



MINUTES of the **ORDINARY MEETING** of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber on **Monday 7th July 2024 at 7pm**

Present: Stuart Condie Town Mayor
David Eggleton Deputy Town Mayor

Diane Black
Matthew Cornish
Cedric de Souza *
Robert Eggleston
Anne Eves
Bob Foster
Jon Gardner
Matthew Goldsmith
Janice Henwood
Simon Hicks
Trevor Hines
Mohammad Hossain
Tofojjul Hussein
John Orchard
Andy Stowe
Brenda Williams
Peter Williams
Adam White

* *Denotes non-attendance*

*Also in attendance: Julie Holden - Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Sam Kimblin - Administrative Support Officer
Inspector Derrick - Neighbourhood Policing Team
9 Members of the Public*

(19.00)

267. OPEN FORUM

There were no initial comments or questions.

268. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies given.

269. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations were received from:

Cllr White	Declared a prejudicial interest in Item 14 - Cancer Aid Event as a member of the Executive of the Constitutional Club and would not be voting.
Cllr Eves	Declared a personal interest in Item 14 as her husband was a member of the Constitutional Club.
Cllr P Williams, Cllr R Eggleston & Cllr A Stowe	Declared that they met with Mike Stewart, the manager of the Constitutional Club.
Julie Holden	Declared that while Officers do not declare interests in Council meetings, she would for transparency, state that regarding Item 14 she is a member of the Constitutional Club.

270. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor attended today's Teddy Bears picnic (organised by Burgess Hill Town Council) and this went very well. The Mayor will shortly be announcing his chosen charities, which will include promoting and giving more publicity to St Peter and St James hospice. He will choose one other charity for fundraising purposes.

271. COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED: The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting the Council held on Monday 6th May 2025 and the Extra Ordinary Meetings held on 12th May 2025 and 23rd June 2025 were **AGREED** and signed as a correct record.

272. POLICE UPDATE

The Town Mayor advised he would swap items 6 and 7 to allow Inspector Derrick to leave the meeting after his update.
Councillor Orchard arrived during this item

Inspector Derrick from the Neighbourhood Policing Team presented a report to Council. The relationship between the police and Burgess Hill Town Council (BHTC) remains very good. Regular meetings are held with the Chief Executive Officer and these are very productive. There are a small number of regular offenders in Burgess Hill who cause much of the crime. One of these individuals has now moved to Worthing and crime trends have changed dramatically as a result.

Burgess Hill – Last 3 months (April – June 2025)

- 3100 incidents – 610 Cat A, 163 Cat B, 253 Cat C
- 170 with Domestic Abuse Tag
- 1349 incidents attended by Police (108 more incidents attended than for previous 3 month period)

- Of the 1349 incidents attended – these include 53 violent crimes, 92 medical incident/concern, 188 Suspicious Acts, 179 road related incidents, 80 Missing Persons

Recorded crime in Burgess Hill

- - 11.7% rolling year reduction in total crime
- - 28.6% reduction for Robbery
- + 11.4% increase for Burglary
- - 34.9% reduction in Theft (46.1% for shoplifting)
- + 44.6% rolling year increase for Sexual offence
- + 7.1 rolling year increase in Possession of Weapons offences
- - 0.9% rolling year reduction in recorded Domestic Abuse crime

Mid Sussex has low crime figures across the national figures.

The local police don't breakdown the crime figures into individual wards or parishes. Crime rates are similar between the town centres of Burgess Hill, Haywards Heath and East Grinstead. Shop Watch is having a positive effect and supporting shop owners.

A question was asked about problems with car racing on certain roads. Members of the public are reporting these incidences. If offenders are caught racing, the police have the power to seize their car. This is known as Operation Crackdown. Inspector Derrick initiated the monthly "Cuppa with a Copper" sessions and he finds these very useful.

273. PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED: The Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 12th May, 2nd June and 24th June 2025 were **AGREED**.

274. CUSTOMER SERVICES KEY AREA GROUP NOTES OF MEETING

A query was raised regarding the accuracy of the minutes for Note 76: Bridge at Batchelors Farm. After discussion, it was agreed that the minutes were correct. A comment was made that the report clearly needed additional information when it was brought to Customer Services KAG.

A query was raised about the Councillor with an interest remaining in the room during the first vote that was taken at the KAG (which was subsequently re-taken). Councillor White stated that it was his mistake and he got it wrong on this occasion.

It was asked why Cllr White wasn't asked to leave the room at the time. It was confirmed that the discussion had moved very quickly and on this occasion this was missed.

