

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BURNTWOOD TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE MAIN HALL, BURNTWOOD MEMORIAL INSTITUTE, RUGELEY ROAD,
BURNTWOOD ON TUESDAY 16 JULY 2024 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Coe MBE (in the Chair)

Councillors Banevicius, D Ennis, L Ennis, Evans, Flanagan, Galvin, Gittings, Hancox, Holdsworth, Kirkham, Norman, P Taylor, S Taylor, Tranter, Willis-Croft, Wittstock and Woodward

In attendance

S Lightfoot, Town Clerk

Ms J Minor, Deputy Clerk

County Councillor Cox

PUBLIC FORUM

No questions were raised by members of the public.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR PLATFORM

County Councillor Cox said that he was very grateful that the County Councillors had been given the opportunity to have a platform at Full Council meetings to update Members on issues. Councillor Cox, who represents Lichfield Rural West [District Ward: Highfield] explained that there were numerous pot holes on Coulter Lane and Meg Lane and referred to a Temporary Road Closure Order relating to Sycamore Road.

Councillor D Ennis confirmed that having spoken to County Councillor White and in the absence of the Burntwood South Division [District Wards: All Saints, Chasetown and Summerfield] County Councillor, Councillor D Ennis informed Members that they can direct any issues to County Councillor White [alan.white@staffordshire.gov.uk].

26. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Bacon [Prior Commitments]

Councillor Bullock [Work Commitments]

Councillor R Ennis [Personal Reasons]

Councillor Flanagan [Prior Commitments]

The reasons for the apologies were approved.

27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillor Woodward declared an interest in Confidential Agenda Item No. 12 – Community and Partnerships Committee Minutes as she is a Trustee of Burntwood Be A Friend and left the room during discussion thereon.

28. MINUTES

The Chair reminded Members that they were being asked to comment solely on the accuracy of the Minutes.

It was proposed by Councillor D Ennis, seconded by Councillor Norman, and following a show of hands it was

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 23 May 2024 (Minute Nos. 1-25) be received and where necessary approved and adopted.

29. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair read out the following statement:

The last month and a half have been quite busy. As we are (supposedly) in summer the special events are all on the horizon and I am looking forward to the Wakes and the Play in the Park events. There have been some interesting events and opportunities to find out more about the services and charities in our town.

On 01 June I was invited to Bracken House to their open day. It was lovely to speak to people whose loved ones live there, and to hear how settled and happy they are there. Having to move a partner or a parent into care is a tough decision but, in many instances, it is the only safe option. It is good that the town has some amazing homes for people who need that help.

I attended the D Day service at Christ Church and also the D Day flag raising on 02 and 06 June. We should never forget the sacrifices that so many made so that we could be free and safe. It was a real privilege to be part of those events and always makes me feel very emotional.

I sometimes come in very useful in my wheelchair, particularly for testing out accessibility in various buildings. I went around our new Community Centre building and we were able to make sure that when the work is done it will include full accessibility. I am happy on these occasions to be a guinea pig, knowing the difference that it will make.

Our Producers Markets are now arranged for the summer again. They have some interesting stalls with lovely gift ideas, amazing food products like scotch eggs with all sorts of fillings, and pickled onions with some very interesting names. I particularly like the doughnut stall.

On 19 June I went to the VCSE market place forum, celebrating the wonderful organisations locally who do some amazing work. Volunteers were nominated for awards and thanked for the work that they do.

I love flowers so it was a lovely experience to be invited to the Flower Festival on 22 June, at Chasetown Methodist Church. There were some beautiful displays of real flowers and of sugar craft flowers. They ranged from the Brownies group who meet at the church to the lovely planter that was designed and built by our staff at BTC.

Some events do fair better in nice weather and one of those was the Hello Velo event on 30 June. It was lovely to see children queuing up to give it a try until it began to rain. Sadly, it was unsafe as the rain made it slippery and it had to be closed. Many enjoyed it before the rain though so it was worth doing.

On 10 July I went to Fulfen Primary School where the Town Council had helped to sponsor the gardening club. The Town Clerk and I were shown around by the children, whose faces were filled with pride as they showed us the flowers they had grown from seed, the vegetable patches, and the tomatoes in the poly tunnel, which is fuelled by

a solar panel. Best of all there are three rescue chickens who seemed very happy and at home. I think their names were Dorothy, Madge, and Nugget.

Busy month but I am looking forward to lots of fun over the summer as we facilitate the Play in the Park events. Thank you to the staff and other councillors for also attending the events and for all of your hard work preparing for the Wakes and the Play in the Park days.

30. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

No questions were raised by Members.

31. BUDGET VARIATION

Councillor D Ennis explained that a similar budget variation had occurred last year and that perhaps more flexibility was needed. *[This was briefly discussed at the Community and Partnerships Committee meeting held on 03 July 2024 under Minute No. 9 – Informal Update on the Christmas Events for 2024].*

It was proposed by Councillor Evans, seconded by Councillor P Taylor, and following a show of hands it was

RESOLVED That the virement of £4,000 from the Wakes Festival budget [213 4390] to the Christmas Events budget [213 4262] be approved.

32. VAT STATUS OF CHASE TERRACE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Councillor P Taylor explained that the purpose of the report was to explain the VAT status of Chase Terrace Community Centre and the reasons for a potential decision to 'Opt to tax' on the building. Councillor D Ennis felt that every avenue should be exhausted.

Councillor P Taylor proposed an amendment to the recommendation and this was seconded by Councillor D Ennis and following a show of hands it was

RESOLVED That the Council agrees that it wishes to take the required action to ensure that it can recover the VAT on the construction and other costs related to Chase Terrace Community Centre. To this end, it authorises the Town Clerk and the Leader to explore alternatives to Opting to Tax the building. If this is not successful the Council agrees that it wishes to Opt to Tax.

33. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 20 MAY 2024 AND 17 JUNE 2024

It was proposed by Councillor Gittings, seconded by Councillor L Ennis, and following a unanimous show of hands it was

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Planning and Development Committee held on 20 May 2024 [Minute Nos. 73-78] and 17 June 2024 [Minute Nos. 1-6] be received and where necessary approved and adopted.

34. COMMUNITY AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE – 03 JULY 2024

Councillor Evans reminded Members of the Wakes Festival which was due to take place on Saturday 20 July at Burntwood Leisure Centre and it was hoped that Members would encourage as many members of the public as possible to attend the event.

It was proposed by Councillor P Taylor, seconded by Councillor Evans, and following a unanimous show of hands it was

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community and Partnerships Committee held on 03 July 2024 [Minute Nos. 1-13] be received and where necessary approved and adopted.

35. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED That under the Public Bodies [Admissions of Meeting] Act 1960 [Section 2] [and as expended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972], the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information.

36. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

See Confidential Minutes.

[Councillor Woodward left the meeting at 6.20pm]

37. COMMUNITY AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE – 03 JULY 2024

See Confidential Minutes.

(The Meeting closed at 6.22 pm)

Signed

Date