



Bracknell Town Council

Council Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Date	Tuesday, February 4, 2025
Time	19:30 - 21:30
Location	Council Chamber Brooke House
Present	Paul Bidwell, Ellen MacHale, Cherise Welch, Kathryn Neil, Anna Keen, , Mary Temperton, Elizabeth Baker, Cath Thompson, Jenny Penfold, Ryan Frost, , Gerry Webb, Kathleen Nugent, , Kwabena Adu-Quaye, Graham Firth, Janet Cochrane, , , Megan Wright, Jodie Watts, Donna Pressland,
Apologies	Cllrs Jeffrey Gillbe, Roy Bailey, Guy Gillbe, Simon Carter, Caroline Egglestone, Imara Wright, Lucy Young
No Contact	Cllrs Kandy Jefferies, Helen Purnell
Virtual	Cllr Donna Sidebotham
Officers	Jackie Burgess
No contact	Cllrs Helen Purnell, Iskandar Jefferies.

Minutes

FC103/25 ATTENDANCE

The meeting commenced with the receipt of apologies from several Councillors. Their apologies were duly noted.

FC104/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from Councillors on the items listed on the agenda. Additionally, there were no written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests. Consequently, no requests for dispensation were granted during this meeting.

FC105/25 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th December 2024 were reviewed and approved as a correct record. They were proposed by Councillor Baker and Seconded by Councillor Temperton. There were no objections or amendments proposed, and the minutes were accepted unanimously by the council members present.

FC106/25 MATTER ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Several matters arising from the previous minutes were discussed.

- The BTC website was showcased. Jackie Burgess provided a detailed update on the progress of the new website, highlighting its user-friendly design with large, intuitive buttons, and the ability to access various council documents and minutes. The website is still a work in progress, with daily updates being made. The final design will be shared with Council before going live.
- Financial Regulations and Standing Orders were also addressed. The council is working on updating these regulations with the new model documents issued

by NALC. The Town Clerk mentioned that the updates are extensive, requiring a thorough review of the entire document, which will be brought to the council for approval.

- The Local Council Award Scheme will commence once the Financial Regulations and policies are reviewed, following BTC's membership with Bright HR and NALC.
- Work on the Bracknell Matters is currently paused due to capacity constraints.

FC107/25 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor provided an update on recent activities. Before Christmas, the Mayor attended the Bracknell Core Society's concert at the Royal Holloway Chapel in Egham, describing it as a magical evening with beautiful Victorian architecture and excellent acoustics. The Mayor also attended a Christmas Tea Party at the Great Hollands Community Cafe, which was packed with a lovely atmosphere. The Mayor thanked Stuart and the volunteers for their work and highlighted the importance of the cafe for lonely individuals and carers, making Great Hollands a special community hub. The Mayor also expressed gratitude to those who attended the quiz evening for Home Start.

FC108/25 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 17th December 2024 and 14th January 2025 were presented for approval by Councillor Adutwum-Quaye. The committee chair summarised the discussions and decisions made during these meetings. The minutes were reviewed and approved by the council members without any amendments. Proposer Councillor Adutwum-Quaye and seconded by Cllr Thompson

FC109/25 STAFFING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 21st January 2025 were presented for approval. The committee chair provided an overview of the key points discussed during the meeting. The minutes were approved by the council members present. Proposer Cllr Keen and seconded by Cllr Mac Hale.

FC110/25 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 21st January 2025 were presented for approval. The committee chair highlighted the addition of new names to the bank of street names and that a Covid Reflection Garden is being organized at Braybrooke. The minutes were reviewed and approved by the council members. Proposed by Cllr Nugent seconded by Cllr Mac Hale. Council asked for thanks to be given to the team for all the hard work in keeping our grounds so well kept.

FC111/25 STRATEGY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Strategy and Finance Committee meeting held on 28th January 2025 were presented for approval. The committee chair noted that officers were authorised to continue conversations with McDonald's regarding a tree planting strategy for Mill Park Access Road. The minutes were approved by the council members. Proposer Cllr Keen and seconded by Cllr Firth.

FC112/25 BUDGET 2025-2026

The council reviewed the recommendation from the Strategy and Finance Committee to approve the budget for 2025-26. Councillor Temperton asked a series of questions and finished by stating "this is a really good budget which will allow our loyal staff who take a pride in the upkeep of all Bracknell Town Council managed areas to continue their work." After a detailed discussion on the proposed budget allocations and priorities, the council members agreed to approve the budget as recommended. Proposer Cllr Keen seconded by Cllr Firth.

FC113/25 MEETING SCHEDULE 2025-2026

The meeting schedule for 2025-2026 was noted by the council. The schedule includes all planned events and working group meetings, allowing Councillors to plan their commitments accordingly. No further discussion or amendments were made regarding the schedule.

FC114/25 COMMITTEE LIST 2024-25

The council approved the recommended changes to the Committees and Working Groups. Specifically, Councillor Guy Gillbe was removed from the Bracknell History Working Group. There were no objections to this change, and it was accepted unanimously.

FC115/25 70TH ANNIVERSARY WORKING GROUP

Meetings for the 70th Anniversary Working Group were scheduled for 12th February and 12th March. The council discussed the type of event to be planned, considering factors such as planning time, budget, and staffing. The council members provided their input on the event preferences, maybe rather than a large event a series of events/walks throughout the year ,the Town Clerk will take the suggestions to the first meeting of the Working Group.

FC116/25 TOWN CENTRE MASTER PLAN

This matter was deferred to a later meeting

FC117/25 CIL REPORT

The current CIL report was noted by the council. Councillors were reminded to send new CIL funding ideas to the Town Clerk.

FC118/25 RECEIVED INCOME TRANSACTIONS

The council noted the received income transactions for the period from 1st October 2024 to 30th November 2024. These transactions were previously reviewed by the Budget Monitoring Group and reported to Strategy and Finance Committee and are available for inspection via the Town Clerk. The motion to note the transactions was proposed, seconded, and approved by all councilors.

FC119/25 PAID EXPENDITURE TRANSACTIONS

The council authorised the Mayor to sign the paid expenditure transactions for the period from 1st October 2024 to 30th November 2024. These transactions were reviewed by the Budget Monitoring Group and reported to the Strategy and Finance Committee and are available for inspection via the Town Clerk. The motion to authorise the Mayor to sign the transactions was proposed, seconded, and approved by all councilors. Proposer Cllr Keen and seconded by Cllr Watts

Date of the next Meeting: 13th May 2025 7.00 pm AGM to be held at Great Hollands Pavilion

Sign:

Date: