



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE MANOR HOUSE, BUNTINGFORD AT 7.15PM ON THURSDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2024.

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

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

Also Present: East Herts District Councillors Mrs S. Nicholls & Mrs V. Burt, County Councillor J. Jones & two members of the public.

The Chairman led prayers.

The Chairman requested that two agenda items be moved into part two at the end of the meeting after questions from the public.

179. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies from Councillors G. Bonner, S. Bull and K. Harrington.

180. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

No declarations.

181. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE RECORD AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 25TH JULY 2024.

Following a proposal, second and a vote of 8 in favour and 1 abstention it was **RESOLVED**

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

182. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN.

The Chairman reported that on 2nd August he attended a Pride flag raising ceremony at County Hall.

7th August - Visited the Buntingford Live theatre based workshop at Edwinstree.

9th August - Attended the final production of the Edwinstree theatre workshop and presented certificates.

19th August - Attended the launch of the Herts Cycle Hub at Edwinstree School, which was so successful that the group are now looking at hosting an after school club at the pump track.

24th August - Attended the Westmill church fundraiser and was asked to perform the raffle prize draw.

5th September - Attended Live Longer Better at the University of Hertfordshire.

7th September - Visited the Buntingford Classic Car Show and Fire Station open day, and presented prizes.

7th September - In the evening, attended the one man performance of Under Milk Wood, at the Community Centre, hosted by Buntingford Live.

12th September - Visited the Memory Hub at the Fox and Duck.

14th September - Opened the Buckland and Chipping summer event.

On 26th July the Chairman took part in a multi-agency walk of the High Street to discuss progress of the Shared Prosperity Funding (SPF) enhancements.

14th August - Met with Police Crime Commissioner (PCC) Ash Edwards as part of his visit to the Buntingford Police Station.

15th August - Joined the PCC webcast for Performance and Accountability.

21st August - Joined the Herts County Council Local Nature Recovery Strategy online seminar.

16th September - Walked around the town with East Herts Officer Sam Wood to discuss enforcement regarding waste bins.

19th September - The Chairman and the Clerk joined a Teams meeting with Highways to look at the

Active Travel Fund phase two proposals.

24th September - The Chairman and other Councillors attended the EHDC engagement session on car park strategy which took place at the Community Centre.

24th September - The Chairman and Councillor Waite attended the Development Management Forum for the Hallam proposal east of the A10.

The Chairman reminded Councillors of the date and time of ex Councillor Bob Dingley's funeral.

183. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE POLICE.

No Police present, the report was circulated prior to the meeting.

The Chairman noted that there was a gradual decline in crime over the last 3 months, however it was reported that multiple allotments in the area, including the Hare Street Road allotments were broken into this week. It was noted that the office have made arrangements for the fence to be fixed.

It was reported that the allotments association have been in contact with the Police, however they are not optimistic that the perpetrators will be caught.

184. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 5TH SEPTEMBER 2024.

RECOMMENDATIONS UNDER NON DELEGATED POWERS: THAT THIS COUNCIL PURCHASE THE FREEHOLD TO LAYSTON COURT GARDENS FROM EAST HERTS DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR £31,345.00 TO BE FUNDED FROM NEW HOMES BONUS TOGETHER WITH CONVEYANCING FEES.

Recommendation to be looked at in Part two.

Following a proposal, second and a vote of 8 in favour and 1 abstention it was

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 5th September 2024 be adopted.

185. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 12TH SEPTEMBER 2024.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Resources Committee held on 12th September 2024 be adopted.

186. TO RECEIVER AND CONSIDER THE REPORTS OF THE MEETINGS OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD 25TH JULY 2024 AND 12TH SEPTEMBER 2024.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That the reports of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 25th July 2024 and 12th September 2024 be adopted.

187. TO RECEIVE REPORT OF PAYMENTS MADE AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2024.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That the report of payments made August/September 2024 be accepted (copy attached).

188. REPORT FROM A DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ON DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS.

It was reported that the Vistry appeal was granted, planning officers believe there were inconsistencies in the appeal decision, specifically relating the five-year housing land supply. Officers have been going through the planning applications noted in the inspectors report.

The in person engagement session at the Seth Ward Community Centre for the parking strategy was

the best attended event in East Herts. There was lots of good discussion, it is expected that implementation will begin next year. It was noted that there is an online consultation as well. The UK SPF funding project has started on the High Street.

There was passionate objections from residents at the Hallam Land Management DMF. Arts in East Herts is still ongoing, it has run from September and will continue through October. Some events have taken place in Buntingford, a full programme of events is on the East Herts website.

The Chairman stated that he had spoken with District Councillor Vicky Glover-Ward to ask if the legal team thought there was any reason to challenge the Vistry appeal. The Chairman was told that there is no case to challenge the decision.

Councillor Nicholls stated that she had not had a definitive answer, but was under the impression that this was correct.

Councillor Mrs V. Burt reported that Herts County Council are in the process of selling the old Technical Institute. It was reported that groups in the town are looking at ways to keep the building from being sold.

189. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR ON COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS.

It was reported that the Technical Institute has until the end of October to be leased out, if it is not, the building will be disposed of by the Council.

The first stages of work for the SPF scheme have begun, contractors have painted the metal first because they have had to do it before the temperature drops.

The Active Travel Fund phase two consultation is now live. This has been publicised in a number of ways, including the whole of Buntingford receiving a leaflet. There is a drop in event on Monday in The Manor House and a second drop in event is being planned.

It was reported that the County Councillor had a request to approve S106 funding for Freman College. This funding will allow for a new SEND facility on the premise. The new facility will be a satellite school and Freman have indicated their support for the project.

It was reported that Herts County Council have issued a press release which states a local Indian restaurant has recently been fined due to food safety offences involving gluten levels in supposedly gluten free food.

It was asked if there was any news on the improvement to Church Street. There is no date that the work will be done, but it will be this financial year.

It was stated the SEND school will be separate to Freman College,

190. TO NOTE THE CLOSURE OF THE 2023/2024 AUDIT WITH NO RECOMMENDATIONS.

Audit closure noted.

191. TO INVITE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ASK QUESTIONS.

It was asked if Buntingford Town Council have any say in the East Herts Car Park Strategy.

It was stated that the decision solely lies with East Herts Council.

Councillor S. Nicholls noted that East Herts have very few income streams and parking is a big one.

Councillor Jones stated that it is not unreasonable to expect a small rise, however had concerns with losing the one hour free parking and felt it would negatively affect local business.

It was noted that the decision will also go to the scrutiny committee at East Herts.

192. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it is advisable in

the public interest that the press and public be excluded and they are hereby instructed to withdraw.

All members of the public and other Council representatives left the meeting.

- 193. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 5TH SEPTEMBER 2024.
RECOMMENDATIONS UNDER NON DELEGATED POWERS: THAT THIS COUNCIL PURCHASE THE FREEHOLD TO LAYSTON COURT GARDENS FROM EAST HERTS DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR £31,345.00 TO BE FUNDED FROM NEW HOMES BONUS TOGETHER WITH CONVEYANCING FEES.**

It was noted that Council initially agreed to go to up to £25,000 for the purchase of the gardens, but East Herts have indicated that it is not willing to negotiate further.

It was suggested that the expenditure will be converting money into an asset.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That this Council purchase the freehold to Layston Court Gardens from East Herts District Council for £31,345.00 to be funded from new homes bonus together with conveyancing fees.

- 194. TO CONSIDER THE 2024/2027 TENDERS FOR CEMETERY MAINTENANCE.**

Three tenders were received and discussed.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That this Council award the 2024 - 2027 Cemetery Maintenance contract to RSH Services.

