



## BIDEFORD TOWN COUNCIL

**Town Hall  
Bideford  
Devon  
EX39 2HS**

Telephone:  
Bideford (01237) 428938

Mr Paul Swan  
Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

To: Members of the Council

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025

You are hereby summoned to attend a Meeting of Bideford Town Council in the Town Hall on **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025 at 6.30 pm** for the purpose of transacting the following business.

In accordance with The Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 members of the public are welcome to attend. There is a legal right to film/record/photograph/report public meetings.

Paul Swan  
Clerk to the Council

### AGENDA

1. To accept apologies and reasons for absence.
2. To receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda and note the requests for dispensation received by the Clerk prior to the meeting.
3. Public participation session of 15 minutes duration on items submitted prior to the meeting by Bideford residents, which fall within the scope of the Council's activities.
4. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2024 as a correct record. Encl.
5. Accounts - To approve the payments listed. Encl.
6. To receive such communications as the Town Mayor / Town Clerk may wish to lay before the Council.
7. Staffing, Finance & General Purposes Committee- to approve and adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2025. Encl.

8. Market Management Committee Meeting – to approve and adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2025. Encl. To Follow
9. Planning Committee – to approve and adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2025. Encl.
10. Tourism Committee - to approve and adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2025.**(All items are recommendations)**. Encl. To Follow
11. To receive the report from the County Councillor on issues within the parish. Cllr Mrs Hellyer
12. Torridge District Council – To receive an update on Torridge District Council activities by one of the Councillors. Cllr D Bushby
13. To receive an update on Bridge Trust activities by one of the Trustees.

Prayers will be said by Andrew Vidamour, Minister Torridge Methodist Circuit, in the Council Chamber at 6.20 pm, prior to the start of the meeting. Councillors and Members of the Public are invited to participate if they so wish.

**Date of the next meeting – Thursday 6 March 2025**



## **Declaration of Interests at meetings**

- Where a matter relates to an interest in list A, the member shall not participate in a discussion or vote on the matter. He /she only need declare it if it is not already noted on the register of interests.
- Where the matter is in list A, but is a sensitive interest, the member shall not participate in a discussion or vote; the member shall disclose that there is an interest but not the nature of it.
- Where a matter relates to an interest on list B the member shall not vote and may only speak as a member of the public.
- A member only has to declare an interest in list B if it is not already on the register of interests.
- If the interest is in list B and is sensitive in nature and not already registered then the member shall disclose the interest but not the nature of it.
- Where a matter relates to the financial interest of a friend, relative or close associate (other than in list A) the member shall disclose the interest and not vote. He or she may speak but only as a member of the public.

### **List A:**

- 1 **Employment, office, trade or vocation** – carried on for profit by member or spouse or civil partner.
- 2 **Sponsorship** – any payments for the previous 12 months, other than by the Council, to assist in Council duties
- 3 **Contracts** – any current contracts between the Council and the member or his/ her spouse or civil partner or a company the member is a director or partner of.
4. **Land** – any beneficial interest in land within the area of the Council by member, spouse or civil partner.
- 5 **Licenses** - any license, alone or with others, by spouse, civil partner or member to occupy land in area of Council.
- 6 **Corporate Tenancies** - any tenancy where the Council is the landlord and the member, spouse or civil partner has a beneficial interest in the tenant.
7. **Securities** – a beneficial interest is held in a body that has land or business in the area of the Council by the member, spouse or civil partner that either exceeds £25,000 or the total share capital is in excess of one hundredth of the of the total shares issued.

### **List B:**

Any interests which relate to or is likely to affect:

1. Any body where the member has general control or management and was appointed by the Council.
2. Any body that the member is in a position of control or management and either:
  - (a) exercises functions of a public nature;
  - (b) is for charitable purposes; or
  - (c) has the purpose of influencing public opinion or policy (including political parties and trade unions)
3. Any gifts or hospitality that the member has received by virtue of his or her office in excess of £50.



**BIDEFORD TOWN COUNCIL**

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

**Thursday 12 December 2024 at 6.30 pm**

- PRESENT:**
- North Ward: Councillor D Bushby  
Councillor J Gordon  
Councillor K Hind  
Councillor D McGeough  
Councillor S Smith
  - South Ward: Councillor Ms R Clarke (Chairman)  
Councillor S Inch
  - East Ward: Councillor J Craigie  
Councillor Mrs J Gubb  
Councillor J Hellyer  
Councillor J A McKenzie
  - West Ward: Councillor C Hawkins  
Councillor T Inch
- IN ATTENDANCE:**
- Mr Paul Swan (Town Clerk)
  - Mr R D Coombes (Deputy Town Clerk)

96. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Members noted the apologies received and reasons for absence from:

- Councillor P Lawrence
- Councillor Mrs L Hellyer

No apologies and reasons for absence were received from:

- Councillor M Taylor

97. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

No Declarations were proffered.

98. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

99. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 31 October 2024 were approved, and signed as a correct record.

(Vote – For: 7, Against: 0, Abstention: 5)

(Councillor McGeough joined the Meeting.)

100. **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: 13, Against: 0)

101. **DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (DCC) (COUNCILLOR) REPORT**

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

Councillor J Hellyer noted that (Devon County) Councillor Jeffrey Wilton-Love (Bideford West and Hartland) had not attended Council for a year. He asked the Mayor to request the County Councillor's attendance at the next Meeting (23 January 2025); the Chairman agreed.

Councillor McKenzie requested that the DCC report focus on Bideford (over National detail).

Councillor S Inch raised concerns over highway works at Heywood Roundabout that had caused extreme congestion along Kingsley Road / the Quay to the Long Bridge throughout the day.

Councillor McGeough had requested the attendance of the Traffic Enforcement Team in relation to the Abbotsham Road works; the Chairman believed that progress was being made.

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

The Town Clerk advised:

- a. Signing of the Lease – 14 December 2024. Members were asked to be robed by 10.40am; the Town Hall will be open from 10.00 am.
- b. Market Claim – After protracted engagement the Council's insurers agreed to make a payment in respect of water damage to a shop unit.

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

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 November 2024 were approved and adopted.

