



# **BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2024 – 2025**

## **CONTENTS**

<b>AGENDA</b>	Page 3
<b>REPORTS – 2024/2025</b>	
Annual Report – Cllr M Foster	Page 4
Public Lands and Open Spaces – Cllr M North	Page 6
Town Centre Management – Cllr J Woodhead	Page 8
Finance & General Purposes – Cllr D Strachan	Page 10
Personnel – Cllr M Russell	Page 12
<b>COUNCIL INFORMATION</b>	
Town Councillors Details	Page 13
Town Councillors Committee Membership	Page 14
Town Councillors Attendance Records	Page 15
Meeting Dates 2024/25	Page 16
Council Staff, Contact Details	Page 19

## **AGENDA**

Biggleswade Town Annual Assembly will take place on **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025** at the **Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade** commencing at **7:30 p.m.** in order to transact the undermentioned items of business.

Members of the public to put questions or to address the Council, through the Chairman. Each Speaker will give their name to the Chairman, prior to speaking, which will be recorded in the minutes, unless that person requests otherwise.

**Please register in advance for this webinar:**

**[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_-iDCrD99T1KqZsfHkPfkIA](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-iDCrD99T1KqZsfHkPfkIA)**



**1. APOLOGIES**

**2. MATTERS ARISING**

**3. ANNUAL REPORT OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL**

The Annual Report will be presented by Cllr M Foster.

**4. REPORTS**

- a. Public Lands and Open Spaces – Cllr M North.
- b. Town Centre Management – Cllr J Woodhead.
- c. Finance & General Purposes – Cllr D Strachan.
- d. Personnel – Cllr M Russell.

**5. RESOLUTION AND QUESTIONS**

For the meeting to consider subjects and resolutions affecting the Town, from Local Government Electors.

**6. OPEN FORUM – MATTERS RELATING TO BIGGLESWADE**

- a. Ward Councillors.
- b. Town Councillors.

## **Annual Report of Council 2024 – 2025**

It is a great privilege to serve as the Mayor of Biggleswade and I was honoured to be appointed for a second term last May. I am grateful to Cllr Gary Barrett for his support in his role as Deputy Mayor over the last twelve months.

I am pleased to introduce the Annual Report of Biggleswade Town Council, which will reflect on the work the Council has done, the progress made, the challenges, and achievements of the past twelve months.

The Town Council has four Standing Committees: Public Land and Open Spaces, Finance and General Purpose, Town Centre Management and Personnel Committees. Each Committee meets at least four times per year. Reports from the Chairman of each Committee form part of this Annual report, providing detail of the work of these Committees.

The Biggleswade Joint Committee considers strategic matters relating to Biggleswade. This Committee comprising four Town Councillors and four Central Bedfordshire Councillors, chaired by CBC Ward Councillor Gareth Tranter this year, with Town Councillor Madeline Russell as Deputy Chairman, also meets four times per year.

Town Councillors and Ward Councillors have consistently been opposed to the proposed development of up to 416 homes on land north of Furzenhall Road this site since 2019.

In August, for three days, the planning appeal for the development was held at Central Bedfordshire Council's Priory House headquarters in Chicksands.

The Town Council actively participated in the appeal process, expressing concerns about the potential impact on local infrastructure, traffic congestion, and the character of the area.

Unfortunately, On 6 November, the Planning Inspectorate upheld the appeal, overturning the original refusal and granting outline planning permission for the development.

In December, a revised planning application incorporating an additional access route from the Potton Road/Baden Powell Way roundabout was approved by Central Bedfordshire Council's Development Management Committee. It remains to be seen which option is built out.

In October, the Town Council hosted its inaugural Business Forum, bringing together local businesses, Town Council and Central Bedfordshire Council representatives and Richard Fuller MP, with the objectives of promoting understanding of current businesses, identifying opportunities for growth and change, and connecting businesses and organisations together. The event was a great success.

In November, Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day services were held in the town centre. The Remembrance Sunday service saw Biggleswade stand together to honour the bravery and sacrifice of all those who served, with many residents, veterans, youth organisations, and civic representatives including the Town Council in attendance.

The Armistice Day service, on 11th November, was a shorter but equally meaningful service, with members of the public taking part in the national silence at 11am. The high turnout and respectful atmosphere reflected our town's tradition of honouring those who gave their lives in service.

Also in November was the Annual Christmas Light "Switch-on" event, another successful and well attended event.

