

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
held in the Council Chamber, Chantry Centre, CM11 2AP
on Thursday 28th July 2022 at 7.00 pm**

Present: Chairman: Cllr J Clark
Vice-Chairman: Cllr M Mordecai

Councillors: A Adshead, R Clark, L Clark, J Devlin, C May, M Moore, K Mordecai, C Smith, D Spencer, G Talbot, A Talboys, M Thomas, D Wakefield

Also in attendance: the Town Clerk

40. Apologies for absence

Cllrs M Dear, M Roessler, E Sainsbury, J Tutton

41. Declaration of Interest with regard to items on the Agenda

None.

42. Public Participation Session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest

None.

43. Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 16th June 2022

Members **(a)** received and considered the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 16th June 2022 and **(b)** approved the signing of the minutes as a true record.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 16th June 2022 be approved and adopted.

44. Chairman's Report

Members received a report from Cllr Clark on the various events she had attended since the previous meeting.

RESOLVED: information noted.

45. Committee Meetings

Members received and considered the minutes of:

(a) Planning Committee – Cllr Wakefield, Vice Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meetings held on 28th June, 12th and 26th July. He said that there were no contentious applications considered and the Committee were pleased that the Planning Inspectorate had upheld Basildon Council's decision to refuse applications following appeal by the applicants.

(b) Health, Well-being and Environment Committee meeting held on 5th July 2022. Cllr Moore, Chairman of the Committee, presented the minutes and informed those present that Cllr Thomas had completed his check of the Countryside Walks routes. He had found some minor amendments to the text and an issue with vegetation requiring attention which has since been passed to BBC. Town Trail walks are taking

place on 21st August and 24th September led by Cllr Devlin. The automated public convenience has been removed, also the hanging baskets have had to be taken down due to health and safety concerns.

(c) Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 14th July 2022. Cllr M Mordecai, Chairman of the Committee, presented the minutes. He told members that the Town Council's IT network will be moving to a cloud based server, and commended all those involved in the Chantry Centre project as final figures show it was just 2.59% over budget.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of all the above Committee meetings are approved and adopted.

46. Motion on Update to BTC Grant Policy

In accordance with Minute 31 from full Council 16th June, members revisited the proposal from Cllr Adshead to amend the existing grant policy. Cllr Adshead explained that a lot of community groups have a challenge to find a suitable meeting place. The proposed amendment would provide a number of hours for meetings at Chantry whilst the group gets organised and sources funding to pay for continuing hire. There is to be no change to the existing grant policy allowing organisations to apply for funds for capital expenditure. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Thomas.

RESOLVED: that the grant policy is updated in accordance with the above.

47. Appointed Substitutes for Committee Meetings

Resolved: that the appointed substitutes are as follows;

- (a)** H,W & Env: Cllr Talbot
- (b)** Finance & Gen Purposes: Cllr L Clark, Cllr Devlin and Cllr May
- (c)** Planning: Cllr May, Cllr Thomas

48. Change to Process re Agenda Packs for Committees/Sub-Committees/Working Parties

Members considered and discussed the pros and cons of all councillors receiving the Agenda and supporting papers for each meeting. It was therefore:

Resolved: that all councillors receive all Agendas and papers for each meeting with the exception of Staffing Sub-Committee.

49. Courses and Conferences

Members received and considered the following:

- (a)** details of forthcoming EALC courses. The Chairman informed members that two councillor training days had just been arranged for Saturdays in October.
- (b)** in house child safeguarding training for staff and council members has been arranged for Tuesday 6th September at 10am to 1.30pm. Cllrs that have confirmed attendance: Cllrs J Clark, Cllr Moore, Cllr Smith, Cllr Spencer. There are 4 spaces left so members to advise the Town Clerk if they would like to attend.

RESOLVED: that all of the above information is noted.

50. Local Councils Liaison Committee

Members received and considered:

- (a) minutes of the meeting held on 29th March 2022 and a verbal report from the meeting held on 12th July 2022
- (b) Working in Partnership report compiled by Basildon Borough Council. Cllr Devlin explained the rationale behind this initiative and how the Borough Council intends avoiding double taxation for residents if the Town Council takes over local services.

Resolved: information noted

51. Matthew Nash – local artist

Members considered whether the Council could commemorate the life of this local artist by displaying his work in the Chantry Centre. However, members were reminded that it had previously been decided not to place anything on the walls as this could be deemed to be setting a precedent. Cllr Moore proposed that there is no art displayed in the Chantry Centre. Seconded by Cllr K Mordecai.

Resolved: that no artwork is displayed on the Chantry Centre walls.

Cllr Devlin then proposed that the matter is referred to the Communications Working Party for further attention. Seconded by Cllr R Clark.

Resolved: that the Communications working party investigates how the artist can be best commemorated within the town.

52. Items for Information

- (a) Civic Service to be held in the Chantry Centre on Sunday 4th September 2022 at 3pm. This year it is being led by the Revival Church and all councillors and their families are welcome to attend.

Resolved: information noted

53. Consideration of Items for Press Release/Social Media

Revision to the grant policy.

54. Questions from the Press and Public

None.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.03pm

Cllr Clark Date.....
Chairman