

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF BOURNE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2023 at 7:00PM AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, 3 ABBEY ROAD, BOURNE

Present	Chair	S Mallett			
	Councillors	C Pattison	B Johnson	A Kelly	R McKinney
		Z Lane	N Eveleigh	R Baker	A Willis
		P Fellows	L Panrucker	S Giullari	B Baricz Hughes

(Recorded by Town Clerk)

2704F To receive/approve reasons for Apologies for Absence

Proposed by Cllr B Johnson, seconded by Cllr C Pattison and unanimously.

RESOLVED: To receive/approve reasons for Apologies for Absence from Cllr's H Crawford and N Oglesbee.

2705F To receive Declarations of Interest in accordance with The Localism Act 2011

None Received

2706F To consider requests for Dispensation.

None received.

2707F To ask if members of the public, resident or employed within this Parish, have any intention to speak under any Agenda Items of this meeting (this will be to a maximum of 3 minutes)

There were no members of the public present.

2708F To adopt the Notes of the Meeting held on 17th October 2023 as a true record and to resolve for the Chair to sign them.

Proposed by Cllr A Kelly, seconded by Cllr A Willis, and unanimously.

RESOLVED: To adopt the Notes of the Meeting held on 17th October 2023 as a true record and for the Chair to sign them.

2709F To receive reports, if any, by District/County Councillors or Representatives on other Organisations

Cllr R Baker made the following statement:

At Full Council on Thursday 23rd November 2023, Cllr Crawford rightly challenged me on some remarks I made at a recent Bourne Town Council Meeting regarding the maintenance of Churchyards. In this statement, I gave the impression that SKDC were potentially set to renege on mandatory obligations to maintain these areas. I would like to correct the record and reassure the council that this is not, in fact, what is being reviewed. I spoke without my notes and from memory, which led to a poor choice of words on my part. This does not excuse the event and I am not seeking to mitigate the seriousness of this overly casual approach to reporting to the council in this case.

While churchyards were discussed in my 21st September meeting with officers, and we did indeed discuss that initial budget projections for the grass and hedge maintenance of our 56

churchyards was lower than costs turned out to be, officers did not suggest that they were considering withdrawing a statutory service. The conversation focused on non-statutory services and maintenance that had been done in the past, but was now not economically viable. I conflated the two, leading to my error. As an action from this meeting, officers contacted all parish councils to inform them of upcoming changes to maintenance schedules and regimes and to provide as much notice as possible. I believe you will have had (or will shortly have) contact to this effect.

I apologise for misleading the council and misrepresenting SKDC in an official capacity as cabinet member for waste and environment. I am pleased to work with a team of talented and hard-working council officers and I do not wish to undermine confidence in them, or the work they do. I will contact officers shortly, asking them to provide a definitive list of the non-statutory services being considered for removal from our green spaces maintenance regime. As soon as I have this, I will share it with BTC.

Cllr L Panrucker informed the members of the following:

The village of Dyke had been without gas since 5.00pm Monday 27th November due to water in the system. Cadent had been on site since and had proved extremely helpful the service id expected to be resumed by close of play today.

2710F To answer questions from Councillors.

There were none

2711F To adopt the period trial balance and bank reconciliation – month ending 31.10.23

Proposed by Cllr B Johnson, seconded by Cllr R McKinney, and unanimously

RESOLVED: To adopt the trial balance and the bank reconciliation – month ending 31.10.23

2712F To adopt the Income & Expenditure Budget Report – month ending 31.10.23

The clerk presented the report for the period to 31.10.23 and explained the adverse variances.

Proposed by Cllr P Fellows, seconded by Cllr A Willis. And unanimously

RESOLVED: To adopt the Income & Expenditure Budget Report – month ending 31.10.23

2713F To approve accounts for payment.

The clerk presented a schedule of payments to the members.

Cllr Kelly queried the payment to Aqualoos's, the clerk informed members that this was for the hire of toilet facilities for the Skatepark opening.