(Vote – For: 12, Against: 0, Abstention: 1)

104. **MARKET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

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

(Vote – For: 9, Against: 0, Abstention: 4)

105. **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

a. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 November 2024 were approved and adopted.

(Vote – For: 10, Against: 0, Abstention: 3)

b. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 December 2024 were approved and adopted.

(Vote – For: 11, Against: 0, Abstention: 2)

106. **TOURISM COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 December 2024 were approved and adopted.

(Vote – For: 11, Against: 0, Abstention: 2)

107. **DECARBONISATION COMMITTEE**

a. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 October 2024 were approved and adopted.

(Vote – For: 10, Against: 1, Abstention: 2)

b. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 December 2024 were approved and adopted.

(Vote – For: 10, Against: 0, Abstention: 3)

108. **TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL – UPDATE**

Councillor Bushby advised:

a. Kenwith Dam Improvement Scheme. Works could take two and a half to four years to complete with a view to creating another (small) lake; the low lying land will be excavated to create a culvert under the road to the Pumping Station (to be upgraded).

As a consequence of the works, police bollards in place along Northam Road are benefitting the traffic flow by removing the hitherto prevalent parking hazard.

b. TDC / St Mary's Church of England Primary School – Christmas Card Initiative. The First Year pupils were tasked with designing Christmas Cards for TDC.

Four pupils were adjudged winners and were presented with Book Tokens at an Assembly Award Ceremony.

109. **BRIDGE TRUST**

Councillor Mrs Gubb briefed Members on Estate works, income, expenditure, charitable donations and grants figures.

110. **ELECT TWO NOMINATIVE TRUSTEES – BRIDGE TRUST**

Councillors Bushby, T Inch, D McGeough and K Hind all indicated their willingness to serve as nominative trustees. All were seconded by Councillors McKenzie, Mrs J Gubb, J Hellyer and Craigie respectively; two rounds of voting confirmed Councillors Bushby and Hind Nominative Trustees.

First round:

Councillor Bushby: (Vote – For: 13)

Councillor T Inch: (Vote – For: 4)

Councillor K Hind: (Vote – For: 8)

Councillor D McGeough: (Vote – For: 8)

Second round:

Councillor K Hind: (Vote – For: 9)

Councillor D McGeough: (Vote – For: 8)

The business of the meeting having been concluded the Mayor thanked the members for their attendance at the meeting which concluded at 7.00 pm.

Signature of Town Mayor: .....

Date: .....



BIDEFORD TOWN COUNCIL - Accounts for approval at the Town Council Meeting - 12 December 2024

Number (All)   
 Total2 (Multiple lte)

Row	Date Entered	PV	Description	Extended Description	Net	VAT	Gross
1	03/11/2024	(blank)	Amazon	(blank)	(7.29)		(7.29)
2				Amazon Prime-No Receipt	8.99		8.99
3	05/11/2024	BSTC31	Staff salaries inc Pension	SALARY	38,017.71		38,017.71
4	11/11/2024	(blank)	Torrige District Council	Parking	4.50		4.50
5			Paul Swan	Parking RePayment	(4.50)		(4.50)
6	17/11/2024	(blank)	Amazon EU SarL	Picture Frames	33.32	6.67	39.99
7			Corporate Trade Supplies Ltd	Picture Frames	84.08	16.83	100.91
8	18/11/2024	(blank)	Adobe	Photoshop SW	198.96	39.79	238.75
9	19/11/2024	(blank)	BJ's Value House	Bracket	1.67	0.33	2.00
10			Motor Parts Direct	Pick up Battery	83.33	16.67	100.00
11			Taylor's Fastners	Fixings	18.61	3.72	22.33
12		BSTC31	EDF	Bridge Floodlighting	58.62	2.93	61.55
13				Xmas Lights, 74A	0.74	0.04	0.78
14	21/11/2024	(blank)	Amazon EU S.A.R.L. UK Branch	First Aid Sign	14.98	3.00	17.98
15				HSE Poster	13.82	2.76	16.58
16	22/11/2024	(blank)	BJ's Value House	Bedding Plants	33.25	6.65	39.90
17			Bowdens Cleaning Services Limited	Office Cleaning Oct	48.00	9.60	57.60
18			Torrige Distrct Council	New Address Registration	103.00		103.00
19		BSTC31	EDF	Xmas Lights, 14A	39.69	1.98	41.67
20			Acom Recruitment Ltd	Temp Staff	370.80	74.16	444.96
21			Bideford Con Club	Remembrance Buffet	500.00		500.00
22	24/11/2024	(blank)	James Lee Electrical	M&E Fit Out	23,605.20	4,721.04	28,326.24
23	25/11/2024	(blank)	Howdens	Kitchen Unit Door	49.26	9.85	59.11
24		BSTC31	One Stop For Safety	Bunded Chemical Store	344.95	68.99	413.94
25			BigDug	72 Tray Parts Storage	686.19	137.24	823.43
26			Tufferman Ltd	7.2M * 2M Storage Racking	726.96	145.39	872.35
27			Greener Ilfracombe	Donation for Drawing of Bideford	50.00	0.00	50.00
28	26/11/2024	(blank)	Amazon EU S.A.R.L. UK Branch	Spoons SoL	4.58	0.92	5.50
29			We Can Source It Ltd	Napkins SoL	9.03	1.81	10.84
30			JAV LTD	Cups SoL	29.12	5.83	34.95
31		BSTC31	Clarity Copiers	Meter Copy Charge	32.03	6.41	38.44
32			Paul Swan	Expenses	70.88	0.00	70.88
33	27/11/2024	(blank)	Acom Recruitment Ltd	Temp Staff	370.80	74.16	444.96
34			Amazon EU SarL	Plates SoL	8.32	1.67	9.99
35	28/11/2024	(blank)	BJ's Value House	Missing Receipt	4.25		4.25
36			Bideford Coblers & Keys	Trophies Engraving	36.00	7.20	43.20
37			Kirkham Tyres Limited	(blank)	307.66	61.53	369.19
38	29/11/2024	BSTC31	Lloyds	Charges	30.90		30.90
39			Focus Group	Line / Broadband provision	57.68	11.54	69.22
40	30/11/2024	(blank)	Allstar	Fuel	369.22	73.84	443.06
41		BSTC31	RGB	Maintenance Items	534.95	106.99	641.94
42			Tamar Trading	Maintenance Items	2,889.27	577.87	3,467.14
43	01/12/2024	(blank)	Lineal	IT Support	181.52	36.31	217.83
44	02/12/2024	(blank)	Garlands	Paper 1 A4 1 A3	17.98		17.98
45		BSTC31	Market recharge	TC staff + Overhead	(3,482.36)		(3,482.36)
46			Torrige District Council	T Hall Offices rent	313.72	62.74	376.46
47				T Hall Offices Service Charge	230.42	46.08	276.50
48	03/12/2024	(blank)	Wills Tree Services	Ford Wood	750.00	150.00	900.00
49	31/12/2024	(blank)	RGB	Maintenance Items	312.15	62.42	374.57
50			Tamar Trading	Maintenance Items	1,956.04	391.21	2,347.25
51	<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>70,119.00</b>	<b>6,946.17</b>	<b>77,065.17</b>