Meeting Closed: 20:08

Next meeting of the Full Council 31st October 2024.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Accounts paid:	Aug/Sep 2024	Full Council Meeting:	26th September 2024					
Committee	Budget	Poyee	Details	Amount	Budget total	Budget Bal.	Notes	
Expenditure								
Resources	PCSO	Police Crime Commissioner	2 months PCSO	3221.42	19000.00	15778.58		
Resources	Grants	Buntingford Live	grant	1500.00	5000.00	3000.00		
Council	NHB	Chamber of Commerce	grant	1000.00			NHB	
Resources	Hospitality	B.Ginn	Furniture CR	270.00	1500.00	178.32		
Resources	Loans principle	PWL.B	Loan principle	1200.00	2400.00	1200.00		
Resources	Loans Interest	PWL.B	Loan Interest	312.00	658.00	346.00		
Amenities	Dog/Litter	County Supplies	Bin Bags	45.72				
Amenities	Dog/Litter	JRB	Dispenser bags	133.70				
Amenities	Dog/Litter	Barclaycard	Dispenser bags	248.00				
Amenities	Dog/Litter	HCC	Bin Bags	45.72	3000.00	2061.87		
Amenities	Cemetery Exp	Autogates	Gate repairs	583.07				
Amenities	Cemetery Exp	RSH	Cemetery maintenance	978.61				
Amenities	Cemetery Exp	RSH	Cemetery maintenance	978.61	12000.00	4467.08		
Resources	Manor House Maintenance	Linden Carpets	Carpet F7	630.00				
Resources	Manor House Maintenance	RAS	Decorate F1	500.00				
Resources	Manor House Maintenance	Barclaycard	various	61.19	10000.00	5988.88		
Resources	Newsletter/website	Think Creative	Print July newsletter	550.00				
Resources	Newsletter/website	The Listing	Delivery newsletter	700.00	3000.00	1750.00		
Amenities	garden maintenance	RSH	Signs	138.14				
Amenities	garden maintenance	Barclaycard	Plant supports	44.99				
Amenities	garden maintenance	L.Pike	Gatebo repairs	575.00	3000.00	1012.01		
Amenities	Churchyard Maintenance	RSH	Churchyard Maintenance	360.00				
Amenities	Churchyard Maintenance	RSH	Churchyard Maintenance	360.00	3500.00	-646.10	Reserves to cover	
Amenities	Mower fuel	A Jones	Fuel	12.41				
Amenities	Mower Fuel	A Jones	Fuel	17.87	150.00	44.26		
Amenities	Open Areas	RSH	Open areas maintenance	375.91				
Amenities	Open Areas	RSH	Op areas maintenance	375.91	4511.00	2255.54		
Resources	refuse Collection	EHDC	Refuse collection MH	690.82	2600.00	1086.54		
Amenities	Pavilion maintenance	Blackoby	Svs extinguishers	107.50				
Amenities	Pavilion maintenance	Pegasus Door Co	I/2 shutters	1911.58	1500.00	-1378.29	Reserves to cover	
Resources	Software	Sage	Support	35.00				
Resources	Software	Sage	Support	35.00				
Resources	Software	LBT	Support	55.00	2000.00	1428.44		
Resources	Communications	BT	Broadband/Landline	65.46				
Resources	Communications	BT	Broadband/Landline	65.46	750.00	357.24		
Amenities	protective clothing	Barclaycard	protective clothing	82.31	200.00	104.36		
Resources	Stationery	Barclaycard	Stationery	10.41	300.00	184.53		
Resources	Chain of Office	Barclaycard	Courier	16.32				
Resources	Chain of Office	Vaughtons	Mayor's chain refurb/engraving	744.52			Allocated reserves	
Resources	salaries	Barclays	Salaries Aug	9466.67				
Resources	salaries	HMRC	Tax NIC Aug	2929.18				
Resources	salaries	HCC	S Ann Aug	3108.85	195000.00	116831.50		
Amenities	Playground maintenance	Broadmead	Fencing SWCC	225.00				
Amenities	Playground maintenance	Broadmead	Fencing SWCC	125.00	3500.00	1332.35		
Resources	Copier	Sharp	copier maintenance	94.76	350.00	157.83		
Resources	Electricity	British Gas	Electricity MH	315.18				
Resources	Electricity	British Gas	Electricity MH	253.67	5500.00	3603.77		
Resources	Windows	Classique	Window cleaning	85.00	400.00	230.00		
Amenities	Pitch maintenance	D Wallace	Pitch maintenance	33.38				
Amenities	Pitch maintenance	AT Bone	Pitch maintenance	1997.50	12343.00	-386.31		
Amenities	MUGA repairs	B'ford Construction Services	Electrical works	3525.00			S106 claim	
Resources	manor Houser renovation	L.Pike	I/3 Upstairs bathroom	8303.00			Allocated reserves	
Amenities	S106	Tees Law	Teterin legal payment HSR Ax	1812.00			Future S106 claim	
Resources	Audit	PKF	External Audit	1050.00	3400.00	450.00		
Resources	Insurance	Zurich	Annual insurance	6599.36	8000.00	875.08		
Resources	CCTV	Vodafone	Sim Card	12.44	1800.00	139.88		
Resources	Mayoral allowance	Isabel Hospice	tickets	90.00				
Resources	Mayoral allowance	stowbridgeworth TC	tickets	40.00				
Resources	Mayoral allowance	Broxbourne BC	tickets	50.00	1250.00	694.00		
INCOME								
09/07/2024	AK Commis	Rent		427.00	16/07/2024	regency house	rent	119.00
09/07/2024	Civic Society	Hire		19.50	18/07/2024	Cash	Car park hire	125.00
10/07/2024	Ware Wolves	MUGA Hire		47.25	19/07/2024	Millford	cemetery	1350.00
10/07/2024	Orbital	Rent		653.00	19/07/2024	BRINC	hire	9.75
15/07/2024	Myddleton	Rent		615.00	26/07/2024	Ecomal	Top up e fall	5.00
15/07/2024	HMRC	VAT Refund		4836.99	31/07/2024	jennings	MUGA	63.00
15/07/2024	Kashec	Rent		369.00	31/07/2024	Nutrition Cons	rent	290.00
15/07/2024	CABEH	Rent		3337.50	31/07/2024	Baxter	rent	271.00
16/07/2024	Nutrition Cons	Rent		290.00	31/07/2024	Millrow	MUGA	78.75
16/07/2024	Judlins	Rent		378.00	01/08/2024	AK Commis	rent	427.00
01/08/2024	Myddleton	Rent		615.00	05/08/2024	Orbital Travel	rent	653.00
01/08/2024	Ecomal	Rent		160	05/08/2024	Cash	Car park hire	100.00
01/08/2024	Civic Society	hire		19.50	07/08/2024	Ware Wolves	MUGA	63.00
01/08/2024	regency House	Rent		119.00	01/01/1900	Kashec	rent	369.00
05/08/2024	B'F'FC	MUGA Hire		63.00	02/09/2024	Ecomal	rent	160.00
					01/09/2024	regency house	rent	119.00