

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting  
held in the Council Chamber, Chantry Centre, Chantry Way, CM11 2AP  
on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 7pm**

**Present:** Chairman: Cllr M Thomas  
Vice-Chairman: Absent

**Councillors:** A Adshead, R Clark, E Davies, M Dear, J Henshaw, C May, M Moore,  
K Mordecai, E Poole, I Scott, G Talbot, A Talboys, J Tutton

**Also present:** the Town Clerk

**41. Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs P Bunyan, J Devlin, S Dickson, K Herlock, G St. Pierre, H Stuart

**42. Members Declarations of Interest with regard to items on the Agenda**

None.

**43. Public Participation Session with respect to items on the Agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest**

None.

**44. Town Council Minutes**

Members **(a)** received and considered the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024, and **(b)** approved the signing of the minutes as a true record.

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024 be approved and adopted.

**45. Chairman's Report**

Cllr Thomas informed members of the events he had attended on behalf of the Town Council since the previous meeting.

**RESOLVED:** information noted.

**46. Committee Meetings**

**(a) Planning Committee**

Cllr Tutton, Chair of the Committee, presented the minutes of the meetings held on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 9<sup>th</sup> July and 23<sup>rd</sup> July. He advised members that in total 27 applications had been considered and 6 of those were objected to. Recent applications for housing developments have generated a lot of interest from local residents who are attending the Committee meetings in large numbers to voice their concerns. It's good for residents to see that the Town Council agrees with them, and further to residents' requests, the Council is writing to Basildon Council to ask that all comments on planning applications are uploaded to the portal.

The Norwich to Tilbury pylon consultation has been responded to, with the Town Council being in favour of the sea route.

The new Government is proposing reforms to the planning system, including communities only being able to say 'how' not 'if' regarding new developments. So far, applications for new developments totalling over 1,100 houses have come before the Committee and it is concerning that no infrastructure is in place and the bigger picture is not being taken into consideration.

**(b) Health, Well-being and Environment Committee**

Cllr M Moore, Chair of the Committee, presented the minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024. She informed members that a meeting had been held by the Events working party to discuss the feedback from the successful D-Day 80 beacon lighting.

A tidy up of the United Reform Church burial ground has been arranged for Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August to do light pruning and path clearance between 12 and 3pm. All councillors are welcome to attend – bring your own tools and gloves. There is the potential in future for the Town Council to arrange tree work on the site but that will need to be approved by the Church as landowner.

The teen play area at Lake Meadows needs refurbishing and Basildon Council has agreed to arrange this provided the Town Council covers the entire cost of refurbishing their equipment. Basildon Council will then cover all maintenance for five years following refurbishment.

**RECOMMENDATION:** that the Town Council funds the refurbishment of the teen equipment in Lake Meadows at a cost of approx. £16,000

**RESOLVED:** that the Town Council refurbishes the teen equipment at Lake Meadows.

**(c) Finance & General Purposes Committee**

Cllr Adshead, Chair of the Committee, presented the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024. He advised members that a community support grant had been awarded to a men’s mental health drop-in group and this will enable them to provide five two-hour sessions in the Chantry Centre which should get the group up and running.

Cllr Adshead also spoke about the potential to attract more hirers by providing additional storage and presented the following:

**RECOMMENDATION:** to authorise investigation into the provision of a mezzanine floor for additional storage with approval for additional expenditure up to £16,000

**RESOLVED:** that the Council investigates the provision of a mezzanine storage floor up to £16,000; for which three quotations will be sought.

**RESOLVED:** and that in all other respects the minutes of the above meetings are approved and adopted.

**47. Appointment of New Members to Committees**

**RESOLVED: (a)** that Cllrs Ian Scott and Gary St Pierre are appointed to Finance & General Purposes, and that Cllr Erika Poole is an appointed substitute for the Committee, and: **(b)** that Cllr Stuart Dickson is appointed to Planning.

**48. Information regarding footpaths, hedges and public spaces**

Members considered a proposal from Cllr S Dickson that a letter is sent to Basildon Council requesting information pertaining to the condition of the footpaths, hedges and public spaces in Billericay. Cllr K Mordecai informed those present that this is a borough wide problem, and Basildon Council has set up a cross-party task and finish group to look into the issues and provide an interim report to Cabinet by 4<sup>th</sup> September. She proposed that Borough Cllr M Mordecai is invited to the next

HWE Committee to provide further information, and that the Town Council defers any action until then. Seconded by Cllr Dear.

**RESOLVED:** that the Town Council takes no action until after the visit to HWE Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> August by Borough Councillor M Mordecai.

**49. Items for Information**

Members received the following information:

**(a)** In response to the Council's letter, Essex County Fire & Rescue Service has provided information about the number of call outs attended by Billericay in the previous 12 months – which was over 400. This was circulated to members via email and will require no further action by the Town Council.

**(b)** Annual Civic Service – members are reminded that this event will take place at Emmanuel Church on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 3pm. All councillors are welcome to attend.

**RESOLVED:** information noted.

**50. Consideration of Items for Press Release/Social Media**

As residents are taking a greater interest in planning matters they should be advised that attendance at meetings **(a)** should be pre-registered with the office, and **(b)** arrival should be by 6.45pm latest.

**51. Questions from the Press and Public**

None

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10pm

Cllr Thomas .....Date .....  
Chairman