Bank Balances at 12/12/2024 - Current Account £ 30,436.02  
 Bank Balances at 12/12/2024 - Deposit Account £ 500,000.00



**BIDEFORD TOWN COUNCIL - Accounts for approval at the Town Council Meeting- 23 January 2025**

Number	(All)
Total2	(All)

Row	Date Entered	PV	Description	Extended Description	Net	VAT	Gross
1	18/12/2024	BSTC33	Royal Hotel	Mayor's Allowance Contribution to Staff Meal	70.00		70.00
2	19/12/2024	(blank)	Post Office	Postage	11.65		11.65
3			D S Electrical	Xmas Light Install	25,000.00	5,000.00	30,000.00
4			Canva	Design Software	83.32	16.67	99.99
5		BSTC35	James Lee Electrical	M&E Fit out at Ranger Depot	2,622.80	524.56	3,147.36
6	24/12/2024	BSTC34	EDF (D513)	Xmas Lights, 14A	43.19	2.16	45.35
7	27/12/2024	BSTC34	Clarity Copiers	Copier Charges	38.23	7.65	45.88
8			Lloyds	Bank Charges	8.50		8.50
9	31/12/2024	BSTC34	RGB	Maintenance Items	312.15	62.42	374.57
10			Tamar Trading	Maintenance Items	1,956.04	391.21	2,347.25
11			Focus Group	Line / Broadband provision	57.68	11.54	69.22
12	01/01/2025	(blank)	Lloyds	Cashback	(3.56)		(3.56)
13		BSTC35	Market recharge	TC staff + Overhead	(3,482.36)		(3,482.36)
14	02/01/2025	BSTC35	Torrige District Council	T Hall Offices rent	313.72	62.74	376.46
15				T Hall Offices Service Charge	230.42	46.08	276.50
16	03/01/2025	(blank)	Amazon EU S.A.R.L. UK Branch	Prime Subscription	8.99		8.99
17		BSTC36	Bowdens Cleaning Services Limited	Office Cleaning	69.33	13.87	83.20
18			GD Ford Builders	Internal Walls New Depot	2,566.00	513.20	3,079.20
19	05/01/2025	(blank)	Amazon EU S.A.R.L. UK Branch	Fire Door Signage	15.00	3.00	18.00
20			Amazon EU S.A.R.L.	Window Restrictor	16.64	3.34	19.98
21				Fire Assembly Signage	8.74	1.75	10.49
22	07/01/2025	(blank)	BigDug	Lockers	595.35	119.07	714.42
23	08/01/2025	(blank)	Staff salaries inc Pension	SALARY	32,587.14		32,587.14
24			Value House Stores	Shelf and Mirror	67.73	0.00	67.73
25			Spotted Penguin	Signage For Depot	42.90	8.58	51.48
26			WH Smith	Pen Refill	4.99	1.00	5.99
27			O. Heap & Son (Derby) Limited	First Aid Kit	17.49	3.50	20.99
28	10/01/2025	(blank)	Wills Tree Services	Ford Wood	600.00	120.00	720.00
29			Allstar	Fuel	132.89	26.58	159.47
30			T Bartlett	Removal of fallen tree stump	136.00		136.00
31			Guild of Mace-Bearers	Subscription	10.00		10.00
32			Howdens Joinery Limited	Fire Door	630.70	126.14	756.84
33				Fittings	67.26	13.45	80.71
34			Ryzan Online Limited	Post Box	20.37	4.08	24.45
35		BSTC36	PWLB	Loan repayment	12,811.94		12,811.94
36	13/01/2025	(blank)	Bideford Cobblers and Keys	Engravings	45.00		45.00
37				Key Cutting	9.00		9.00
38			West of England Fire Protection Service Limited	Fire Extinguishers for Depot	396.50	79.30	475.80
39			Newbery Recycling Limited	Skip for Depot	403.73	80.75	484.48
40			Lidl	Toilet Roll	7.07	1.42	8.49
41	16/01/2025	(blank)	Lineal	Software renewal	165.18	33.04	198.22
42				Software Support	51.00	10.20	61.20
43	31/01/2025	(blank)	RGB	Maintenance Items	70.95	38.76	109.71
44			Tamar Trading	Maintenance Items	412.22	82.45	494.67
45	<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>79,231.89</b>	<b>7,408.51</b>	<b>86,640.40</b>

Bank Balances at	16/01/2025	- Current Account	£	41,350.82
Bank Balances at	16/01/2025	- Deposit Account	£	127,156.70





**BIDEFORD TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Staffing, Finance & General Purposes Committee**

**held in the Town Hall on**

**Thursday 9 January 2025 at 6.30 pm**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	North Ward:	
	South Ward	Councillor Ms R Clarke Councillor P J Lawrence Councillor S Inch (Chairman)
	East Ward:	Councillor J Hellyer (Substitute – L Hellyer) Councillor J McKenzie Councillor Mrs J Gubb
	West Ward	Councillor T Inch
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>		Mr P Swan (Town Clerk) Councillor S Smith

59. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Members noted the apologies received and reasons for absence from:

Councillor	D	Bushby
Councillor	Mrs L	Hellyer

No apologies and reasons for absence were received from:

Councillor	D	Mc Geough
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60. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND ANY REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

None.

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

There was no public participation.

