



BIDEFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held in the Town Hall, Bideford on

Thursday 31 October 2024 at 6.30 pm

PRESENT:	North Ward:	Councillor D Bushby Councillor K Hind Councillor D McGeough Councillor S Smith
	South Ward:	Councillor S Inch Councillor P Lawrence (Chairman)
	East Ward:	Councillor Mrs J Gubb Councillor Mrs L Hellyer Councillor J Hellyer Councillor J A McKenzie

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Paul Swan (Town Clerk)
Mr R D Coombes (Deputy Town Clerk)
1 x Members of the Public

(In the absence of the Town Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor P Lawrence, assumed the Chair.)

77. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors C Hawkins (West Ward – personal), Ms R Clarke (South Ward – personal), J Gordon (North Ward – personal), M Taylor (West Ward) and T Inch (West Ward – personal).

78. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Councillor Hind declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 15. (Spouse is a volunteer at the (Northern Devon) Bideford Foodbank.).

Councillor Mrs Gubb declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 17. (Member, Bideford Bridge Trust.).

79. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

There was no public participation.

80. **MINUTES**

Councillor Mrs Hellyer reflected on the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 August 2024 and believed that having seen the television broadcast the points raised were vindicated.

In terms of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 September 2024 she expressed disquiet at the manner in which the voting was cast.

Discussion followed whereupon the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 September 2024 were not approved:

(Vote – For: 4, Against: 5, Abstention: 1)

The Deputy Town Clerk suggested to Members that they had not found fault with the Minutes as a record of the whole Meeting, but simply the record leading to the Resolution of Minute Number 62. (Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 September 2024).

He drew their attention to Standing Order 12.c. (accuracy of draft minutes...) and d. (If the Chairman of the Meeting does not consider the minutes to be an accurate record...); Councillor Hind concurred.

Further discussion ensued, led by Councillor J Hellyer.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 September 2024 were approved, subject to the removal of the preamble leading to the Resolution of Minute.62., and signed as a correct record.

(Vote – For: 7, Against: 2, Abstention: 1)

81. **INTERNAL AUDITOR**

Members discussed appointing an Internal Auditor of Accounts following the abdication of Councillor Craigie.

It was proposed by Councillor Bushby, seconded and

RESOLVED: That Councillor S Inch is appointed Internal Auditor of Accounts.

(Vote – For: 10, Against: 0)

82. **COMMITTEE MEMBER APPOINTMENTS**

The Chairman sought nominations for the Planning and Decarbonisation and Environment Committees.

It was proposed by Councillor S Inch, seconded and

RESOLVED: That Councillor Ms Smith is appointed to both the Planning and the Decarbonisation and Environment Committees.

(Vote – For: 10, Against: 0)

83. **ACCOUNTS**

To approve the payments listed.

It was proposed by Councillor McKenzie, seconded and

RESOLVED: That the List of Payments be approved.

(Vote – For: 10, Against: 0)

84. **DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (COUNCILLOR) REPORT**

Members had sight of a report provided by Councillor Mrs Hellyer.

Councillor Mrs Hellyer indicated that the changes to National Insurance and minimum wage payments, to be introduced by Central Government, would provide for an increased “cost” to the DCC Budget of £13 million.

Councillor S Inch believed that DCC Highways should have informed the “local” ward councillors when installing new traffic cameras requesting that Councillor Mrs Hellyer advises as such. (Councillor Mrs Hellyer indicated that she had seen correspondence in her position as Bideford DCC Councillor.)

Further discussion followed adhering to speed limits, traffic signs and indication that forty vehicles, on average, a day had been “caught,” by the newly installed technology.

85. **COMMUNICATION BROUGHT FORWARD ON THE DIRECTION OF THE MAYOR / TOWN CLERK**

The Town Clerk advised:

- a. Members that a general invitation had been extended to the Mayor and Councillors, by the Town Band, to attend the Christmas Concert on Friday, 6 December at 7.30 pm. It will be held at the Bideford Baptist Church, Mill Street.
- b. The Mayor, Mace Bearer, Beadle, Town and Deputy Town Clerks attended Westminster, at the invitation of the Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Cox KC, where they were provided with a tour of the Palace by his senior researcher. The visit included the Speaker’s Office where they were introduced to the Parliament Mace (symbol of the authority of the House / Speaker).

86. **MARKET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 October 2024 were approved and adopted.

(Vote – For: 9, Against: 0, Abstention: 1)

87. **STAFFING, FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 October 2024 were approved and adopted.

(Vote – For: 10, Against: 0)

88. **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

- a. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 October 2024 were approved and adopted.

(Vote – For: 10 , Against: 0)

- b. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 October 2024 were approved and adopted.

(Vote – For: 10 , Against: 0)

89. **TOURISM COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 October 2024 were approved and adopted.

