

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BURNTWOOD TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE 71 ROOM, BURNTWOOD MEMORIAL INSTITUTE, RUGELEY ROAD,
BURNTWOOD ON MONDAY 20 JANUARY 2025 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor L Ennis (in the Chair)

Councillors Bacon, Banevicius, Bullock, D Ennis, L Ennis, Evans, Flanagan, Gittings, Kirkham, Norman, P Taylor, S Taylor, Tranter, Willis-Croft and Woodward

In attendance

Ms J Minor, Deputy Clerk

Ms A James, Finance Officer

Ms K Horner, Community Development and Engagement Officer

County Councillor Wilcox

County Councillor Cox

County Councillor Loughbrough-Rudd (from 6.15pm)

P Walker, Sculptor, Artist, Director - Limitless

Ms C Fellows, Team Senior Consultant and Creative Producer - Limitless

Mrs K Walker, Director of Public Engagement and Social Anthropology - Limitless

LIMITLESS PROPOSAL FOR BURNTWOOD'S CULTURAL STRATEGY

Mr Walker started with introducing himself, Mrs Walker and Ms Fellows. He explained that he was born and bred in Burntwood and had an extensive collection of artwork displayed in towns and cities both nationally and internationally and that he was also Artistic Director for Luxmuralis as well as having been artistic director for Lichfield, Liverpool and Winchester Cathedrals creating artworks, exhibitions, and events.

Mr Walker explained that Mrs Walker was the Director of Public Engagement and Social Anthropology bringing a unique blend of academic insight and creative vision. She is also Artistic Producer for Luxmuralis.

Mr Walker explained that Ms Fellows was the Team Senior Consultant and Creative Producer. She is renown for her expertise in delivering high impact arts and cultural projects and brings a wealth of experience in every aspect of project development for arts and cultural activations of all sizes.

Mr Walker stated that Limitless was proposing a phased project that would result in a comprehensive cultural strategy document that would serve as Burntwood's blueprint for the town's cultural activities for years to come.

Ms Fellows outlined the different phases :

Phase 1 – Research – internal. This would involve engaging with internal stakeholders to gather valuable insights into Burntwood Town Council's aspirations, available spaces, and potential partnerships.

Phase 2 – Research – external. This would involve engaging with the wider Burntwood community to better understand the needs and desires, drivers, and barriers of those who live, work, and engage with Burntwood. This phase could include a number of test activations and events.

Phase 3 – Presentation and communication of strategy document.

Councillor Norman, looking from a scrutiny point of view, said that he would have liked to have seen some practical examples.

Mr Walker stated that we needed to engage and talk to the community, extract the information, and look at the income which could be generated (ethos of the cultural centre).

Following on from the initial meeting held last year, Councillor Woodward stated that she understood the concept, however, she referred to the Town Council's Lichfield Garrick Theatre partnership and asked how the two would marry together to avoid duplication. She explained that we had previously undertaken consultations e.g. Burntwood Town Strategy, Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network etc.

Mr Walker explained that they would start with a blank canvas and would work with all demographics. He stated that the Lichfield Garrick Theatre was primarily a Lichfield based organisation and the cultural strategy would be totally Burntwood focused. Ms Fellows confirmed that they have worked with the Lichfield Garrick Theatre.

Councillor Flanagan made reference to funding the cultural strategy and Members recalled that the breakdown of costs were reported to the Policy and Resources Committee on 06 November 2024. It was **agreed** that the Deputy Clerk would circulate the report and appendix considered by the Policy and Resources Committee to all Members with comments and observations to be directed to Councillor Galvin (Chair of that Committee). All Members (which is usual practice) would be invited to the meeting when the Limitless proposal would next be discussed.

Councillor P Taylor referred to negative comments made on social media platforms and we needed tangible outcomes which could be reported to residents.

Mrs Walker explained that they would work with the people in the community – giving people a voice, ownership. We cannot be scared of a few negative comments.

Councillor D Ennis thanked Mr Walker, Mrs Walker and Ms Fellows for their attendance. He felt that it was difficult to see the 'strategy' and what the outcome would be. Mr Walker explained that we needed to go through the process to get to the outcome.

PUBLIC FORUM

No questions were raised by members of the public.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR PLATFORM

County Councillor Wilcox (Burntwood South Division)

County Councillor Wilcox explained that he was continuing to work with officers regarding the potential safety improvements on the approach road leading to Burntwood Rugby Club, as well as looking for support from the Chasewater Team who are approaching Lichfield District Council for potential CIL funds to allow works to be undertaken to clear the public footpath that runs along this road to the Light Railway enabling walkers to use this route. One suggestion is to demarcate one side of the road for pedestrians and cycle use as this would be accessible for all cyclists or users of mobility scooters/wheelchairs and for those with push chairs, at the present time this is being considered by the County engineers. He is also pushing to get the fence running alongside the footpath that is damaged repaired as soon as possible.

