

BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting
held in the Main Hall, The Chantry Centre, Chantry Way, CM11 2AP
on Thursday 23rd July 2026 at 7.00pm

Chairman: Cllr A Adshead
Vice-Chairman: Cllr R Clark
Councillors: G Talbot, A Talboys, M Thomas

Also in attendance one member of the public and the Town Clerk

- 16. Apologies for absence**
Cllrs M Dear, K Mordecai, G St.Pierre, J Tutton
- 17. Declarations of interest with regard to items on the Agenda**
None.
- 18. Public Participation session with respect to items on the Agenda**
None.
- 19. Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 28th May 2026**
Members received and considered the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 28th May 2026.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting be approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.
- 20. Financial Report**
Members received and considered the following:

(a) **Income and Expenditure by Committee** a copy of the accounts from 1st April 2026 to 16th July 2026
(b) **Payments** 22nd May 2026 – 16th July 2026
(c) **Balance Sheet** as at 16th July 2026
(d) **Current Proposed Expenditure with no 2026/27 budget line**

RESOLVED: information noted.
- 21. Grant Applications**

Members received and considered an application from Mayflower PTA for funds towards the creation of a school garden. Following discussion Cllr Clark proposed that the Council awards half of the requested amount subject to the PTA obtaining match funding.

RESOLVED: that Mayflower PTA is awarded £375 subject to match funding.
- 22. Donation Request**

Members received and considered a donation request from Essex and Herts Air Ambulance. Cllr Thomas said this is a vital service for Essex and proposed that £500 is donated. Seconded by Cllr Clark.

RESOLVED: that Essex and Herts Air Ambulance is awarded £500.

23. Minutes of Working Parties/Project Groups

(a) Broadcasting Project Group. Members received and considered minutes of meetings held on 26th May and 15th June 2026, and notes from meetings held with system suppliers on 4th June, 16th June and 2nd July 2026. Members discussed the project and the findings so far, including financial viability.

RESOLVED: information noted.

(b) Local Government Reorganisation Project Group. Minutes from a meeting held on 25th June 2026.

RECOMMENDATION: that a formal approach is made to Basildon Borough Council with regard to the transfer of freehold of both Festival Gardens and the Chantry Centre to the Town Council.

24. Youth Town Council

Members received and considered the minutes of the meetings held on 2nd June, 16th June and 7th July. Cllr Talboys presented the minutes and said he would like to see more Town Councillors on the youth council working party.

RESOLVED: information noted.

25. Policy Review

Further to F&GP 28.05.26 min9(a) members received and considered the following revised/updated Council policy:

(a) Grant Funding

RECOMMENDATION: that the policy is approved and adopted.

Cllr Adshead suspended the meeting to allow Bethany Reid from Bar N Bus to present a report to members on the work the charity has been doing in Billericay since the Town Council funded a full time youth worker. She spoke about activities such as outreach sessions which take place where the young people are, and how they are connecting with other groups in the community such as Human Kind café and the Churches.

Cllr Adshead thanked Bethany for her presentation and re-opened the meeting.

26. Bar N Bus Youth Worker

Members received and considered the following:

(a) Youth Work Agreement – activities and delivery timescales.

(b) Notes from a meeting held on 23rd June 2026 between Bar N Bus staff, Cllr Thomas and the Town Clerk

(c) Youth Worker Report. Members expressed concerns that although Church connections are generally positive, young people could potentially be alienated if they feel the youth worker is too closely aligned. It was also agreed that the Town Council's involvement should not be lost and this will be brought up at the next meeting with Bar N Bus in September. The Chantry Centre is available for their use and should be considered by Bar N Bus for their community outreach sessions.

RESOLVED: (i) that the youth work agreement is formally signed, and; (ii) the information in (b) and (c) is noted.

27. Chantry Centre Operational Management

Members considered a review of hire rates for private parties.

RESOLVED: that the rate increases to £60 per hour with effect from 1st August 2026.

28. Items for Information

Members received information on the following:

(a) Quotes for a separate Town Clerk's office – two quotes are still awaited

(b) Velux windows in Council Chamber – the seized window has been repaired and the installation of a replacement blind is awaited.

RESOLVED: information noted.

29. Items for consideration for Social Media/Press Release

- Bar N Bus

30. Questions from the Press and Public

None.

Cllr A Adshead
Chairman of the Committee

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15pm

Chairman:..... Date: