



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE MANOR HOUSE, BUNTINGFORD AT 7.15PM ON THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2024.**

**Present:** Councillors D. Wallace, G. Waite, Mrs J. Danagher, S. Bowman, P. Ricketts, J. Noades, M. Furness & Mrs P. Furness.

**Officer Present:** J. Jones (Town Clerk) & A. Georgiou (Admin Officer)

**Also Present:** East Herts District Councillor Mrs S. Nicholls (19:25) and three members of the public.

**122. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies from Councillors S. Bull, G. Bonner, East Herts District Councillor D. Woollcombe and Herts County Councillor J. Jones.

**123. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

No declarations.

**124. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE RECORD AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024.**

Following a proposal, second and a vote of seven in favour and one abstention it was

**RESOLVED**

**That the minutes are a true record and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.**

**125. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN.**

The Chairman reported that on 28<sup>th</sup> June Buntingford Town Council held its Civic Reception and recognised individuals for their work within the town.

30<sup>th</sup> June - The Chairman attended the Mayor of Sawbridgeworth's Civic Service.

2<sup>nd</sup> July - The Chairman attended a talk with Army Cadet Corps

5<sup>th</sup> July - Attended the Drama group production of "Ladies Day" at the Seth Ward Community Centre.

14<sup>th</sup> July - Attended the Junior Park Run at Norfolk Road Playing Field with the High Sherriff.

14<sup>th</sup> July - Attended the Seth Ward Almshouse garden party.

20<sup>th</sup> July - Attended the Herts County Council Chairman's Summer Event, The Deputy Mayor also attended.

The Chairman also reported that Councillor G. Bonner represented Buntingford Town Council at the Vistry planning appeal on 16<sup>th</sup> July.

17<sup>th</sup> July - The Chairman joined a Teams meeting with Herts County Council (HCC) and East Herts District Council (EHDC) representatives to discuss High Street improvements.

18<sup>th</sup> July - Joined a Teams meeting where the Police Crime Commissioner discussed issues of Accountability and Performance with the Chief Constable. Specific areas discussed were additional overtime for night time economy hotspots, violence against women and girls, call handling and firearms licencing.

25<sup>th</sup> July - Met with HCC Councillor Jones, Councillor Mrs J. Danagher and representatives from the Youth Club to explore options for the Youth Club following HCC's disposal of the Technical Institute.

The Chairman reported that the Council are still in discussion with Wheatley for a vehicular access into Hare Street Road Playing Field. Solicitors have requested that the Clerk swear a statutory declaration, the Chairman asked if members were in agreement and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk may swear the Declaration on behalf of the Council.

The Chairman reported that Councillor Stan Bull recently suffered a heart attack and is currently in hospital awaiting an operation.

**126. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE POLICE.**

No police were present.

Report circulated.

It was noted that there was a slight reduction in overall crimes from the previous month.

It was also noted that the increase in shoplifting is not unique to Buntingford, it is happening all over the county.

It was also reported that there has been large scale fly tipping close to Buntingford but not in Buntingford yet.

East Herts District Councillor Mrs S. Nicholls joined the meeting (19:25).

**127. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2024.**

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

**RESOLVED**

**That the report of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024 be adopted.**

**128. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2024.**

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

**RESOLVED**

**That the report of the meeting of the Resources Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024 be adopted.**

**129. TO RECEIVER AND CONSIDER THE REPORTS OF THE MEETINGS OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024 AND 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2024.**

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

**RESOLVED**

**That the reports of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024 be adopted.**

**130. TO RECEIVE REPORT OF PAYMENTS MADE JULY 2024.**

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

**RESOLVED**

**That the report of payments made July 2024 be accepted (copy attached).**

**131. REPORT FROM A DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ON DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS.**

It was reported that the Vistry planning appeal finished yesterday, it was suggested that planning officers feel this week went well. There is no date for a decision.

It was reported that the Development Management Forum for the Taylor Wimpey application is on 31<sup>st</sup> July. Three representatives from Buntingford will be in attendance including Councillor G. Waite, and East Herts Councillor Mrs S. Nicholls.

It was reported that there is a quiz night at the Community Centre to raise money for Ward Freman Pool on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July.

It was also reported that Buntingford Energy Hub will have a stall at the Buntingford Car Show to encourage people to use more renewable energy.

It was also noted that East Herts have had communication with the owner of the Medical Centre.

**132. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR ON COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS.**

Not present.

**133. TO CONSIDER GRANT REQUEST FROM THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.**

A grant of £1000 had been requested for the Car Show on 7<sup>th</sup> September.

Councillors had no concerns with the request. It was suggested that it is in annual event and it does a lot of good for the town.

It was suggested that this should be funded from New Homes Bonus.