County Councillor Wilcox explained that he was continuing to push for as many roads as possible to be repaired, as well as pushing for those that have been outstanding for more than

three months without any action. Please ensure that where possible residents are directed to the site to report road defects etc.

County Councillor Wilcox stated that the triangle land (opposite Star Pub – Sensory Garden) is in its early stages with a Lease being drafted by Lichfield District Council together with work ongoing with the County Council engineers on how we can create a safe crossing place and dropped kerb. Unfortunately, this work is not classed as high priority, but he is continuing to pursue this together with the draft lease. There is great support from local volunteers as well as the Town Council and a couple of local businesses.

Councillor Norman referred to the replacement of the railing at the Library which are yet to be painted green. He also referred to the Chasewater consultation which he was not impressed with and asked if County Councillor Wilcox would have any influence. Councillor Wilcox said that he was disappointed with the progress made with regard to the redevelopment of Chasewater.

County Councillor Cox (Lichfield Rural West)

County Councillor Cox referred to the closure of Meg Lane and that the potholes in Springle Styche Lane had been moved from category 3 to category 1.

County Councillor Loughbrough-Rudd (Burntwood North Division)

County Councillor Loughbrough-Rudd referred to a meeting he had recently attended with Severn Trent Water and their investment in Burntwood. He also referred to Rights of Way/stiles and their ownership. County Councillor Loughbrough-Rudd informed Members that the reporting mechanism on the County Council website was changing.

Councillor Tranter referred to the new Health Centre and County Councillor Wilcox explained that it was still in the planning process. Councillor Bacon reiterated the urgent need for a new Health Centre.

Councillor Woodward referred to previous comments made by the County Councillors and in particular the fixing of roads in November 2024 and confirmed that Ironstone Road had not been fixed and asked if an update could be provided.

County Councillor Cox confirmed that he was the Chair of the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee at Staffordshire County Council and that they would be meeting on 27 January 2025 where GP access would be discussed.

64. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Coe MBE (Unwell)
Councillor R Ennis (Family Commitments)
Councillor Galvin (Unwell)
Councillor Wittstock (Unwell)

The reasons for the apologies were approved.

65. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillor S Taylor declared an interest in Confidential Agenda Item 15 – Lichfield Garrick Theatre and Burntwood Town Council Partnership as she is a Trustee.

**(County Councillor Wilcox and County Councillor Loughbrough-Rudd
left the meeting at 6.45pm)**

66. 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 12 November 2024 (Minute Nos. 53-63) be received and where necessary approved and adopted.

67. ROD CAMPBELL

Councillor L Ennis informed Members that former Councillor Rod Campbell had recently passed away. She explained that Mr Campbell was Chair of the Town Council in 2006 and again in 2012 and had also been a governor at Boney Hay Primary School. Mr Campbell had also served on Lichfield District Council and Hammerwich Parish Council. Other Members shared their memories of Mr Campbell. Members stood for a minutes silence.

68. CHAIR'S REPORT

In the absence of Councillor Coe MBE, Councillor L Ennis read out the following statement:

Christmas is a magical time and it was a real joy to be able to be part of switching on the lights at Sankey's Corner and Swan Island. I love the way that our community comes together to share in these special occasions. Despite the cold, and the heavy rain on the evening of the Swan Island switch on, both events were very well attended. Working together with local schools, with Burntwood Rotary, and as a Town Council, we were delighted to provide these events for Burntwood families.

I attended a number of other events in December including the Warm Places celebration and the VIP event to see this year's Pantomime at the Garrick, Jack, and the Beanstalk. The run up to Christmas was very busy but lots of feel-good events.

As another year begins it will be exciting to see what is ahead for us. A couple of things which are already planned are a thank you event on Tuesday 28 January, to celebrate the carers in our community. Those people who selflessly look after their loved ones and get little recognition deserve a thank you. Together with Burntwood Library, and with support from Friends of Burntwood Library, MHA Communities and Burntwood Lions, we are very excited to be able to do something affirming to say a huge thank you. If any councillors would like to attend, could you please let the office know.

I am also raising money for my charity of the year, which is Pathway Project. On Saturday 3 May there is a charity quiz night arranged so we would really appreciate your support and encouragement to raise lots of money for this very worthy cause. I would like to thank the Town Council staff who have worked so hard to make these events happen.

Whatever we have ahead of us in 2025 it is good that we have such a committed Town Council, and such dedicated staff. I know that we will continue working hard to make the year a special one for all of our residents.

69. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

No questions were raised by Members.