(Vote – For: 9, Against: 0, Abstention: 1)

90. **ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 September 2024 were approved and adopted.

(Vote – For: 10 , Against: 0)

91. **NOTICE OF MOTION.**

In the absence of the proposer, the Chairman withdrew the Notice of Motion.

92. **TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL – UPDATE**

Councillor Bushby advised:

- a. Town Hall. Investment from TDC’s capital programme and Shared Prosperity Fund has been secured for roof repair and partial refurbishment of the Town Hall and Library. The Old Library will be converted into a gym, fitness and wellbeing centre and the remainder of the ground floor will be set up as a work hub to help stimulate small business activity. Active Torridge will take a lease on the facility until 2032 and provide management and reception services. There will be liaison with the Council around the programme of work and any potential disruption.
- b. Operational Services Centre at Alverdiscott Road (OSCAR). Planning permission has been secured and plans for a start on site are now underway. The main contract has been tendered and a contractor selected. S278 work (highway and pavement etc.) are planned and tendered and will commence in the coming weeks.
- c. Area Advisory Groups. These are scheduled for November and an update will be given on the work to present a draft Housing strategy.
- d. Levelling Up. Following the budget confirmation that the funding for the Appledore Clean Maritime Innovation Centre is in place providing for a continuation toward a start on site in the New Year. There has been no specific mention of the Levelling Up Partnership in the budget statement; clarity will be sought from the lead civil servants.

- e. Playzones. Match funding has been approved for the delivery of three Playzones across the District. The identified Pollyfield Site has £35,000 approved funding. The Community Engagement Officer will work with the stakeholders to deliver the project.
- f. Christmas. There will be a Christmas promotion campaign for the Town Centre launched towards the end of November (a collaborative effort with the Town Council and Traders).

93. **BRIDGE TRUST**

Councillor Mrs Gubb advised Members that there was not a meeting / activities on which to provide a report. The next Meeting of the Bridge Trust will be held on Thursday, 7 November 2024.

94. **PART II (CLOSED SESSION)**

The Chairman thanked the Members of Public for their attendance.

Proposed by Councillor Lawrence, seconded and

RESOLVED: To exclude members of the public and the press to progress matters of a confidential nature under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings Act) 1960 and Local Government Act 1972, ss 100 and 102.

(Vote – For: 0, Against: 0)

95. **NOTICE OF MOTION.**

Led by Councillor S Inch, seconded by Councillor McKenzie members discussed honouring two persons of distinction who have rendered eminent services in the execution of their duties.

Proposed by Councillor S Inch, seconded and

RESOLVED: To appropriately honour two members of the Community at the appropriate time.

(Vote – For: 9, Against: 0, Abstention: 1)

The business of the meeting having been concluded the Mayor thanked the members for their attendance at the meeting which concluded at 7.25 pm.

Signature of Town Mayor:

Date:



BIDEFORD TOWN COUNCIL - Accounts for approval at the Town Council Meeting - 31 October 2024

Number (All)

Row	Date Entered	PV	Description	Extended Description	Net	VAT	Gross
1	11/10/2024	(blank)	Acorn	Seasonal worker	370.80	74.16	444.96
2	14/10/2024	(blank)	C+R Construction SW Ltd	Caddsdow Unit	170,000.00	34,000.00	204,000.00
3	07/10/2024	(blank)	EDF	Bridge Floodlighting	37.73	1.89	39.62
4	22/10/2024	(blank)	Andrew Symons Ltd	Mower Repair	226.36	45.27	271.63
5			Merry Harriers	Wild Seed	210.00	42.00	252.00
6			Trainline	Trip to Westminster	192.60		192.60
7				Trip to Westminster--Refund	(181.00)		(181.00)
8			Wills Tree Services	Trees at Handy X Allotments	650.00	130.00	780.00
9			TPTAS	Audit Service	325.00		325.00
10			Nick Sampson Mechanical Engineering Services	Planters Transport	450.00	90.00	540.00
11			Robeda Joinery	V.Park Bench	55.91	11.18	67.09
12			SW Heritage Trust	ND Record Office	4,000.00		4,000.00
13			Apple Retail	iPad for New Councillor	498.33	99.67	598.00
14			Devondale	Maintenance Items	5.00	1.00	6.00
15			APCOA	Parking Reading	40.00	6.66	46.66
16			The Trainline	Reading to Paddington * 6	209.92	0.00	209.92
17	23/10/2024	(blank)	Acorn	Seasonal worker	370.80	74.16	444.96
18	Grand Total				177,461.45	34,575.99	212,037.44

Bank Balances at	24/10/2024	- Current Account	£	33,090.28
Bank Balances at	24/10/2024	- Deposit Account	£	654,463.14