62. **MINUTES**

Proposed by Councillor S Inch and seconded by Councillor McKenzie, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 November 2024 were approved and signed as a correct record.

(Vote – For: 5, Against: 0, Abstention: 2)

63. **CHAIRMAN’S ITEMS**

None.

64. **ACCOUNTS**

It was proposed by Councillor S Inch and seconded by Councillor Ms. R Clarke , and

**RESOLVED: That the lists of payments for 9 January 2025 be approved.**

(Vote – For: 7, Against: 0, Abstention: 0)

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

It was proposed by Councillor Lawrence and seconded by Councillor Mc Kenzie, and

**RESOLVED: That the order of business be changed with item 10 brought forward to considered after item 6 to be followed by item 8.**

(Vote – For: 4, Against: 2, Abstention: 1)

65. **PART II (Closed Session)**

Proposed by Councillor S Inch, seconded by Councillor Lawrence and

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

(Vote – For: 7, Against: 0)

66. Members received the quotation on the proposal for the 2025 Bideford Christmas Lights.

Councillor Lawrence explained his opposition to the costs and suggesting they do not bring additional footfall to the Town.

Councillor Lawrence proposed that a budget be set of £35,000, but was not seconded.

It was proposed by Councillor Lawrence and seconded by Councillor Mrs J Gubb , and

**RESOLVED: That a named vote be recorded.**

(Vote – For: 6, Against: 0, Abstention: 1)

It was proposed by Councillor T Inch and seconded by Councillor Mc Kenzie, and

**RESOLVED: The quotation be accepted less cost of the new lights installation and inserted into the 2025/6 budget at £53,600.**

Recorded Vote, Councillor	For	Against
Mrs J Gubb	X	
Mc Kenzie	X	
T Inch	X	
Ms R Clarke	X	
S Inch	X	
P Lawrence		X
J Hellyer		X

(Vote For: 5, Against: 2)

67. **RETURN TO STANDING ORDERS**

Proposed by Councillor S Inch, seconded by Councillor Lawrence and

**RESOLVED: That the meeting returns to Standing Orders.**

(Vote For: 7, Against: 0)

68. **DRAFT BUDGET 2025/26**

The Town Clerk presented the draft Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2025/2026.

Following discussion, a final draft budget was agreed which is attached and forms part of these Minutes.

It was proposed by Councillor Ms R Clarke, seconded by Councillor S Inch and

**RECOMMENDED: That the £1132.20 ring fenced for the Solar Panel project is re-allocated to the 25/26 Budget and that the Council approves the budget of £757,387.25 an increase of 14.51 % (or 33p per week) on a band D, in respect of the Financial Year commencing 1 April 2025. The Council's general reserves will remain at £300,000.00.**

(Vote For: 7, Against: 0)

69. **MAINTENANCE OPERATIVES**

Members reviewed the task list and passed on thanks to the Town Rangers for their hard work.

The Chairman thanked the members for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 19:16.

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

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

**Bideford Town Council**  
**Draft Budget**  
**For The Financial Year 2025/2026**

09/01/2024

	Budget 2024/25	Budget 2024/25 ProRata	Expend as at Today (31st)	Budget 2025/26
<b>Administration</b>				
Bank Charges	500.00	- 83.33	411.33	700.00
Employees	299,146.95	- 49,857.82	273,807.60	373,639.75
Contracted Services (Payroll)	1,400.00	- 233.33	530.00	1,500.00
Honorariums	1,400.00	- 233.33	3,450.00	3,400.00
Allowances	17,600.00	- 2,933.33	9,195.84	14,490.00
Advertising	700.00	- 116.67	200.00	700.00
Audit Fees	1,778.00	- 296.33	2,185.00	2,650.00
By Elections	10,460.00	- 1,743.33	-	-
Newsletter	-	-	110.00	-
Insurance	6,500.00	- 1,083.33	5,190.09	6,630.00
Insignia	1,000.00	- 166.67	271.50	1,020.00
Hospitality	100.00	- 16.67	19.65	500.00
Postages, Stationery, Sundries	5,000.00	- 833.33	2,632.45	1,000.00
Subsistence / Expenses	400.00	- 66.67	1,596.93	408.00
Training Courses / Days	2,000.00	- 333.33	1,058.03	2,040.00
Subscriptions	2,200.00	- 366.67	2,999.97	2,244.00
IT / website	5,500.00	- 916.67	9,181.30	2,595.00
Office rental	6,646.00	- 1,107.67	5,525.56	7,836.00
	362,330.95	- 60,388.49	317,822.25	421,352.75
<b>Ceremonies</b>				
Civic Functions	5,475.50	- 912.58	8,289.44	5,475.50
Celebratory Events	523.00	- 87.17	287.50	533.00
Remembrance Sunday	941.00	- 156.83	91.67	-
Twinning Reception	314.00	- 52.33	35.00	320.00
	7,253.50	- 1,208.92	8,703.61	6,328.50
<b>Environmental</b>				
Allotments	3,000.00	- 500.00	1,954.50	9,159.25
Environmental projects	5,230.00	- 871.67	-	15,280.00
Dog/Litter Bins	1,046.00	- 174.33	-	-
	9,276.00	- 1,546.00	1,954.50	24,439.25
<b>Grants</b>				
Local Organisations	65,000.00	- 10,833.33	64,005.95	55,000.00
North Devon Record Library	6,569.76	- 1,094.96	-	4,000.00
	71,569.76	- 11,928.29	64,005.95	59,000.00
<b>Projects</b>				
Maintenance Depot	-	-	615,213.02	-
Grass cutting	- 3,100.00	516.67	-	- 3,500.00
Town Projects	81,478.00	- 13,579.67	81,296.34	155,608.00
	78,378.00	- 13,063.00	696,509.36	152,108.00
<b>Tourism &amp; Public Realm</b>				
Bridge & Xmas electricity	7,500.00	- 1,250.00	3,076.71	5,000.00
Christmas Lights installation	60,112.50	- 10,018.75	25,000.00	52,000.00
Decorative Lighting - Quay Elec & repair	3,870.00	- 645.00	497.23	3,947.00
Planters / Floral Displays	14,271.12	- 2,378.52	15,147.39	15,848.50
General (Xmas parking & Tic )	17,928.00	- 2,988.00	6,017.24	13,375.00
Pull Testing	2,354.00	- 392.33	-	2,462.00
Public Clocks maintenance	523.00	- 87.17	-	-
	106,558.62	- 17,759.77	49,738.57	92,632.50
<b>Woodland</b>				
Maintenance	10,000.00	- 1,666.67	1,100.00	1,500.00
	10,000.00	- 1,666.67	1,100.00	1,500.00
<b>Loans</b>				
Maintenance Team Depot Spend	-	-	-	-
Maintenance Team Depot Loan	38,591.73	- 6,431.96	11,601.99	38,591.73
	38,591.73	- 6,431.96	11,601.99	38,591.73
<b>General</b>				
Transfer In/(Out) of Reserves	- 30,000.00	5,000.00	-	- 1,131.20
Market Recharge	-	-	-	- 42,621.64
Market	-	-	2,742.01	5,187.36
General Contingency	1,790.21	- 298.37	-	-
	- 28,209.79	4,701.63	2,742.01	- 38,565.47
	655,748.77	- 109,291.46	1,154,178.24	757,387.25