For 10 weeks starting on 10 January 2025 Dunton Lane was closed to support the installation of underground cables for a new substation in Biggleswade. This project is part of a £70 million government-funded initiative aimed at enhancing power, education, rail, and road infrastructure to support the town's growth.

The closure was necessary due to the nature of the works and the route the cables needed to take along Dunton Lane. During this period, bus connections to schools were maintained, and links between Biggleswade, Potton, and local villages continued with amended departure timings.

In March I was delighted to host the Biggleswade Civic Service at St Andrew's Church. It was an opportunity to recognise the individuals, groups and organisations that make a difference in our community, and that each of us has a part to play in making our town a place of kindness, cooperation, and opportunity. I was very grateful to HM Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, Susan Lousada for attending and for her enlightening and entertaining speech about the role of the Lieutenancy, past and present.

The Council has continued to support the twinning of Biggleswade with Erlensee, a town just outside Frankfurt in Germany. This year the two towns will have been twinned for 25 years and in early May some members of the Town Council will be travelling to celebrate the event with the Burgemeister and Stadtrat in Erlensee.

I would like to conclude my report by thanking my fellow Councillors and Officers for their continued hard work and commitment to do the best for Biggleswade. You will see and hear from the next reports the huge amount of work that the Council has been doing over the last year, and its plans for the future.

**Cllr. Mark Foster**

**Mayor of Biggleswade.**

## **PUBLIC LANDS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE 2024/2025**

**Chairman:** Cllr Michael North. **Deputy-Chairman:** Cllr Colin Thomas.

**Ex-Officio Members:** Cllr G Barrett, Cllr M Foster.

**Members:** Cllr D Albone, Cllr P Guilcher, Cllr J Jones, Cllr M Knight, Cllr A Skilton, Cllr D Strachan, Cllr J Woodhead.

## **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL ASSEMBLY REPORT 2024/2025**

### **Overview**

This has been a year of achievement of a number of long-standing objectives and a plan for further enhancement of several of the Council's facilities. The opening of the Kitelands and Brunel Drive redeveloped play areas were worthwhile achievements, and other significant new projects have moved forward in planning.

The maintenance of routine activities continues to be carried out to a high standard by our Public Realm team.

### **Play and Recreation Areas**

Refurbishments of Kitelands and Brunel play areas are now completed and we are hopeful that a phase two addition to Kitelands will be completed this year. The Kitelands work is being funded by the very generous help of Tritax Symmetry, a major property developer with a substantial commitment to the development of the Saxon Business Park.

The works involved in making the Jubilee Recreation Area more accessible have finally been completed. In addition, a Tiny Forest has been established to add to the amenity value.

Much valuable work has been done by the public realm team in repairing and refurbishing play area equipment in other play areas. A programme of upgrading all these areas is in place.

### **Public Realm Staff and Depot**

The depot continues to prove its worth for the staff and the council. Some changes in personnel have taken place but standards have been maintained at a high level. The Council has agreed to the recruitment of two additional staff members to enhance the quality of the work.

Equipment and vehicles have been or are planned to be replaced as they reach the end of their useful lives. The team now have the equipment they need to do the job.

A possible challenge to come is the takeover of responsibility for the green spaces in Kings Reach. Discussions about this have been going on for several years and we are hopeful that some progress will be made in the near future.

### **Flower Beds, Planters and Hanging Baskets**

The high quality of the displays has been maintained across the town. Improvements have been made in recent years and a very high quality of display is now the norm.

### **Allotments**

Several improvements have been made to the allotments. Our regular consultation with the allotment holders generates many good ideas.

### **Drove Road Cemetery**

The Council started an extensive restoration project some time ago for the Grade II listed chapel building which dates back to the mid-1800s and is a landmark in the town. This project has now been completed, and the state of the building is much improved.

There is a continuing problem of vandalism and anti-social behaviour in the area which the Council is addressing.

### **Stratton Way Cemetery**

The Council has done a lot of work on planning improvements to the offering at this cemetery. This included valuable help and advice from individuals involved in operating cemeteries in councils much larger than ours. This has now progressed to the formulation of a detailed plan with costings that the council has accepted.

Work has started on a multi-year project to enhance this valuable facility.

### **Drove Road Tennis Courts**

A major project for the year that we hoped would progress quickly has yet to move very far forward. A lengthy planning and investigation stage was followed by a process of consultation with local residents.

The next stage is to seek planning permission for the upgrades planned and we are hopeful that this will be moved forward later in the year.

