0.T24 To receive reports from town councillor representatives appointed to outside bodies**

Written reports from Town Council representatives on outside bodies were received.

Councillor Gudka gave an update re the Community Centre and confirmed that they were not awarded the grant for solar panels and will now be paying for these from reserves.

**332.0.T24 To receive Working Group update reports**

Written reports from the following working groups were received and noted;

- Better BOS
- Climate and Ecology
- Highbridge Regeneration
- Devolution

A Homelessness Working Group update was not available.

**333.0.T24 To consider response to correspondence received**

333.1 To consider request from SEED to support the Art Road Trip Project

Councillors were supportive of this project.

**Resolved** that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to contribute up to £500, subject to reviewing the event costs.

333.2 To consider request from Rotary Club of Highbridge and Burnham-on-Sea to hold a collection at the fireworks event in 2024 and future years

**Resolved** that permission is given for the Rotary Club to undertake a collection at this year's fireworks event.

**334.0.T24 To consider proposal from Somerset Council regarding changes to the CCTV system**

Several Councillors stated how important it is to have CCTV in the town.



**Resolved** that the two cameras in Manor Gardens are replaced and the camera on the Esplanade and camera near Marine Cove are upgraded at a cost of £17,000 (plus any additional costs for ducting).

**Resolved** that the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Finance and Governance Committee Chairman, be delegated to agree the expenditure codes.

The SLA Agreement needs to be signed before payment of the monitoring service.

**335.0.T24 To consider quotations for Jaycroft Road reconfiguration**

The report was reviewed.

**Resolved** that Company B is appointed at a cost of up to £5,280 to be taken from EMR 320.

**336.0.T24 To consider report regarding Burnham-on-Sea Christmas tree**

The options were considered.

**Resolved** that the Christmas tree to be installed in Burnham-on-Sea should be a maximum size of 19ft.

**337.0.T24 To consider participating in VE DAY 80 on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**Resolved** that the Town Council participate in the VE Day 80 celebrations. The Town Clerk will liaise with community organisations regarding events to take place, for discussion at the next meeting.

**338.0.T24 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Town Council is scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7 pm.

**339.0.T24 Resolved** to exclude members of the press and public as publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

**340.0.T24 To review response to complaint**

A lengthy discussion took place and the Town Clerk answered all the questions raised.

**Resolved** that no further action should be taken.