PRECEPT REQUEST

757,387.25

Tax Base For 24/25	5,533.28	
Current Band D	£ 118.51	
Tax Base For 25/26		5,580.88
New Band D	£	135.71
New Band D Increase YoY	£	17.20
New Band D Increase YoY per Week	£	0.33
New Band D Increase YoY %		14.51%

**EARMARKED RESERVES**

	23/24	Spend 24/25	Adjustment 24/25	25/26	Spend 25/26
Bus Shelters (Manteo Way)	10,000.00	0		10,000.00	
Regeneration Projects	24,118.53	0		24,118.53	
Play equipment	10,000.00	0		10,000.00	
Solar Panel	1,131.20	0	1,131.20	-	
Maintenance Team Facility	103,876.42	103876.42		-	
Environmental	3,000.00	0		3,000.00	
Air Ambulance Landing site	-			-	
Town Council Reserves	300,000.00			300,000.00	
PWLB	150,000.00	150,000.00		-	
	<b>602,126.15</b>	<b>253,876.42</b>	<b>1,131.20</b>	<b>347,118.53</b>	<b>-</b>



BIDEFORD TOWN COUNCIL - Accounts for approval at the Staffing, Finance & General Purpose Committee Meeting - 09 January 2025

Number (All)   
 Total2 (Multiple lte)

Row	Date Entered	PV	Description	Extended Description	Net	VAT	Gross
1	04/11/2024	(blank)	Blanchards Home Hardware	Cable Ties	3.58	0.72	4.30
2		BSTC30	DCC	Refund of Chapte 8 Training	(1,065.00)		(1,065.00)
3			Paul Swan	October Expenses	61.95		61.95
4			Rachel Clarke	October Expenses	217.00		217.00
5	08/11/2024	(blank)	Lloyds	Cash Back	(6.43)		(6.43)
6		BSTC30	Acorn Recruitment Ltd	Temp Staff	370.80	74.16	444.96
7			Alan Wilson Windows	New Depot Windows	1,152.00	230.40	1,382.40
8	13/11/2024	(blank)	Garlands	Stationery	6.77		6.77
9	15/11/2024	(blank)	Andrew Symons Ltd	Mower Repair	126.76	25.35	152.11
10			BJ Value House	Plants	28.55	5.71	34.26
11			DOMU Brand Ltd	Key Press - New Depot	58.32	11.67	69.99
12			Amazon EU SarL	USB C Adaptor	9.99	2.00	11.99
13				Hand Air Dryer - New Depot	82.50	16.50	99.00
14		BSTC30	Pannier Pantry	Mayors Reception	221.00	0.00	221.00
15			Torbay Media Ltd	North Devon Gazette - Remembrance	180.00	36.00	216.00
16				North Devon Gazette - Grants	180.00	36.00	216.00
17		BSTC31	Acorn Recruitment Ltd	Temp Staff	535.60	107.12	642.72
18			Bideford Coblers & Keys	Engraving for Protraits and Allotment Awards	48.00	0.00	48.00
19	04/12/2024	(blank)	Garlands	Stationery	12.28		12.28
20	06/12/2024	(blank)	M&S	Food	99.00		99.00
21			West of England Fire Protection Service Limited	New Fire Etinguishers	489.60		489.60
22	07/12/2024	(blank)	M&S	Food	37.15		37.15
23	08/12/2024	(blank)	Amazon EU S.A.R.L. UK Branch	Beverages	73.47		73.47
24	09/12/2024	(blank)	Mimick Signs	Signage For Depot	540.00	108.00	648.00
25			Amazon EU S.A.R.L. UK Branch	Beverages	27.12	9.45	36.57
26			ZenithDoors Industrial Ltd	Lock Mechanism for Old Unit	70.00	14.00	84.00
27			Glendale Countryside Limited	Allotment Surveys	885.00	177.00	1,062.00
28			Avenue Group Limited	Beverages	29.97		29.97
29			Madar Corporation Ltd	Beverages	26.62	5.33	31.95
30		BSTC32	Acorn Recruitment Ltd	Temp Staff	370.80	74.16	444.96
31			Ashton Electrical Ltd	20 Pannier Market Remove Shower	62.22	12.44	74.66
32				20 Pannier Market Remove Shower Overpayment	9.34		9.34
33			Quay Cars	Taxi for Remembrance	15.00		15.00
34			Jonathan Rhind Architects	RIBA Survey Pannier Market	2,880.00	576.00	3,456.00
35			Hush Farms Ltd	Wood Chipper Certification	820.00	164.00	984.00
36	10/12/2024	(blank)	Asda	(blank)	23.00		23.00
37		BSTC32	Lloyds	Bank Charges	2.29		2.29
38			Ashton Electrical Ltd	20 Pannier Market Remove Shower Overpayment	(9.34)		(9.34)
39	12/12/2024	(blank)	Co-Op	Crackers	7.25		7.25
40			Seaton	Signage For Depot	43.93	8.79	52.72
41	13/12/2024	(blank)	Robeda Joinery	Quay Bench	37.22	7.44	44.66
42			Torrige District Council	Building Control	916.67	183.33	1,100.00
43			Emcompass Security Solutions Limited	Fire and Security System Rangers Depot	4,775.00	955.00	5,730.00
44			Sew What	Day Chain Ribbon	20.00		20.00
45			Peter Lawrence	Expenses	61.00		61.00
46			Phil Stone	Honararium	850.00		850.00
47			Val Morrish	Honararium + Town Hall Tour	1,050.00		1,050.00
48			Jim Weeks	Honararium	550.00		550.00
49			Geoff Thomas	Honararium	350.00		350.00
50			Rosemary Dymond	Honararium	850.00		850.00
51	16/12/2024	(blank)	ICO	Renewal	35.00		35.00
52	17/12/2024	(blank)	C+R Construction SW Ltd	Town Ranger Depot Construction	24,555.00	4,911.00	29,466.00
53			EDF	Bridge Floodlighting	22.08	1.10	23.18
54				Xmas Lights, 74A	54.76	2.74	57.50
55			Phil Stone	Expenses	98.90		98.90
56			North Devon District Council	Mayor's Charity Ball	120.00		120.00
<b>Grand Total</b>					<b>43,071.72</b>	<b>7,755.42</b>	<b>50,827.14</b>