Cllr Eveleigh queried the payment to Blackbird, the clerk informed members that this was work associated with the recommissioning of the changing room block water systems.

Cllr Kelly confirmed with the clerk that an annual legionella test would now have to be completed.

Proposed by Cllr B Johnson, seconded by Cllr A Kelly. And unanimously

RESOLVED: To approve the accounts for payment as listed.

2714F To review/discuss the draft budget for the year 2024/2025 and the associated precept request.

The clerk impressed on members that this was a starting point and that the finished product would not be completed until the end of January 2024.

The clerk explained that he had extrapolated the current actual figures to the end of March 2024 to use as a guide for the 2024/2024 budget.

The clerk continued that certain items would not reoccur and these had been taken into account when preparing the budget.

Members made various comments which would aid the formulation of the final budget.

Proposed by Cllr B Johnson, seconded by Cllr Z Lane

RESOLVED: To receive the above mentioned draft budget.

2715F To discuss/accept nominations for the nominative trustee appointments to Bourne United Charities and to make the necessary recommendations, (3 appointments to be made).

This item was discussed at length and it was decided to defer this matter to the next available meeting. However, it was generally agreed that as Town Councillors have already been voted for by the local electorate or gone through a co-option process, they are a fit person to serve on BUC. If the situation arose whereby BTC could not fulfil its nominations from within the Council then it may go beyond the members of the Council.

Proposed by Cllr R Baker, seconded by Cllr H Crawford and unanimously.

RESOLVED: To receive the above update

2716F To discuss/approve the reintroduction of a St Georges Day' celebration in April 2024

Cllr B Johnson had suggested to the Council that St Georges Day celebrations should be reintroduced next year under the management of the Town Council.

Members had varying views generally in favour but a wish was also expressed to combine this with a diversity celebration.

Proposed by Cllr B Johnson, seconded by Cllr C Pattison

RESOLVED: To confirm general agreement to the St Georges Day celebration but to agenda for the next amenities committee meeting

2717F To discuss/approve the commissioning of an investigative report on the current state of the 'Cemetery Chapel'.

The clerk informed members that the small working party had now met twice and were of the opinion that the starting point should be a new structural survey.

The clerk continued that the survey would be conducted by the same organisation that completed the last survey in 2015 to enable a consistent comparison.

Members asked if English Heritage had been consulted. The clerk confirmed that the cost would be approximately £3,000.00.

Proposed by Cllr R McKinney, seconded by Cllr A Willis, and unanimously

RESOLVED: To approve the commissioning of a new survey for the Cemetery Chapel.

2718F To receive an update on the Christmas Light switch on,

Cllr P Fellows gave the members a brief update on the event scheduled to take place on Saturday 2nd December.

Cllr Fellows asked members to email the clerk with times that they would be available to steward during the day.

Proposed by Cllr B Baricz Hughes, seconded by Cllr C Pattison, and unanimously

RESOLVED: To receive the above report.

2719F To discuss any information which the Chair may legally bring to the Council's attention.

The clerk informed the members of the following:

1) That a letter had been received from SKDC to confirm BTC's involvement with a consultation on local markets. The Council confirmed their wish to take part in such a consultation.

2) That due to Cllr Crawford's hard work over £240.00 had been raised serving teas/coffee's at the Remembrance Event. The members wished to extend their thanks to Cllr Crawford for her efforts.

3) That a discussion with the RBL locally would be needed before next year's Remembrance event.

4) That the third of the NP consultation events was due to take place in the Corn Exchange on the 29th November.

5) That Council leaders from Lincolnshire County Council had announced proposals for Greater Lincolnshire Devolution.

6) That SKDC are refreshing their corporate plan.

Cllr B Johnson announced that she would be holding a fundraiser on the 17th February in the Corn Exchange featuring 'The Band from County Hell' Tickets would be priced at £20 with a sausage and mash supper.

Due to their being no further items to discuss the chair brought the meeting to a close at 20:47hrs.