

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held on 10th November 2025 in the Council Chamber, The Old Courthouse, Jaycroft Road, Burnham-on-Sea at 7 pm

Present: Councillors Facey (Chair), J. Flurry, R. Keen, A. Matthews, L. Millard, P. Mills, M. Murphy, K. Pearce, S. Perry, N. Tolley, B. Vickers, P. Wynn

In attendance: K. Noble (Town Clerk), the Estates Manager and five members of the public

Public Participation: A residents expressed thanks for the pothole repairs.

557.0.T25 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Clayton, Gudka, Searing and Metcalfe.

558.0.T25 To receive any declarations of interest on items included on this agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

559.0.T25 Somerset Foundation Trust Community Hospital presented feedback from a public consultation on Community Hospital transformation

(Councillor Flurry joined the meeting during this item)

Three representatives from Somerset NHS Foundation Trust were welcomed to the meeting to give feedback from the recent consultations that have taken place regarding the Community Hospital Transformation.

The consultation included a survey as well as community visits with different groups. An overview of the feedback was given. Difficulties raised included transport barriers, signposting of services and issues with digital systems. Some responders felt that the engagement was just for show and concerns would not be listened to. Concerns were also raised regarding the closure of the minor injuries unit and reduction in beds at the community hospital. Suggested improvements put forward included easier access for blood tests, a one stop shop approach, homes visits, improved sign posting for service options available and a dedicated space for long term conditions etc.



All Councillors were given the opportunity to ask questions, which were answered.

(Three members of the public left the meeting at this juncture)

560.0.T25 To receive and approve the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 22nd September 2025

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Town Council, held on 22nd September 2025, were presented by the Mayor.

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

561.0.T25 Matters arising from previous minutes

Councillor Millard confirmed that following a letter sent to Sir Ashley Fox MP regarding the bridge in Highbridge, a meeting took place last week and whilst on site several cars got grounded, which reiterated the problem. Highways have confirmed that they will fill in the dip. Unfortunately, the legal teams for Network Rail and Somerset Council have still not agreed who is responsible for the bridge. Councillor Millard has now raised this with Councillor Bill Revans at Somerset Council.

562.0.T25 To receive Mayor's report

(Councillor Keen joined the meeting at this juncture)

The report had been circulated with the agenda. The Mayor added his thanks to those who attended the Remembrance Services yesterday and commented on how impressive the event at Wells Cathedral was.

563.0.T25 To receive any reports from Somerset Councillors

Concerns were raised regarding the report being political and not covering several items, including the annual chairs event and Somerset Councils response to the SEND reform delays. It was also stated that there had been a noticeable difference in the reports in recent months. The Mayor agreed to look into this.

564.0.T25 To receive minutes of previous committee meetings

Finance & Governance Committee Meeting - 13th October

Extraordinary Planning Committee Meeting - 21st October

Assets & Amenities Committee Meeting - 21st October

Planning Committee Meeting - 8th October and 29th October

Extraordinary Finance & Governance Committee Meeting - 30th October

No questions were raised and the minutes noted.



565.0.T25 To receive list of payments up to 1st November 2025

The attached list of payments was received and noted. No queries were raised.

566.0.T25 To receive Town Council Accounts for month of September

The accounts for September were received. A query was raised regarding the overspend on the cemeteries general maintenance budget. It was confirmed this was due to additional purchase of plinths as well as an issue with a grave.

567.0.T25 To receive reports from town councillor representatives appointed to outside bodies

Written reports from Town Council representatives on outside bodies were circulated with the agenda.

The Town Clerk advised that Councillor Searing had sent an update to the Bay Centre report, which stated that the road to the car park is the responsibility of Somerset Council.

The reports were noted.

568.0.T25 To receive Working Group update reports

Councillor Vickers gave an overview of the recent Highbridge Regeneration Working Group meeting, the notes of which had been circulated.

569.0T.25 To consider response to correspondence received

569.1 To consider a request from Somerset Council to purchase stored play equipment

Several queries were raised and answered.

Resolved that the equipment be sold on the open market for the highest price.

569.2 To consider a request from Somerset Council to contribute towards footpath repairs at Winchester Road Park Play Area

An update on management of parks was given and it was confirmed that Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies could be used.

Resolved that the Council agrees to contribute £10,000 towards the cost of the footpath repairs.



569.3 To appoint a Councillor to act as a representative on the NHS Somerset, and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust, Stakeholder Reference Group

Resolved that Councillor Keen is appointed as the Council representative on the Somerset NHS Foundation Trusts Stakeholder Reference Group

569.4 To consider a response to the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service Precept Survey

Details have been published on the website and all are urged to respond.

Resolved that Councillors respond individually.

569.5 To consider the Somerset Town Centre Health Checks Report

The Highbridge Working Group had reviewed the document and felt it was very out of date.

Other Councillors raised issues with the content and the purpose of the report.

Resolved that the Town Clerk contacts Somerset Council to arrange a meeting to raise concerns.

570.0.T25 To review the updated Strategic Plan

Resolved the updated Strategic Plan was approved.

571.0.T25 To consider a recommendation from the Assets & Amenities Committee to use Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for the refurbishment of the Apex Park Toilets

Resolved that £15,713 is approved for releasing from CIL funds for the refurbishment of the Apex Park public conveniences.

572.0.T25 To approve an overspend of £1,069 for grants awarded was agreed by the Finance & Governance Committee at the meeting on 13th October 2025

Resolved the overspend of the grant budget of £1,069 is approved and is to be taken from general reserves.

573.0.T25 To note the conclusion of audit and sections 1, 2 & 3 of Annual Governance Accountability Return

The Town Clerk advised Councillors of the significant work undertaken by the RFO.

Councillors expressed their thanks to the RFO.



574.0.T25 To consider proposal regarding litter bins

Resolved that the Council agrees to exchange the four litter bins with Somerset Council, as detailed in the report.

575.0.T25 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on 15th December 2025 at 7 pm.