Bank Balances at 09/01/2025 - Current Account  
 Bank Balances at 09/01/2025 - Deposit Account

£ 59,700.34  
 £ 400,000.00



**BIDEFORD TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Market Management Committee**

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

**Thursday 16 January 2025 at 6.30 pm**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	North Ward:	Councillor K Hind
	East Ward:	Councillor Mrs J Gubb Councillor Mrs L Hellyer Councillor J McKenzie (substitute for Councillor D Bushby)
	South Ward	Councillor Ms R Clarke (Chairman)
	West Ward	Councillor C Hawkins
	Market Complex	Mrs K Austin
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>		Mr R Coombes (Deputy Town Clerk) 1 x Member of the Public

74. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Members noted the Apologies received and reasons for absence from:

Councillor	D	Bushby
Councillor	J	Hellyer

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

There were no declarations of interest.

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

None.

77. **MINUTES**

Proposed by Councillor Hind and seconded by Councillor McKenzie, the Minutes of the

Meeting held on 5 December 2024 were approved and signed as a correct record.

(Vote – For: 2, Abstention: 4, Against: 0)

78. **ACCOUNTS**

Item deferred.

79. **CHAIRMAN’S / MARKET ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

The Clerk advised that the Council had paid for pest control in the Market Hall. Following advice from Councillor Simon Inch, the Rangers will investigate a self-help scenario that could lead to potential savings of £2,000 a year. They will continue to investigate efficiency savings.

80. **MARKET HALL**

a. Focus Group Notes.

Councillor Hind indicated that the first Meeting had been very positive.

Members reflected on the success of the Frost Fair, in terms of drawing footfall, noting that Butcher’s Row tenants had almost without exception enjoyed a very profitable day’s trading.

The Chairman and Councillor Mrs Hellyer reasserted the need for future tenants to have a less niche appeal but providing an offer that will encourage regular repeat visitors.

b. Strategic Plan .

Councillor Hind explained, the subject heading “Outcomes – Immediate. Market Strategy,” from the Focus Group Notes.

Whilst the Committee had resolved against engaging further with Real Ideas, there remained the unspent Feasibility Study budgeted monies, of £4,000.00 to be used by the end of the financial year.

Discussion centred on the importance of having a five to ten year strategic plan. It would support future funding application as well as provide clear direction for the Market Complex whilst identifying the resources required to maximise its potential.

Proposed by Councillor Hind, seconded by Councillor Mrs Hellyer and

**RESOLVED: To engage Ms Abi Jackson to deliver upon her Marketing Strategy for the Bideford Market Complex.**

(Vote – For: 6, Against: 0)

81. **TENANT / TRADER REPRESENTATIVE**

Mrs Austin indicated that in the current out of season climate some tenants suggested the Council should advertise more and provide further signage.

The Clerk advised that the hardware is in place for the “pipped music,” which he will seek to activate week commencing 20 January 2025.

The network provider is changing mid-February, that will see the loss of Wi-Fi provision for two days. He advised the Tenants, accordingly.

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

The Chairman thanked the Market Tenant for her attendance and contributions.

Proposed by Councillor Ms Clarke, 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: 6, Against: 0)

83. **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

There was no report.

84. **TENANT / TRADER**

a. Terminations / Applications. An application had recently been submitted that the Chairman and Town Clerk, supported by the Deputy Chairman indicated did not fulfil the points raised in Minute 80.a.

Councillor Hind indicated that a further enquiry regarding storage with the potential for workshop opportunities did not fit; Councillor Hawkins indicated, though that he would seek further information.

The Clerk advised that he had received a request to view a Unit and that a recent report by the Council had encouraged additional interest (in Market / Butcher’s Row Shop units).

b. Tenant matters.

None were raised.

The business of the meeting having been completed, the Chairman thanked the members for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 7.10 pm.

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

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



**BIDEFORD TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting**

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

**Wednesday 08 January 2025 at 6.30 pm.**

**PRESENT:**

South Ward:	Councillor Ms R Clarke Councillor S Inch
North Ward:	Councillor J Gordon Councillor Mrs S Smith
East Ward:	Councillor J McKenzie Councillor Mrs L Hellyer

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs Claire Parsons – Administration Assistant

76. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Valid reasons for absence were received from - None Given.

Councillor M Taylor – Did not attend.

77. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest

78. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

79. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 December 2024 were approved and signed as a correct record.

Proposed by Councillor S Inch, seconded by Councillor J McKenzie, and

**RESOLVED: That the Minutes are approved as a correct record.**

(Vote – For: 3, Against: 0, Abstentions: 3)

80. **TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE FROM BLOOR HOMES IN RESPECT OF RESERVED MATTERS APPLICATION FOR THE SECOND PHASE OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND NORTH OF CLOVELLY ROAD, ABBOTSHAM – KNOWN AS WINSFORD PARK.**

Councillors considered the correspondence from Turley in respect of the second phase of the development known as Winsford Park. The correspondence was duly noted and no questions were raised.

81. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- a. Application No: 1/1040/2024/FUL. Extension and Alterations. Carisbrooke House, 57 Abbotsham Road, Bideford, EX39 3AQ. Applicant: Mr K Langhorne & Mrs C McKenzie (same address). Agent: Mrs R Fearnley, Fearnley Lott Architects, Bideford. (Date received: 5 December 2024).

It was proposed by Councillor S Inch, seconded by Councillor J Gordon, and

**RESOLVED: That the application is approved subject to the comment from South West Water and the Critical Drainage Assessment are taken into consideration.**

(Vote – For: 5, Against: 0, Abstentions: 1)

- b. Application No: 1/1045/2024/AGMB. Prior notification for the change of use of agricultural building to 1 no. dwellinghouse and associated building operations under Class Q. Agricultural Building At Grid Reference 248099 126037, Alverdiscott Road, East The Water, Bideford, Devon. Applicant: Mr R Auvray, Stone Farm, Alverdiscott Toad, Bideford, EX39 4PN. Agent: Mr M Auvray, Atelier-A Architects, Nethercott Farm, Yarnscombe, EX31 3NA. (Date received: 11 December 2024).

It was proposed by Councillor S Inch, seconded by Councillor J McKenzie, and

**RESOLVED: That the application is approved subject to the comments by TDC Environmental Protection being taken into consideration.**

(Vote – For: 6, Against: 0, Abstentions: 0)

82. **PLANNING AUTHORITY UPDATE**

The Chairman gave an update on planning application decisions received from TDC.

The business of the Meeting having been completed, the Chairman thanked the Members for their attendance and the Meeting concluded at 6.38pm.

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

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

DRAFT





**BIDEFORD TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Tourism Committee Meeting**

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

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024 at 6.00 pm**

**PRESENT:** East Ward: Councillor Mrs J Gubb (Chairman)  
North Ward: Councillor J Gordon  
West Ward: Councillor C Hawkins

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr P Swan, Town Clerk

053 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

Valid reasons for absence were received on behalf of Councillors –

Councillor P Lawrence – South Ward  
Councillor Mrs R Clarke – East Ward

No apologies and reasons for absence were received from:

Councillor D Bushby  
K Hind

054 **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Councillor Mrs. J. Gubb declared a non-pecuniary interest on item 5 in the event as a result of a relative providing services.

055 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

There were no members of the public present.

056 **MINUTES**

Proposed by Councillor Mrs J Gubb and seconded by Councillor Gordon that the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024 were approved and signed as a correct record.

(Vote – For: 3, Against: 0, Abstention: 0)

**TO UPDATE ON VE DAY**

Members reviewed the progress made. Councillor Gubb advised no update

**TO UPDATE ON OTHER EVENTS 2025 (BIDEFORD FAIR / BGT / CHUDLIEGH PICNIC)**

Bideford Fair – No update.

BGT – No update.

Chudleigh Picnic – No update.

Jigsaw festival – No update.

Cream Tea Festival – No update.

**TO UPDATE ON CLEAN UP DAY**

No update.

The business of the meeting having been completed, the Chairman thanked the members for their attendance, and the meeting concluded at 18:04.

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

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

**Report for Bideford Town Council from County Cllr. Linda Hellyer****January 2025**

There were not any meetings over the Christmas and New year period. However, everything is underway again. Last week, on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January we had an extra Devon County Council (DCC) meeting to discuss Devolution.

You may remember that DCC and Torbay council had been given permission by the previous government to pursue becoming a Combined County Authority (CCA) without a mayor. This was confirmed by the present government and will come into being in Mid- February. That gives the new CCA has more devolved powers over things like housing, transport, and adult education. It receives money from central government and has more control over how it is spent.

However, it is all about to change. The present government has mandated that it wants to have larger unitary authorities of at least 500,000 people, with an elected Mayor. Local government reorganisation is Important for Bideford Town Council and the town..

**Local Government Reorganisation**

The English Devolution White Paper was published just before Christmas.

The extract from the ministers letter probably gives some explanation as to where we are heading as residents in a two tier area.

*Local government reorganisation My intention is to formally invite unitary proposals in January 2025 from all councils in two-tier areas, and small neighbouring unitary councils. In this invitation, I will set out further detail on the criteria I will consider when taking decisions on the proposals that are submitted to Government. I intend to ask for interim plans by March 2025. As set out in the White Paper, new unitary councils must be the right size to achieve efficiencies, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks. For most areas, this will mean creating councils with a population of 500,000 or more. However, there may be exceptions to ensure new structures make sense for an area, including on devolution. Final decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis. We will ask you to work with other councils in your area to develop unitary proposals that are in the best interests of the whole area, rather than developing competing proposals.*

## **Statement from Linda.**

Following publication of the Governments Devolution White paper, considerable change is going to happen in Local Government in Devon.

At the Dcc meeting we had two options.

1. Do nothing and the government will impose changes.
2. Engage with government to get the best result for the residents of Devon.

I believe that engagement with the government is the best option.

While I may not agree with all the government's proposals, I need to do everything I can to ensure that the changes will make local government sustainable for the long term and able to withstand shocks like the pandemic and the world financial crisis. At the heart of all this must be a stronger voice to inform the government of the issues my residents in Bideford East Division, and the residents in the wider area of Devon face.

You will see below, an extract from a message our Chief executive sent out after the meeting to update the staff. Rather than reinvent the wheel, I have included it below.

. It has been a busy start to 2025 with many national and local meetings taking place in response to the [White Paper on English Devolution](#) that I shared with you on the 19 December. Our Council had a Special Meeting today to discuss the paper in full. Here is a link to the Devon County Council's English Devolution White Paper [report](#) that has been shared at the meeting today. I would advise everyone to read both of these documents as they have significant implications for the Council.

In the national meetings, clarity has been provided by the Government that all Two-Tier Councils will be Unitary, with new structures being in place by 2028. Devon County Council now finds itself in a mandated position to not continue in its current form.

By Autumn 2025 at the latest, all areas are expected to produce local government reorganisation plans to replace current two-tier arrangements.

The Local Government Minister has stated that 12-month postponements to local council elections due to take place in May 2025 will be considered by

Government to help meet their ambitious timeline.

At the Special Full Council meeting today, Members voted and agreed the following recommendations:

- a. Support the Leader of the Council to submit a letter of intent to Government committing to the Government's ambitious programme enabling the Council to Develop plans for local government reorganisation and deliver a Mayoral Strategic Authority.
- b. As a consequence of joining this ambitious programme the County Council will make a request to Government to postpone the County Council elections due to take place in May 2025 to provide the capacity on which reorganisation and mayoral devolution can progress at pace in 2025 to ensure the benefits of reorganisation and devolution for the area are realised as quickly as possible.
- c. The council will thereafter work at pace to develop full proposals for reorganisation in line with Government guidance which will be issued in January 2025, working with and alongside partners to develop plans for sustainable unitary structures which meet the needs and aspirations of the varied localities within the Devon area, including those of Plymouth, Exeter and Torbay as well as the coastal and market towns and rural areas.

The government has mandated that there will be an end to two tier authorities, and as they have a massive majority that will happen. The feeling at the meeting was that it was better to be part of the process with the government. The choice was that if we did nothing the changes would be imposed upon us.

The council was obliged to tell the government about the decision by Friday 10<sup>th</sup>. The government has set out the timeline- the council has to get somethings organised for the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, have plans in place by May and detailed plans ready for the 1<sup>st</sup> September.

It was felt that having the elections in May, that cost £1.5million, would be distracting from this work, remembering that at the same time, the work of the council must continue. If we have the elections, and that decision is made by central government, we will have a time of purdah, then the election. About half of the council were due to stand down after many years of service. There would then be a brand-new council, a period of induction, and the need to draw up some detailed plans in just a few weeks. The government has said it

will not hold elections if the council is not going to exist for a full term of office. We should here by the beginning of February, but will for now, assume they are going ahead.

The government has said that elections will not go ahead if the council is not going to exist for its full term. If the elections this year are postponed the next elections would be in May 2026 for the Shadow unitary authority. The county council and the combined County authority will cease to exist. If that happens the district council elections will not take place in 2027 as the district councils will also cease to exist. The elections in May 2027 would be for the new unitary authority.

I spoke at the meeting in favour of the proposals on the agenda. I felt that it is important that we are part of the conversation with the government. I understand that Exeter city council wants them to be unitary. They don't have enough people, so they would want the rural hinterland all around them. The situation is similar with Plymouth. Plymouth would need to take e.g the South Hams to make the numbers up.

We are a large rural area, with small market and coastal towns. We have areas of high social deprivation and are an area of low income. We don't want Devon divided into separate unitary authorities e.g. around Exeter and Plymouth where there is a rich area and a poor area. Ourselves and North Devon are quite remote and we don't want to be the forgotten area that no one cares about. We need to be part of the negotiations. Devon county council wants a solution that is right for all the residents of Devon.

The government has left us in no doubt that they are doing away with 2 tier authorities in order to form unitary authorities with an elected mayor. If the area of the new authority covers the same geographical area of the police and Crime commissioner, or the Chief Fire officer, the mayor will undertake those duties.

The timetable for these changes is the timetable given by central government.

## **Other News: -**

Dcc got told just before Christmas that we are to receive an extra £83.6 million from central government for potholes. I was hoping we would get the money now, but it is not until the new financial year 25/26. We need more than £200million to bring our 8,000 plus miles of highway up to standard, but this money will be very welcome. Please continue to report potholes and other highways issues. I want to make sure we get our fair share of that money in our area.

The not so good news that we received from government in December is that Dcc will no longer be receiving the rural services grant of £10million. By law, Dcc has to produce a balanced budget in February for the new financial year, so it was back to the drawing board to find the £10million from elsewhere in the proposed budget.

I have told you before that 80% of our budget goes on adult social care for people of non-pensionable age and our childrens services, particularly education for children with special needs and disabilities (SEND). I will be attending all day meetings at county hall on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> January. These meetings are scrutiny meetings looking at the proposed budget for childrens services and Health and adult care.

## **Changes for disposal of upholstered furniture- reminder**

New environmental requirements will mean that from **Sunday December 1** we will only be able to dispose of upholstered furniture at specially designated Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs).

It follows the introduction of new requirements from the Environment Agency which require our recycling centres to have segregated facilities to handle Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating (WUDS). WUDS include sofas, sofa beds, armchairs, recliner chairs, upholstered kitchen and dining room chairs, upholstered garden furniture, stools and foot stools, office chairs, futons, bean bags, floor and sofa cushions.

These items contain large quantities of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs or forever chemicals) and other hazardous chemicals in the textiles and foam. These chemicals are often used as fire retardants; they persist in the environment, can accumulate in human and wildlife fatty tissues and can be harmful to health and the environment. All WUDS need to be sent for incineration separately where these chemicals are destroyed.

We are now required by the Environment Agency to ensure that all WUDS are segregated and transported separately from other waste. This segregation will require additional containers and facilities to be provided at HWRCs. However, due to space constraints, only a limited number of sites in Devon

will be able to accept WUDS. This means that the majority of our recycling centres in Devon will not have the facilities to accept these items.

However, the good news is that WUDS can be taken to Bideford and Severn Brethren in Barnstaple–

### **Local News:-**

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**The planned local government changes, as detailed above are important for Bideford Town Council. Where local government reorganisation has taken place elsewhere, Town and Parish councils have taken on some of the duties that were previously district councils duties e.g In Falmouth I believe they took over the car parks**

**What about the assets e.g. the Town hall, the Pannier market complex (which we lease)? Street cleaning? There will be a lot of things to consider in a relatively short time.**

In other news, I have a new neighbourhood highways officer, called Sandra Brown, who started this week. I have not met her yet, as she is doing induction at the moment but we have corresponded.

The DCC website is very useful for reporting highway problems and the reports go straight to the contractor. [Report a problem - Roads and transport](#)

Alternatively, the highway contact number is 0345 155 1004

Online, or via the customer service desk, you can report potholes, overgrown vegetation, street light issues, drainage issues, problems with roads signs and line markings in the road and much more.

If it's a river flooding the environment agency can be contacted on 0345 988 1188

I am always happy for residents to contact me.

[Linda.hellyer@devon.gov.uk](mailto:Linda.hellyer@devon.gov.uk)

Telephone 07828758360