



BIDEFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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

Thursday 27 June 2024 at 6.30 pm

PRESENT:	North Ward:	Councillor K Bines Councillor J Gordon Councillor D McGeough
	South Ward:	Councillor S Inch Councillor Ms R Clarke Councillor P Lawrence
	West Ward:	Councillor A T Inch Councillor C Hawkins
	East Ward:	Councillor Mrs J Gubb Councillor J Hellyer Councillor J A McKenzie

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Paul Swan (Town Clerk)
Mr R D Coombes (Deputy Town Clerk)
Inspector E Seear (Bideford Police Station)
3 x Member of the Public

26. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors D Bushby (North Ward – personal), K Hind (North Ward – personal), M Taylor (West Ward – personal), J Craigie (East Ward – Foodbank commitment) and Mrs L Hellyer (East Ward – personal).

27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Councillor Mrs Gubb declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 16. (Member, Bideford Bridge Trust.).

28. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

There was no participation from the public.

29. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 May 2024 were approved and signed as a correct record.

(Vote – For: 11, Against: 0)

30. **ACCOUNTS**

To approve the payments listed.

It was proposed by Councillor S Inch, seconded and

RESOLVED: That the List of Payments be approved.

(Vote – For: 11, Against: 0)

31. **POLICE PRESENTATION**

- a. The Chairman invited Inspector Seear, to address the Council.
- b. Inspector Seear thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Members.
 - The Police are busy.
 - There has been a broad rise in all crime (15%).
 - The outlook is bleak.
 - Anti-social behaviour is prevalent.
 - East-the-Water and the Town Centre afflicted by repeat offenders engaged in minor offences including shop lifting.
 - Police liaising with “big stores.”
 - Importance of CCTV to support investigations.
 - Small number of individuals.
 - Well known miscreant with five cases pending...
 - Bemoaned pressure of prison capacity, early release and offenders who breach (bail) conditions not returned.
 - “Non critical” crime not given custodial sentences.
 - Very difficult for the Police: lots of work engaged in collecting evidence with poor outcomes.

Inspector Seear suggested that there was good news in the form of Tier II, Hotspot patrols funded by the Home Office / PCC where “statistical analysis” had targeted Mill Street, High Street and the Quay.

For three hour patrols (twenty minutes out of sixty minutes) TDC Marshals would be augmented by the police (where possible).

The Police will be occupying 1 Queen Street, Jubilee Square within the next few weeks.

Inspector Seear identified two sites in relation to anti social behaviour and drug offences.

He emphasised that his team were very busy but were hopeful of identifying the delinquent responsible for the graffiti that is blighting the Town.

Councillor T Inch affirmed that the prevalence of graffiti did make the Town look awful. Evidently there were two “tags,” suggesting two perpetrators.

- CCTV had identified one individual.

Councillor T Inch noted the drug use in the Town specifically the ambience within Allhalland and Mill Streets.

- Report 101.

Councillor T Inch reported on the perception of Bideford being an unsafe Town; people are afraid to venture out of an evening. The sight of Patrol Marshals and “sniffer” dogs would be reassuring.

- Crime per capita “not out on a limb.” North Devon is a safe place; Bideford *is* in comparison to Barnstaple.

Councillor McKenzie noted that the Tier II patrols did not include East-the-Water / station area.

c. The Chairman thanked Inspector Seear for addressing the Council.

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

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

No points were raised.

33. **COMMUNICATION BROUGHT FORWARD ON THE DIRECTION OF THE MAYOR**

The Town Clerk had received a request from “Red Herring Productions” to use the Port Memorial, as part of a Festival production including part of the Pill Car Park and the Burton / Victoria Park.

Having met the organisers, in principle he was supportive, notwithstanding Completion of Booking Form (including Risk Assessment, Insurance, Method Statement).

Discussion followed considering overall benefits for the Community, refusal of a commercial request and integrity of the facility.

Members expressed support providing safeguards are in place.

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

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 June 2024 were approved and adopted.

(Vote – For: 11, Against: 0)

35. **MARKET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 May 2024 were approved and adopted.