It was stated that the event brings a lot of people into the town from further afield.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

**RESOLVED**

**That this Council grant £1000 to Buntingford Chamber of Commerce for the Buntingford Classic Car Show, to be funded from New Homes Bonus.**

**134. TO NOTE COUNCIL RESPONSE TO 3/24/0966/OUT - LAND NORTH OF A507, WEST OF A10.**

The response had been circulated and has been sent due to time constraints.

Council noted and agreed the response.

**135. TO APPROVE NEW SWCC HIRE RATES AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ABC COMMITTEE FROM 1/9/2024.**

The prices were circulated prior to the meeting.

It was suggested that the costs would not drive people away and seem very reasonable.

Following a proposal, second and a vote of 6 in favour and 2 abstentions it was

**RESOLVED**

**That this Council approve the new SWCC hire rates as recommended by the ABC committee to come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024.**

**136. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT.**

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

**RESOLVED**

**That the budget monitoring report be accepted.**

**137. TO INVITE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ASK QUESTIONS.**

No questions.

The Chairman noted that Highways are resurfacing Aspenden Road in the near future, work will be undertaken overnight.

It was also noted Herts County Councillor Jones has been looking to support the new Youth Club. It was suggested that the Technical Institute will be disposed of.

The Chairman reported that there is no meetings scheduled in August, however if needed there can be one arranged.

Meeting Closed: 19:41

Next meeting of the Full Council 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

(29<sup>th</sup> August 2024 if required)

