

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BURNTWOOD TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT CHASE TERRACE COMMUNITY CENTRE, PRINCESS STREET, BURNTWOOD ON
WEDNESDAY 28 JANUARY 2026 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor L Ennis (in the Chair)

Councillors Bullock, Coe MBE, Craik, D Ennis, R Ennis, Evans, Galvin, Hancox, Kube, Norman, Swain, P Taylor, Tranter, Willis-Croft and Wittstock

In attendance

S Lightfoot, Town Clerk

Ms J Minor, Deputy Clerk

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

Ms K Collins, Senior Engagement Consultant, Limitless

LIMITLESS PROPOSAL

The Chair welcomed Ms C Fellows, Team Senior Consultant and Creative Producer and Ms K Collins, Senior Engagement Consultant to the meeting. Ms Fellows handed out at the meeting a copy of the Burntwood - Underground, Identity, Independence brochure produced by Limitless (a copy of which had been forwarded to all Members of the Council in PDF format prior to the meeting). Ms Collins explained that the document begins the Phase 1 process – research – internal. It reviews Burntwood's current cultural landscape, sets out the evidence for change, and reflects on insights from local stakeholders. She stated that taken together, these findings show how culture can help Burntwood grow stronger by supporting economic resilience, enhancing wellbeing, and shaping an identity that is rooted, inclusive, and proud of its future.

Ms Collins explained that the purpose of Phase 1 was to go beyond mapping physical assets and activities, exploring how culture – both shared and lived – shapes perceptions, behaviours, and aspirations within Burntwood. She stated that engaging directly with local stakeholders, the interviews were designed to uncover insights into the drivers, barriers, and opportunities for cultural participation and community engagement. She explained that each interview lasted approximately 20 minutes and were conducted over a three-day period in July 2025. The findings from these consultations were then analysed thematically to identify patterns, priorities, and emerging themes that will inform the next stages of strategy development. Ms Collins did point out that the participants that took part in the interviews were identified and invited by the Town Council ensuring that those involved had relevant knowledge, experience, or influence within the community.

Ms Collins explained the key findings taken from the interviewees had included for example lost traditions and barriers to participation including confidence, transport, age and social inclusion, undervalued heritage etc and some interviewees did make comparisons to other towns and cities in respect of sustainable and inclusive cultural growth.

The Chair thanked Ms Collins and asked Members if they had any questions. Councillor Wittstock referred in particular to infrastructure changes and explained that the Town Council do not own for example Burntwood Town Shopping Centre based at Sankey's Corner which is under private ownership. Ms Collins asked if members of the public knew that (one of the key findings from the interviews was weak or inconsistent communication channels and marketing strategies). She felt that we needed to find the 'thing(s)' to celebrate rather than comparing Burntwood to for example Lichfield.

Councillor P Taylor stated that Lichfield District Council, in partnership with Burntwood Town Council, is currently developing a comprehensive masterplan to drive regeneration, improve retail, upgrade health/transport infrastructure, and deliver suitable housing in Burntwood. He asked if the brochure could be shared in the public domain and if copies were going to be available for example in the library.

In respect of the interviews which had taken place in July 2025, Councillor Tranter asked if Ms Collins had a record of the number of people who had been spoken to. Ms Collins confirmed that 24 people had been spoken to however she explained that this was Phase 1 and Phase 2 – Research – external 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.

Councillor D Ennis thanked both Ms Collins and Ms Fellows. He felt the presentation had raised more questions and answers but understood that this was Phase 1 and asked if a 'session' could be arranged with representatives from Limitless where Members have the opportunity to ask questions as he felt that perhaps the Town Council Meeting was not that platform. Referring to key findings – undervalued heritage, Councillor D Ennis stated that he, together with the Chair and Councillor Norman and Councillor Woodward had visited Chasewater Railway Museum back in December 2025 (*admission to the museum is free and also accessible to visitors with mobility difficulties. Visitors can view a vast array of railway items, some from as early as the 1800s. Although they try to focus on artefacts associated with the local area, with its strong links with the coal mining industry, their collections include items from much further afield*). Councillor D Ennis did feel however that Burntwood Town Council was not mentioned enough in the brochure.

PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were present.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR PLATFORM

The Deputy Clerk explained that the County Councillors had been invited but were unable to attend due to clashes with other meetings/commitments.

60. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillor Banevicius, Councillor Bishop, Councillor Gittings, Councillor Kirkham, Councillor S Taylor, and Councillor Woodward.

61. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

None declared.

62. MINUTES – 26 NOVEMBER 2025

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 unanimous show of hands it was

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 26 November 2025 (Minute Nos. 46-59) be received and where necessary approved and adopted.

63. CHAIR'S REPORT

Councillor L Ennis read out the following statement:

Good evening everyone

I hope everyone had a restful Christmas and New Year. It's been a quiet time since the last full council, so I don't have much to update you on.

Darren and I attended the Christmas Carol down at Princes Park. This was a wonderful event with lots of people attending, wonderful hot chocolate and fabulous carols. I also when to Spark to give them some of the selection boxes we had left from our Christmas events, these were given out by Santa for the children at Spark just before the Christmas holidays.

Darren, Sue, Steve, and I also when over to Chasewater Railway to meet up with Andrew who gave us a wonderful tour around the trains, museum, and tracks. I didn't know how much work and effort goes into the running of Chasewater Railway and it was wonderful to meet different staff members and the refurbishment work that goes into it all.

I also had the pleasure of meeting the winners of Burntwood Town Council Student Award with Di. Very two inspiring young people who are both dedicated to their chosen sport, one was swimming, and one was cycling. I wish them both great success in the future and hope to hearing from them about how the award help them over the year.

And finally, as people may know my 24-hour walk didn't go to plan sadly after 12 hours I had to call time on the walk due to the awful weather. I am planning on doing it again, I have dates set out but if the opportunity comes up to go out I just will and get it done. I just want to thank all the people who join me on the evening and especially our friend Ralph who was out with me during the most awful weather and has agreed to come out with me again, I really do appreciate it. Plus, we do have another event planned near the end of April but more details to come.

64. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

No questions were raised by Members.

65. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 15 DECEMBER 2025 AND 15 JANUARY 2026

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

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Planning and Development Committee held on 15 December 2025 (Minute Nos. 37-43) and 15 January 2026 (Minute Nos. 44-49) be received and where necessary approved and adopted.

66. COMMUNITY AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE – 19 JANUARY 2026

Councillor Evans referred to Minute No. 35 – Community Engagement and in particular where Councillor D Ennis refers to his visit to Chasewater Railway Museum in December 2025. She asked if Councillor L Ennis, Councillor Norman, and Councillor Woodward could be added to the Minutes as they had attended as well.

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 19 January 2026 (Minute Nos. 32-42) be received and where necessary approved and adopted.

67. 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.

68. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES – 26 NOVEMBER 2026

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 unanimous show of hands it was

RESOLVED That the Confidential Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 26 November 2025 (Minute Nos. 57-59) be received and where necessary approved and adopted.

(The Meeting closed at 6.30 pm)

Signed

Date