



BIDEFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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

Thursday 29 February 2024 at 6.30 pm

PRESENT:	North Ward:	Councillor K Hind Councillor D McGeough
	South Ward:	Councillor Ms R Clarke Councillor S Inch
	West Ward:	Councillor C Hawkins Councillor T Inch Councillor M Taylor
	East Ward	Councillor Mrs J Gubb Councillor J Hellyer Councillor Mrs L Hellyer
IN ATTENDANCE:		Mr P Swan (Town Clerk) Mr R Coombes (Deputy Town Clerk)

Prior to the start of the Meeting the Chairman spoke of the sad loss on the passing of Councillor Peter Christie and called the Chamber to hold a minute's silence – which was respectfully observed.

121. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors D Bushby (North Ward – Personal), P Lawrence (South Ward – Personal) and Councillor J A McKenzie (East Ward – work).

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

Councillor Mrs Gubb declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 9. (committee member of the Bideford Massed Pipes and Drums, Carnival Committee, Port of Bideford Regatta Committee and a member of the Youth Pipe Band.) Councillor Mrs Gubb also declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 7. (Bideford Bike Show, Bideford No 1 OAPs, Born to Skate – work involvement with the aforementioned organisations).

Councillor S Inch declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 7. (committee member / Trustee: Bideford Keyboard and Organ Club, Landivisiau Twinning Association, Bideford

Massed Pipes & Drums, Bideford Town Band, Port of Bideford Regatta, Bideford Carnival Committee).

Councillor Taylor declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 9. (Rotary President).

Councillor Hind non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 9. (Water Festival).

Councillor T Inch non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 9. (Landvisiau Twinning and Rotary Member).

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

A Member of the Public gave homage to former Councillor Christie and his life work and support to local heritage, decades of historical heritage work and his being a keen supporter of the Bideford to Barnstaple rail link. The latter gained support from TDC; formal support also, from the Northam Town Council and from the Parish Council Alliance over the last fifteen to twenty years.

Bideford does warrant better bus services and traveller connectivity. Former Councillor Christie shared the campaign with fellow councillors, stakeholders and MPs.

124. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 January 2024 were approved as a correct record.

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

125. **ACCOUNTS**

It was proposed by Councillor T Inch, seconded by Councillor Mrs Gubb and

RESOLVED: That the List of Payments be approved.

(Vote – For: 10, Against: 0)

126. **POLICE PRESENTATION**

In the absence of the local Police Inspector Members had sight of a brief report largely concerned with a ne'er-do-well, a funding bid and the potential of a police community hub to be established on Jubilee Square around Easter.

Members observed:

- Disappointment that a Police representative could not be found to attend.
 - Team of seven provide twenty four hour cover.
- Reluctance to report crime is reflected in the figures not increasing.
- Young and old ladies afraid to go out at night.
 - “Street Marshals,” were a benefit; there are few visible “boots on the ground.”
- A Police “front counter,” would be preferable in Jubilee Square to a “Hub.”

- Lack of funding constraints; a front office would have to be open from 8.00 am until the evening, six days a week.
- There is optimism that a Jubilee Square “presence” will make a difference.
- A number of Police counters have been reopened; the Town Council did write to and receive correspondence from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, previously.

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

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

Councillor Mrs Hellyer advised that West Croft School, from January 2025, will benefit from an “early help” resource hub for up to ten children with “specific needs.” The potential benefit could keep ten children in main stream education.

Councillor Taylor advised that West Croft School had six class rooms out of action.

Councillor Mrs Hellyer indicated that only urgent repairs would be attended.

Further discussion included the consultation process for a Devon and Torbay combined authority and pot holes including the lead in period for planning a road resurface.

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

The Town Clerk advised the land contract should be signed within two weeks allowing for the tendering process.

Members are requested to find the time to attend events that are organised by the Tourism Committee; in addition to attendance assistance in the setting up would be welcomed.

Whilst not expected, a good commitment / attendance would in part recognise the hard work that is invested in organising them.

- Mayor’s Easter Bingo Fundraiser, Friday 5 April 2024; “eyes down,” 7.15 pm sharp, Town Hall.
- Centre of the Town Clean up day, Sunday 28 April from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm. Most tools provided including “high-viz.”

a. **Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance.**

It was proposed by Councillor S Inch, seconded by Councillor Taylor and

RESOLVED: That £500.00 be granted to part sponsor the Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance lunchtime reception at the Royal Hotel for participants representing local, regional and national stakeholder organisations.

(Vote – For: 10, Against: 0)

b. First Edgehill and Torridge Scout grant application consideration.

Members discussed a funding request from the 1st Edgehill and Torridge Scouts Group.

It was proposed by Councillor S Inch, seconded by Councillor Mrs J Gubb and

RESOLVED: That the request is not submitted to the Staffing, Finance and General Purposes (SF&GP) Committee for consideration.

(Vote – For: 2, Against: 6, Abstention: 0)

The Proposal failed; 1st Edgehill and Torridge Scouts Group to complete the Grant application form for consideration at the next SF&GP Committee Meeting following receipt.

129. **STAFFING, FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES (SF&GP) COMMITTEE MEETING**

a. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 February 2024 were approved and adopted.

(Vote – For: 10, Against: 0)

b. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 February 2024, included a recommendation at Minute.93: Grants to Local Organisation 2024 / 2025.

It was proposed by Councillor J Hellyer, not to accept the recommendation of the SF&GP Committee, that the grant applications are re-considered by the whole Council at the next Meeting (to be held on 4 April 2024).

Seconded by Councillor Mrs L Hellyer.

Councillor T Inch, mindful of the immense paperwork, sought to amend the proposal to provide for Members to visit the Council offices to appraise themselves of the organisations' grant applications and supporting paperwork. (Councillor J Hellyer acquiesced.)

It was proposed by Councillor J Hellyer, seconded by Councillor Mrs L Hellyer

RESOLVED: That the Grants for Local Organisations 2024 / 2025 are considered by the whole Council at the next Meeting. Members will have recourse to the documentation at the Town Hall Offices.

(Vote – For: 5, Against: 3, Abstention: 2)

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 February 2024 were approved and adopted.

(Vote – For: 10, Against: 0)

130. **PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

- a. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 31 January 2024 were approved and adopted.
(Vote – For: 10, Against: 0)
- b. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 February 2024 were approved and adopted.
(Vote – For: 9, Against: 0, Abstention: 1)

131. **MARKET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 January 2024 were approved and adopted.
(Vote – For: 10, Against: 0)

132. **ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 February 2024 were approved and adopted.
(Vote – For: 10, Against: 0)

133. **TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 February 2024 were approved and adopted.
(Vote – For: 10, Against: 0)

134. **TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL – UPDATE**

Councillor S Inch advised that there will be a Workshop Meeting to be convened on Monday, 11 March 2024 to update Members on the Levelling Up initiative.

135. **BRIDGE TRUST**

There was no report.

The business of the meeting having been completed, the Mayor thanked the members for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 7.47 pm.

Signature of Town Mayor:Date:

Signature of Chairman:Date:

BIDEFORD TOWN COUNCIL - Accounts for approval at the Town Council Meeting - 29 February 2024

Number (Multiple Items)

Date Entered	PV	Description	Extended Description	Net	VAT	Gross
16/02/2024	BSTC43	Lineal	Hosted E mail + calendars x 15	88.20	17.64	105.84
		Bideford Pottery	Manor Court	225.00		225.00
19/02/2024	(blank)	Brookfield Training	Manual Handling / Evacuation Training	350.00		350.00
		gov.uk.pay	Search for land and property informati	36.00		36.00
20/02/2024	(blank)	Barnstaple Town Council	3 x £40 tkts (2 x Mayoral Allce) Chrt	120.00		120.00
		Northam Town Council	Good Cllr trg x 5 - Nrthm	101.33	20.27	121.60
21/02/2024	(blank)	BT Group PLC	Line Rental	121.02	24.20	145.22
22/02/2024	(blank)	Tamar Trading	Maintenance Items	2.09	0.42	2.51
		Screw Fix	Maintenance Items	16.65	3.33	19.98
9/02/2024	(blank)	BJ's Value House	Maintenance Items	22.47	4.50	26.97
23/02/2024	(blank)	Amazon	Office Chair	55.82	11.17	66.99
			Floor cable cover protector	14.16	2.83	16.99
	BSTC43	DCC	Refund of Locality Payment	500.00		500.00
29/02/2024	(blank)	Blights	Fuel	243.48	48.69	292.17
		Lineal	Microsoft 365 Business Standard	145.58	29.12	174.70
		Mow It	Maintenance Items	75.00	15.00	90.00
		Screw Fix	Maintenance Items	16.65	3.33	19.98
		Mayor's Charity	Donation in lieu of Christmas Cards	120.00		120.00
		Aldi Stores	Maintenance Items	24.98	5.00	29.98
Grand Total				2,278.43	185.50	2,463.93

Bank Balances at 29/02/2024 - Current Account £ 12,872.99
 Bank Balances at 29/02/2024 - Deposit Account £ 455,578.18