



## **BIDEFORD TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Tourism Committee**

**held in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall on,**

**Tuesday 3 February 2026 at 6.30 pm**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	North Ward:	Councillor D Bushby
	East Ward:	Councillor J Craigie Councillor J Hellyer
	South Ward:	Councillor P Lawrence (Chairman)
	West Ward:	Councillor C Hawkins

<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Miss Claire Heller (Administration Officer) Mr R Coombes (Deputy Town Clerk) Ms Lucy Lowe (SWENS) Mrs Zoe Ferreira (Henley Larder)
-----------------------	---

27. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor K Hind - Personal  
Councillor Mrs S Smith - Personal

28. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND ANY REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no declarations of interest.

29. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION OF 15 MINUTES DURATION**

N/A

30. **MINUTES**

Proposed by Councillor Peter Lawrence and seconded by Councillor C Hawkins, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 November 2025 were approved and signed as a correct record.

(Vote – For: 5, Against: 0)

31. **REQUEST TO USE THE CHRISTMAS TREE HOLDERS.**

The Cultural Development Officer from Torridge District Council has approached The Council with a view to placing “Way finding aids” in their Christmas tree holders throughout the town. The officer withdrew from attending awaiting further information to present to members.

Chairman proposed, seconded by Councillor Craigie and

**RECOMMENDED: The item be deferred awaiting presentation by the Cultural Development Officer.**

(Vote – For: 5, Against: 0)

32. **EVENTS 2026/27**

a. Bideford Fair.

Members confirmed that the Bideford Fair, incorporating Mayor’s Introduction Parade, would be held on Saturday, 6 June 2026.

Ms Lowe indicated an approach from the Incorporation of Weavers, Fullers and Shearmen to drive sheep across the Long Bridge; she will liaise with them.

An acrobatic jet ski performer has been pencilled in.

Councillor Bushby advised he would request North Devon Classic Cars to attend.

Members confirmed the budget spend, stage PA arrangements as before.

The Chairman directed that the event will be co-managed by Ms Lowe and The Clerk.

b. Landivisiau Twinning.

For the 50th Anniversary it is expected that the Bideford Twinning Association will be hosting several members of the Landivisiau Council and possibly their mayor in addition to French members of the Landivisiau Association.

The Chairman agreed to contact The Twinning Association to confirm the dates of the visit and plan Bideford Town Council’s supporting event.

It was noted that he would Chair the AGM of this Twinning Association on Saturday 28 February 2026 in the Library, 10.30 am.

c. Chudleigh Picnic.

The Tourism Committee agreed to continue to support the event. The Chairman will establish a date that does not clash with the Carnival and other events.

d. Jigsaw Event.

The Event is scheduled to be held over the weekend 10 - 11 October 2026 with a singles

competition on Saturday 10 October and doubles on Sunday 11th October.

The Chairman will investigate alternative venues should the Panier Market be unavailable.

There will be a need for more people to support this event.

e. Afternoon Tea and Cream Tea Festival.

It was agreed that the Cream Tea Festival should become part of the Bideford Fair on 6 June 2026. The Chairman will investigate the provision of a marquee. The format will be discussed including judging and distinct categories of scone.

The Chairman, Mrs\_Ferreira and the Clerk to lead.

f. Other Events.

Spanish Boat Visit 2028. Project in Albaola, Spain involving the construction of a replica 16th century Basque whaling ship, originally built in Pasaia. The Ship, the San Juan, will sail to Canada in 2027 but would be available to visit Bideford in 2028. The committee agreed to support this visit. The Chairman will contact the project administrator to confirm the Committee's support.

UK Town of Culture 2028 Competition. It was agreed that Bideford should submit an Expression of Interest by 31 March 2026. The draft proposal will be studied and finalised by a steering group.

The business of the meeting having been completed, the Chairman thanked the members for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 19:15.

Signature of Town Mayor: ..... Date: .....

Signature of Chairman: ..... Date: .....