BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Health, Wellbeing and Environment Committee meeting
held in the Council Chamber, The Chantry Centre, Chantry Way, CM11 2AP
on Tuesday 8th September 2026 at 7.00pm

Chairman: Cllr M Moore
Vice-Chairman: Cllr K Mordecai
Councillors: K Herlock, G Talbot, M Thomas, J Tutton

Also in attendance: the Town Clerk

29. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs P Bunyan, M Dear, C May, H Stuart

30. Declarations of interest with regard to items on the Agenda

None.

31. Public Participation session with respect to items on the Agenda

None.

32. Minutes of the Health, Well-being and Environment Committee held on 14th July 2026
Members received and considered the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14th July 2026.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting be approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

33. Health, Well-Being & Environment Committee Accounts
Members received and considered the following:

(a) a copy of the accounts in respect of the Health, Well-Being and Environment Committee from 1st April 2026 to 3rd September 2026.

RESOLVED: (a) information noted.

34. Working Parties/Project Groups
Members received and considered the following minutes:

(a) Recreation Working Party – minutes from a meeting held on 23rd July 2026. Cllr Thomas, Chair of the working party, advised members that following receipt of the initial design from Ground Control a response to various design queries was awaited and there will be a further meeting to discuss.

RESOLVED: information noted.

35. Annual Play Area Inspection Reports

Members received and considered the following reports:

(a) Lake Meadows Teen Area

(b) Outwood Common

RESOLVED: information noted.

36. Play Area Improvements Collaboration

Members received and considered:

(a) an email from Basildon Borough Council about working together to enhance play areas.

(b) whether to arrange a meeting with the BBC Cabinet member to discuss potential partnership funding arrangements for future play area projects. Following discussion it was agreed the Council should have a conversation with Basildon Borough Council to determine **(i)** the type of input they are looking for, and; **(ii)** the level of financial contribution required.

RESOLVED: (i) information noted, and; **(ii)** that a meeting is arranged at Sun Corner with Borough Cllr Jeffreys to discuss potential partnership funding arrangements. Town Councillors to be in attendance: Cllrs Moore, Mordecai, Talbot and Thomas

37. High Street Furniture

(a) Members received and considered a report from a meeting held with the Council's contractor on 04.08.26 regarding refurbishment of the High Street memorial benches. His professional advice was that all benches could potentially be refurbished, but would then require regular ongoing maintenance. Also, new benches would be Town Council assets, whereas refurbishment means spending money on BBC assets. Composite recycled material benches have a far longer life span – 20 years plus - wooden slats would need repainting/refurbishing in around 5 to 7 years so there is a continuing maintenance cost to the Town Council.

Members also considered and discussed BBC's On-Street Memorials policy which states that after 10 years benches may need to be renewed, removed or replaced. BBC has advised they do not have a register of who originally purchased the benches and approve the Town Council replacing them to improve the appearance of the High Street. Members agreed that to minimise public upset the Town Council should widely publicise the following via the Town Crier, GB&SG Village Newsletter, BTC website, Facebook etc. **(i)** benches will be replaced with a similar heritage style, **(ii)** original plaques to be placed on the new benches, **(iii)** proven original owners are able to reclaim their bench/plaque for personal keeping if they wish to.

It was agreed by all Committee members present that replacing all existing benches with brand new ones is both the best value for money and the most cost-effective option long term. The following recommendation was proposed by Cllr Talbot and seconded by Cllr Thomas.

RECOMMENDATION: further to the information contained in the BBC On-Street Memorials Policy stating there is no legal bar to replacement of memorial benches, that all

memorial benches in the High Street are replaced with benches made from durable composite recycled materials with a life span of 20+ years at a cost of £9,880 plus £1,885 for installation/fixing.

(b) For information:
(i) BID have advised they are unable to contribute to any High Street refurbishment this financial year
(ii) a date is awaited for the repainting of the bollards and bins

RESOLVED: information noted

38. Sun Corner Benches

(a) During a location visit with the Council's contractor he advised that benches should not be near residential properties so the locations were brought back to Committee for further discussion and to consider alternative locations. Cllr Mordecai felt that there should not be too many benches close to the beacon so it was agreed to remove that location and install two.

RESOLVED: to install two benches on Sun Corner in pre-agreed locations and appoint P Thomas to dig out and install 2 bench bases then fix the new benches.

39. Update on Flagpole – Proposed Location and Installation

(a) members received a report detailing the unsuitability of the Chantry Centre site and proposing alternative locations for consideration. Following discussion Cllr Moore proposed that it is sited in Jim Shields. Seconded by Cllr Herlock.

RESOLVED: that a flagpole is placed in Jim Shields garden as part of the refurbishment scheme

40. High Street Planting

Members were advised that the current contract was awarded to Amethyst Horticulture in 2024 and were asked to consider the following:

(a) continuing with Amethyst for a further year from 2027-28
(b) obtaining tenders for the High Street planting contract from 2027-2030

Cllr Moore said she was very happy with the quality of service provided by Amethyst and therefore proposed that the contract be extended for a further year. Seconded by Cllr Thomas.

RESOLVED: that Amethyst Horticulture continues to provide pole baskets and plants for the High Street in 2027-28.

41. Festival Gardens/Jim Shields – Current Maintenance Arrangements

Members received and considered a quotation from Skippers Ground Maintenance to continue maintaining both areas for a further year.

RESOLVED: that the quotation is approved and accepted.

42. Items for Information

(a) Litter at Railway Station – Network Rail are being chased to maintain the area behind the chain link fencing now that the vegetation has been cleared.

(b) Additional Litter Bins – under phase 2 of BBC's borough wide replacement programme new bins have been requested at Jacksons Lane and Western Road. The Town Clerk was asked to liaise with BBC about moving the solar compacting bin from outside Poundland to Greggs.

RESOLVED: information noted.

43. Items for consideration for Social Media/Press Release

- Replacement of memorial benches (after full Council approval)
- New benches on Sun Corner

44. Questions from the Press and Public

None.

Cllr M Moore
Chairman of the Committee

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.50pm

Chairman:..... Date: .....