70. NOTICE OF CASUAL VACANCY – HUNSLET WARD

Members formally noted that the Town Clerk had declared a casual vacancy (Hunslet Ward) on the Town Council on 20 November 2024. No notice requesting an Election had been received so the Town Clerk advertised the vacancy to be filled by co-option on 08 January 2025 with a closing date of midnight on 02 March 2025.

71. NOTICE OF CASUAL VACANCY – HIGHFIELD WARD

Members formally noted that the Town Clerk had declared a casual vacancy (Highfield Ward) on the Town Council on 25 November 2024. No notice requesting an Election had been received so the Town Clerk advertised the vacancy to be filled by co-option on 08 January 2025 with a closing date of midnight on 02 March 2025.

72. UPDATE ON INCOME AND EXPENDITURE COMPARED TO BUDGET FOR 2024/25

Members noted the report of income and expenditure compared to budget for the first 8 months of the financial year, April to November.

73. BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2025/26

Councillor D Ennis thanked the Finance Officer and the Town Clerk for their input. He explained that the proposed budget showed a 3% increase (an increase of £1.36 per household per year, to £46.78).

A 3% increase was proposed by Councillor D Ennis, seconded by Councillor Norman, and following a show of hands it was

RESOLVED That the budget and precept (£396,939) for 2025/26 be approved.

74. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 06 NOVEMBER 2024

Councillor Norman referred to Minute No. 28 – Works Programme and in particular that the Town Clerk confirmed that quotations would be sought for a three-tier planter. He confirmed that BuRRT had only been asked to seek quotations last week and a quotation had been received today.

Councillor Woodward referred to Minute No. 28 – Works Programme and in particular that the Town Clerk confirmed that Lichfield District Council were in the process of drawing up a quotation for consideration in respect of the Larks Rise Community Woodland. It was **agreed** that the Town Clerk would provide an update to all Members.

Councillor Banevicius referred to Minute No. 29 – Safeguarding Policy and confirmed that she had been into the Town Council offices the following day with a copy of her Safeguarding Policy so that this could be adapted. Members referred to the resolution and asked the Community Development and Engagement Officer if she had seen the document. When asked, the Community Development and Engagement Officer confirmed that she had not had sight of the document yet. In an endeavour to help, Councillor Banevicius offered to come into the Town Council offices again to discuss the process. It was **agreed** that the Community Development and Engagement Officer would make these arrangements.

It was proposed by Councillor Norman, seconded by Councillor Banevicius, and following a unanimous show of hands it was

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 06 November 2024 (Minute Nos. 23-37) be received and where necessary approved and adopted.

75. COMMUNITY AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE – 07 NOVEMBER 2024

Councillor Woodward referred to Minute No. 30 – Community Engagement and in particular the Lichfield District Council – UK Shared Prosperity Fund. She asked if there was an update on the project works. Councillor D Ennis confirmed that Mr Eteo had left Lichfield District Council and Mr Gardner had only just been appointed on 3 days a week. He had not received an update; however, he had seen visually from his business premises that they had re-started the cleaning of the pavements at Sankey's Corner.

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

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community and Partnerships Committee held on 07 November 2024 (Minute Nos. 26-34) be received and where necessary approved and adopted.

(County Councillor Cox left the meeting at 7.10pm)

76. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 11 NOVEMBER 2024 AND 11 DECEMBER 2024

Councillor P Taylor referred to Minute Nos. 38 – BuRRT (11 November 2024 refers) and 44 – BuRRT (11 December 2024) and confirmed that he had been into the Town Council offices and spoken to the Town Clerk on 17 January 2025. He explained that some of the tasks undertaken would have saved the Town Council money (avoiding the need to appoint outside contractors) but he did not want the Burntwood Response and Repair Team to feel that they were being over scrutinised.

Councillor D Ennis explained that BuRRT were employed to be out and about. Councillor Woodward explained that employees are scrutinised through their work and referred to the inventory produced by BuRRT (Policy and Resources Committee held on 11 September 2024 Minute No. 18 – Works Programme refers). She felt that this was light touch scrutiny in order to avoid duplication. Members felt that the report should be tasked to the Town Clerk to produce.

It was **agreed** that this would be discussed at the next Planning and Development Committee scheduled for 05 February 2025.

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

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Planning and Development Committee held on 11 November 2024 (Minute Nos. 32-38) and 11 December 2024 (Minute Nos. 39-44) be received and where necessary approved and adopted.

77. 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.

78. COMMUNITY AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE – 04 DECEMBER 2024

See Confidential Minutes.

79. LICHFIELD GARRICK THEATRE AND BURNTWOOD TOWN COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP

See Confidential Minutes.

(The Meeting closed at 7.21 pm)

Signed

Date