(Vote – For: 10, Against: 0, Abstention: 1)

36. **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

a. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 June 2024 were approved and adopted.

(Vote – For: 11, Against: 0)

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

(Vote – For: 10, Against: 0, Abstention: 1)

37. **TOURISM COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 June 2024 were approved and adopted.

(Vote – For: 11, Against: 0)

Councillor Bines requested that a letter of thanks be sent to the organisers of the Bideford Bike Show for their fundraising activities and the vitality brought to the Town.

38. **TOWN CENTRE PARTNERSHIP**

Councillor T Inch noted that one member was conspicuous for their regular non-attendance. He thought perhaps the Partnership should consider a replacement.

Members noted the Minutes.

39. **TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL – UPDATE**

There was no report; Councillor S Inch declared that the Council had not met.

40. **MAYORAL CHAINS / MACES**

The Mayor led discussion on the practicalities of safeguarding the Mayoral Chains when attending and returning from functions and insurance considerations.

PART II (CLOSED SESSION)

Proposed by Councillor Bines, 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: 10, Against: 1)

The Members further discussed the Chains and their importance (symbolism) to the Community.

Councillor McKenzie, proposed and was seconded by Councillor Mrs Gubb that the current practise continues.

Councillor T Inch, proposed and was seconded by Councillor J Hellyer an amendment that provided for the return of the Chains at the end of each function. The Council's insurers are consulted where a function precludes a same day return.

The Chairman called for a vote, first on the amended proposal.

RESOLVED: That the Mayoral Chains are returned at the end of each function. The Council's insurers are consulted where a function precludes a same day return.

(Vote For: 8, Against: 3)

The amended proposal was carried.

Proposed by Councillor McKenzie, seconded and

RESOLVED: That the meeting returns to Standing Orders.

(Vote For: 11, Against: 0)

41. **BRIDGE TRUST**

Councillor McKenzie briefed Members on the income, expenditure, charitable donations and grants figures.

He confirmed that Councillor Mrs Gubb had been appointed a full member filling role left on the passing of former Councillor Christie.

The business of the meeting having been concluded the Mayor thanked the members for their attendance at the meeting which concluded at 19.34.

Signature of Town Mayor:

Date:

BIDEFORD TOWN COUNCIL - Accounts for approval at the Town Council Meeting - 27 June 2024

Number (All) ▾

Date Entered	PV	Description	Extended Description	Net	VAT	Gross
14/06/2024	(blank)	R Wooldridge	Face Painting - Bideford Fair	250.00		250.00
		SWEMS	Bideford Fair Event Organisations	2,112.00		2,112.00
		Jumping Jacks Comedy Stunt Show	Bideford Fair	650.00		650.00
17/06/2024	(blank)	Bideford Twinning Association	Mayor / Mayoress Landi Twin 23-27 Aug	264.00		264.00
		Harkness Roses Peterborough	(blank)	6.99		6.99
19/06/2024	(blank)	Mimick Signs	2 x med feather flags, tank base, pole +	311.30	62.26	373.56
		Tamar Trading	PPE	165.66	8.01	173.67
		Post Office	Post	3.05		3.05
		Andrew Symons	Maintenance Items	32.76	6.56	39.32
		Pearsonhydraulics	Maintenance Items	18.09	3.62	21.71
		All Star	Fuel	361.07	72.21	433.28
24/06/2024	(blank)	RGB	Maintenance Items	75.10	15.02	90.12
		Acom	Seasonal worker	370.80	74.16	444.96
26/06/2024	(blank)	Clarity Copiers	Meter Copy Charge	216.64	43.33	259.97
		Morrisons	Refreshments - Regatta (Myr Allce)	44.17	8.33	52.50
27/06/2024	(blank)	Acom	Seasonal worker	453.20	90.64	543.84
Grand Total				5,334.83	384.14	5,718.97

Bank Balances at	6/27/2024	- Current Account	£	11,566.03
Bank Balances at	6/27/2024	- Deposit Account	£	523,646.39