| 1  | 2              | 3                       | 4                     | 5                             | 6       | 7            | 8               | 9                 |         |
|----|----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------|
| 1  | Accounts paid: | Jul-24                  | Full Council Meeting: | 25th July 2024                |         |              |                 |                   |         |
| 2  | Committee      | Budget                  | Payee                 | Details                       | Amount  | Budget total | Budget Bal.     | Notes             |         |
| 3  | Expenditure    |                         |                       |                               |         |              |                 |                   |         |
| 4  | Amenities      | Playground maintenance  | RSH                   | Chairs/padlocks playground    | 100.15  |              |                 | Insurance claim   |         |
| 5  | Amenities      | Playground maintenance  | broodmead             | Inspections and repairs       | 390.00  |              |                 |                   |         |
| 6  | Amenities      | Playground maintenance  | Broodmead             | Playground repairs            | 820.00  | 3500.00      | 1682.35         |                   |         |
| 7  | Amenities      | Churchyard Maintenance  | RSH                   | churchyard maintenance        | 360.00  |              |                 |                   |         |
| 8  | Amenities      | Churchyard Maintenance  | Between Times         | Gates                         | 2120.25 |              |                 |                   |         |
| 9  | Amenities      | Churchyard Maintenance  | RSH                   | churchyard maintenance        | 180.00  |              |                 |                   |         |
| 10 | Amenities      | Churchyard Maintenance  | Barclaycard           | Plaque                        | 45.85   | 3500.00      | 73.90           |                   |         |
| 11 | Resources      | CCTV                    | AV Guys               | Screen NRFF                   | 65.00   |              |                 |                   |         |
| 12 | Resources      | CCTV                    | Vodafone              | Sim Card CCTV                 | 12.44   |              |                 |                   |         |
| 13 | Resources      | CCTV                    | Videcom               | Maintenance annual            | 1533.00 | 1800.00      | 164.76          |                   |         |
| 14 | Resources      | Postage                 | Pitney Bowes          | Franking machine              | 43.77   |              |                 |                   |         |
| 15 | Resources      | Postage                 | Pitney Bowes          | Postage labels                | 65.95   | 450.00       | 245.33          |                   |         |
| 16 | Resources      | Hospitality             | Waite (Costco)        | Catering Civic reception      | 449.77  |              |                 |                   |         |
| 17 | Resources      | Hospitality             | J Jones               | Catering Civic reception      | 17.35   |              |                 |                   |         |
| 18 | Resources      | Hospitality             | Barclays              | Staff CR                      | 135.00  |              |                 |                   |         |
| 19 | Resources      | Hospitality             | henry De Vaugency     | Gifts for CR                  | 100.00  |              |                 |                   |         |
| 20 | Resources      | Hospitality             | Barclaycard           | Gift bags                     | 7.49    |              |                 |                   |         |
| 21 | Resources      | Hospitality             | Barclaycard           | Catering Civic reception      | 186.84  | 1500.00      | 448.32          |                   |         |
| 22 | Resources      | Manor House Maintenance | L.Pike                | Front porch                   | 1450.00 |              |                 |                   |         |
| 23 | Resources      | Manor House Maintenance | L.Pike                | Maintenance various           | 510.00  |              |                 |                   |         |
| 24 | Resources      | Manor House Maintenance | GLC Drainage          | Clear drains                  | 200.00  |              |                 |                   |         |
| 25 | Resources      | Manor House Maintenance | RAS Decorators        | Decorate F7                   | 560.00  |              |                 |                   |         |
| 26 | Resources      | Manor House Maintenance | Barclaycard           | vinyl stickers                | 20.76   | 10000.00     | 7180.07         |                   |         |
| 27 | Resources      | Audit                   | HCC                   | Internal Audit                | 1900.00 | 3400.00      | 1500.00         |                   |         |
| 28 | Resources      | Grants                  | Senior Citizens       | Grant                         | 500.00  | 5000.00      | 4500.00         |                   |         |
| 29 | Council        | S106                    | Tees Law              | deposit HSR access            | 1512.00 |              |                 | S106              |         |
| 30 | Amenities      | Trees                   | Oak leaf              | tree surgery LCG's            | 810.00  | 6000.00      | 5190.00         |                   |         |
| 31 | Amenities      | Fuel                    | A Jones               | Fuel                          | 12.32   | 150.00       | 74.54           |                   |         |
| 32 | Amenities      | Cemetery                | RSH                   | cemetery maintenance          | 978.61  |              |                 |                   |         |
| 33 | Amenities      | Cemetery                | MH Andrews            | Signs                         | 50.00   |              |                 |                   |         |
| 34 | Amenities      | Cemetery                | Barclaycard           | Skip                          | 265.00  | 12000.00     | 7007.37         |                   |         |
| 35 | Amenities      | open areas              | RSH                   | open areas maintenance        | 375.91  | 4511.00      | 3007.36         |                   |         |
| 36 | Council        | NHB                     | BTFC                  | Grant fineworks               | 2760.00 |              |                 | NHB               |         |
| 37 | Council        | NHB                     | EHDC                  | Grant diversionary activities | 2000.00 |              |                 | NHB               |         |
| 38 | Resources      | Fire precautions        | Blackaby              | Service extinguishers         | 190.96  | 1000.00      | 588.54          |                   |         |
| 39 | Resources      | Software                | Sage                  | Support                       | 35.00   | 2000.00      | 1553.44         |                   |         |
| 40 | Resources      | electricity             | Br Gas                | electricity                   | 341.24  | 5500.00      | 4172.63         |                   |         |
| 41 | Resources      | Communications          | BT                    | Broadband/landline            | 65.46   | 750.00       | 488.16          |                   |         |
| 42 | Amenities      | Garden Maintenance      | Barclaycard           | Hose fittings                 | 34.99   | 3000.00      | 1770.14         |                   |         |
| 43 | Resources      | Cleaning                | Barclaycard           | Cleaning materials            | 175.59  |              |                 | allocated repairs |         |
| 44 | Resources      | Salaries                | Barclays              | Salaries July 24              | 9391.48 |              |                 |                   |         |
| 45 | Resources      | Salaries                | HMRC                  | Tax/NIC July 24               | 2929.17 |              |                 |                   |         |
| 46 | Resources      | Salaries                | HCC                   | S Ann July 24                 | 3108.85 | 195000.00    | 132136.00       |                   |         |
| 47 |                |                         |                       |                               |         |              |                 |                   |         |
| 48 |                |                         |                       |                               |         |              |                 |                   |         |
| 49 | Income         |                         |                       |                               |         |              |                 |                   |         |
| 50 | 05/06/2024     | Jennings                | MUGA hire             |                               | 131.25  | 10/06/2024   | Orbital Travel  | Rent              | 653.00  |
| 51 | 05/06/2024     | Nutrition Cons          | Rent                  |                               | 281.00  | 11/06/2024   | Kendall         | MUGA hire         | 26.25   |
| 52 | 05/06/2024     | AK Comms                | Rent                  |                               | 415.00  | 12/06/2024   | Myddleton       | Rent              | 615.00  |
| 53 | 06/06/2024     | BTFC                    | MUGA hire             |                               | 126.00  | 17/06/2024   | Kashec          | Rent              | 369.00  |
| 54 | 06/06/2024     | Freman College          | MUGA hire             |                               | 1050.00 | 03/06/2024   | Barclays        | Interest          | 3746.80 |
| 55 | 06/06/2024     | Shell Shack             | Car Park rent         |                               | 75.00   | 21/06/2024   | Everyone Active | electricity reimb | 133.81  |
| 56 | 06/06/2024     | Civic Society           | Hire                  |                               | 18.50   | 01/07/2024   | Ecomal          | Rent              | 155.00  |
| 57 | 06/06/2024     | T Millbrow              | MUGA hire             |                               | 131.25  | 08/07/2024   | BTFC            | MUGA hire         | 52.50   |
| 58 | 08/07/2024     | J Dean                  | Fair ground rent      |                               | 225.00  | 08/07/2024   | Jennings        | MUGA hire         | 63.00   |
| 59 |                |                         |                       |                               |         | 08/07/2024   | Millbrow        | MUGA hire         | 63.00   |