Regarding Railway 200. The Chief Executive confirmed in response to an enquiry that no contact has yet been made with the individual to hopefully be named in the plaque, but progress is being made with contacts at Network Rail.

The Notes and decisions of the meeting of the Customer Services Key Area Group held on 16th June 2025 were **AGREED**.

275. FINANCE KEY AREA GROUP NOTES OF MEETING

The RFO and his team were thanked again for their work towards providing a clean audit.

RESOLVED: The Notes and the decisions of the meeting of the Finance Key Area Group held on 23rd June 2025 were **AGREED**.

276. DEED OF EASEMENT & WAYLEAVE LICENCE FOR CELLNEX CONNECTIVITY SYSTEMS

Council considered Agenda Item 10. This was without prejudice to any planning issues that may arise. The was part of the string of towers that are being placed between Brighton and Three Bridges to improve 5G connectivity for train users.

The developer is to submit a planning application regarding the footpath, after a long time this is now coming forward, the previous application to increase the number of houses in occupation before it is built is with the District Council. That is a separate matter and was addressed by the BHTC Planning Committee.

RESOLVED:

1 - The Deed of Easement can be entered in to and the Council seal affixed thereto.

2 - To grant the Wayleave for UK Power Networks, to place 2 new poles and underground cabling across 80m of Batchelors Farm.

3 - To request that Cellnex work with Taylor Wimpey regarding timescales for the new Bridle Way to avoid extra disruption.

277. MOTIONS RECEIVED

Council considered Agenda Item 11.

Cllr Henwood withdrew the first motion as this has since been addressed by the clarifications issued prior to the meeting.

The second motion was requested to be considered a part of Item 14.

278. YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT

Councillor B Williams provided a report on Youth Council, appended as Appendix B. Cllr B Williams and Cllr Black were thanked for their ongoing co-ordination of these meetings and to the Youth Council for their comprehensive report about St John's Park.

All councillors were all encouraged to attend a Youth Council Meeting in the future.

RESOLVED: The report was noted.

279. APPROVAL OF WORKING GROUPS (DEVOLUTION AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN)

Cllr P Williams confirmed an update to the sentence at the end of *Devolution Working Group* which should now read:

"This group will report directly to Council and the membership of the group will be proposed by the Leader at a later time and will consist of Town and double hatted District Councillors".

It was confirmed that Cllr R Eggleston is chair of the Strategic Development KAG and this is why he was chosen to be part of this Working Group.

RESOLVED: To approve the new working groups, terms of reference and membership.

280. LAND AT THE FORMER ROYAL BRITISH LEAGION BUILDING – CANCER AID

Cllr White left the meeting and did not take part in the discussion nor vote.

Cllr Henwood withdrew her second motion listed under Item 277, as the mitigations put forward by the organisers were very thorough.

Mr Stewart, the organiser who was in attendance, provided some background: A maximum of 200 people can attend this event. Whereas the previous Party in the Park had several hundred attendees. It was felt this would be a more low-key event. The Old Party in the Park committee has disbanded and there is no intention to do further events, but this was a last event to raise some funds for charity.

The BHTC Maintenance team have put up temporary barriers around the site to make the site safe until the event takes place. The permanent solution once opinion as to what is needed and quotes can be sourced will come back to the KAG.

Some councillors expressed support for this event and stated that it's a one-off event, organised by members of our local community and the proceeds will go to charity. The organisers hope to raise between £600 and £1,000

The Chair clarified that for events held on Town Council land, it is the hirer or user's responsibility to produce a risk assessments and have sufficient public liability insurance. It is the Officers' role to check that adequate insurance and risk assessments are in place. We do not require these things to be reviewed by councillors for every external event as this would lead to unnecessary delay.

It was stated that although a risk assessment had been produced, some local residents still have concerns. We need to balance the nature of the event and the benefits to the wider local community with the concerns of the immediate residents.

The organisers sent letters to 200 residents and only 1 resident has raised any concerns direct to the organisers.

It was queried why the Council were issuing a temporary events notice as that was for Mid Sussex DC. It was clarified that Burgess Hill Town Council were not, any licences needed applying to the District Council for, it was permission for the use of the land that was being requested as the land belonged to Burgess Hill Town Council. Mr Stewart confirmed his licences were in order.

Mr Stewart did ask if it was possible for the trenches be filled in, as now that the drains have been cleared the flood risk was removed. The Council were not able to consider this without further information.

RESOLVED: Council **AGREED** that the event can proceed on 12th July 2025. The St John's Ward Councillor abstained from this vote.

281. [DIARY DATES](#)

The forthcoming dates were noted.

The meeting was closed at **8.03pm**.

Chairmans Signature

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