Minutes of the Town Council meeting
held in the Council Chamber, Chantry Centre, Chantry Way, CM11 2AP
on Thursday 12th March 2026 at 7pm

Present: Chairman: Cllr J Devlin
Vice-Chairman: Cllr M Thomas

Councillors: A Adshead, C Butler, R Clark, E Davies, M Dear, K Herlock, C May, M Moore, K Mordecai, G St. Pierre, I Scott, H Stuart, G Talbot, A Talboys, J Tutton

Also in attendance: the Town Clerk

107. Apologies for Absence
Cllr P Bunyan, J Henshaw

108. Members Declarations of Interest with regard to items on the Agenda
None

109. Public Participation Session with respect to items on the Agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest
None.

110. Town Council Minutes
Members **(a)** received and considered the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 22nd January, 2026, and **(b)** approved the signing of the minutes as a true record.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 22nd January 2026 be approved and adopted.

111. Chairman's Report
Members received a report from Cllr Devlin about events attended on behalf of the Town Council since the last meeting.

RESOLVED: information noted.

112. Committee Meetings
Members received and considered the following:

(a) Planning Committee - Cllr C May, Chair of the Committee, presented minutes from the meetings held on 17th February and 3rd March 2026. He said that the Committee were following the new arrangements and only meeting when an application was considered to require Committee review. 22 applications had been reviewed with 5 objected to. Cllr May had also attended the BBC Planning meeting re the Potash Road development but didn't get an opportunity to speak as the application had been deferred due to highways safety concerns. Discussion took place about the applications which are decided without going to a meeting and it was:

RESOLVED: that the no objection applications which currently do not go on a Planning Agenda are included as an agenda item going forward.

(b) Health, Well-being and Environment Committee - Cllr M Moore, Chair of the Committee, presented the minutes of the meeting held on 24th February 2026. She advised that Jim Shields Garden has been added to the tender specification for the Festival Gardens redevelopment project. Events Assistance grants have been

awarded for a dementia film screening and a community tea dance. The Citizen of the Year competition is under review and the flagpole at the Police station is being removed due to Essex Police selling the building so it has been agreed to site a flagpole at the Chantry Centre and quotations are being sourced.

(c) Finance & General Purposes Committee – Cllr Adshead, Chair of the Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 5th March 2026. He advised members that the lift has been out of service regularly during the last three months. Diagnosing faults has been problematic and parts take a long time to arrive as they come from Spain. It is important to have a reliable lift and the recommendation from Committee was to undertake a full refurbishment of the lift which would be covered by EMR Premises Maintenance. Following discussion it was:

RESOLVED: that the Council undertakes a full refurbishment of the lift at a cost of £25,374.00.

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

113. Proposal to Fund a Youth Worker

Cllr Adshead advised members that further to the F&GP meeting on 15th January 2026 a meeting had been arranged for councillors with the CEO of the BarNBus charity to give members the opportunity to get further information. Cllrs Thomas and St.Pierre have agreed to lead on the project and will monitor a set of key performance indicators (to be determined) to ensure value for money is obtained. Cllr Dear read a statement highlighting her concerns about the cost implications on the precept.

Following discussion Cllr Dear proposed an amendment to the recommendation:

(i) that the Council approves the proposal to fund BarNBus to employ a dedicated **part-time** youth worker for Billericay. Seconded by Cllr Talboys.

RESOLVED: the amendment to the recommendation was defeated.

Members then voted on the original recommendation:

(i) that the Council approves the proposal to fund BarNBus to employ a dedicated **full-time** youth worker for Billericay
(ii) to allocate £31,470.21 from General reserves for the financial year 2026/27
(iii) to consider provision for ongoing funding within future annual budget setting

RESOLVED: that the above recommendations **(i)**, **(ii)** and **(iii)** are approved.

114. Town Council Future Projects/Ideas Meeting – 3rd February 2026

Cllr Devlin had collated a list of projects which were proposed at the meeting on 3rd February. He advised there were some that the Council had no powers/authority to action such as providing a traffic warden, others that were now underway such as the youth worker and items that have been actioned – the lighting in Bell Hill Tunnel. Members agreed to review the listed suggestions and determine which Committees/Working Parties they should be allocated to:
(i) lease car parks from Basildon – F&GP **(ii)** more public seating – HWE **(iii)** more information boards at bus stops **(iv)** public toilets – F&GP **(v)** Events in Festival Gardens – HWE/Events WP **(vi)** Allotments – Planning **(vii)** Reinstate Billericay in

Bloom – HWE **(viii)** Council run events in Chantry Centre – Events WP **(ix)** Jim Shields Garden – Recreation WP **(x)** better signposting to Chantry Centre – Planning **(xi)** Rubbish bins – HWE **(xii)** Recycling – HWE **(xiii)** Swimming Pool – F&GP **(xiv)** lease Lake Meadows – F&GP **(xv)** Farmers Market in High Street – leave this to the BID **(xvi)** School Choir Competition – Events WP **(xvii)** Live Meeting Streaming and You Tube recordings – F&GP - task and finish group) **(xviii)** Improve Councils PR – Communications WP

RESOLVED: that the above are allocated to committees and working parties as detailed above for further investigation/action.

115. Casual Vacancy

Members were advised that Ben Lammin has resigned from office. The casual vacancy has been notified to Basildon Borough Council and if a poll is not claimed by 1st April then the seat will be filled by co-option.

RESOLVED: information noted.

116. Courses and Conferences

Members received and considered courses/conferences from the following:

(i) Essex Association of Local Councils
(ii) CouncilWise
(iii) National Association of Local Councils annual conference – London 24th June 2026

RESOLVED: that the above information is noted

117. Items for Information

Members received the following:

(a) Richard Holden MP will be the guest speaker at the Annual Town Meeting on Thursday 23rd April 2026

RESOLVED: information noted

118. Consideration for Press Release/Social Media

- Town Council funding a full-time youth worker
- Report on Community Open Day

119. Questions from the Press and Public

None.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.08pm

Cllr Devlin .....Date .....
Chairman

DRAFT