### **Saxon Gate Pocket Park and Biggleswade Linear Wood**

Discussions with Central Bedfordshire Council seem to have gone on forever about taking over the management of these areas and progress has been made. However, the takeover is not yet fully completed.

We believe that under Town Council management these areas could be better managed and made into more useful green spaces for town residents.

### **Fairfield Road Recreation Areas**

Discussions with the Cricket Club and Biggleswade United Football Club have continued and, while no definite plans are yet in place we are optimistic that significant improvements to these facilities will be made in the near future.

**Cllr. Michael North**

**Chairman, Public Lands & Open Spaces Committee**

## **TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2024/2025**

**Chairman:** Cllr J Woodhead. **Deputy Chairman:** Cllr S Patel.

**Ex-Officio Members:** Cllr G Barrett, Cllr M Foster.

**Members:** Cllr I Agnew, Cllr P Guilcher, Cllr M Knight, Cllr M North, Cllr A Skilton, Cllr D Strachan, Cllr C Thomas.

## **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL ASSEMBLY REPORT 2024/2025**

It has been a privilege to Chair the Town Centre Management Committee (TCM) once again over the past year.

As I highlighted last year the economic climate for Town Centre businesses is a difficult one with recent increases in employer National Insurance Contributions, Minimum Wage rises, Rent and rates increases all adding to the challenges of running and sustaining local businesses. To that end we have seen a number of retailers vacate from the Town Centre including a national chain – Peacock's - as well as some independent traders. There have been further bank closures too mirroring a national trend. Following the closure of Lloyds Bank by November 2025, Biggleswade will have Nationwide as the only remaining bank or building society.

TCM members are rightly concerned about the lack of banking facilities in the town and the Town Council will continue to work with Cash Access and our local Post Office's to look at the possibility of securing a banking hub.

On the positive side of the ledger many of our local independent businesses continue to thrive and some are contemplating expansion. This further cements Biggleswade Town Centre's role as a leisure and services hub rather than solely a retail one.

Our programme of events has been well supported by the community starting with the D-Day 80 anniversary held in the Market Square back in June, the Biggleswade History Weekend in conjunction with The Bigg Theatre utilising the White Hart Car Park, a second Biggleswade Bus Running Day in conjunction with the United Counties Preservation Society, our well attended Remembrance Sunday parade in November and our ever-popular Christmas Lights Switch On. While there were some issues with the lights themselves last year, I am confident this will not be repeated. The Reindeer visit over the Christmas period was popular with people of all ages. I am also pleased to say that Biggleswade Town Council have agreed with the BIGG Eats a further programme of food and drink events over the Spring and Summer months in the Market Square. I hope the weather is better this year!

At the time of writing, we are looking forward to an Easter Egg Hunt (held in Franklins Recreation Ground) and a Victory Day party on 5 July to jointly commemorate 80 Years since VE and VJ Day. Lots of entertainment is being lined up so do come along!

In terms of the Market ever since the Pandemic it has been a challenge to attract new stallholders. The series of Artisan Markets have been a great way to address that and my thanks to Officers for carrying that through. There have been other specialty Markets coming through such as the Vegan Market held in January and the Biggleswade Flea Market coming to the market in April.

One area of continuing concern is the level of crime in the town centre and to some extent at the A1 Retail Park. A Shopwatch scheme has been created to combat shoplifting, and the Council maintain good links with the Biggleswade Policing Team esp. our local PCSOs.



The Town Council have made good progress on modernising the car parking machines at all Town Council run car parks. Biggleswade Town Council is unusual in the Bedfordshire area in actually managing its own Car Parks (rather than the principal authority), but this gives additional flexibility to the Town Council to create space for events and markets as well as being a revenue source for the Council.

In December, the Deputy Chair of TCM, Cllr Sarju Patel and I had the pleasure of hosting the then High Sheriff of Bedfordshire, Mr. Baves Shah on a walkabout tour of the town centre. The High Sheriff visited many local businesses and retailers in our busy pre-Christmas period. The visit was useful in highlighting to him the challenges facing the town many of which I have outlined in this report.

Finally, I would like to give my thanks to Cllr Sarju Patel for being Deputy Chair of the Committee and to all Council Officers for supporting the Committee in its role and with the many events that have taken place in the past year.

**Cllr. Jonathan Woodhead**

**Chairman, Town Centre Management Committee**

## **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE 2024/2025**

**Chair:** Cllr D Strachan. **Deputy Chair:** Cllr I Agnew.

**Ex-officio Member:** Cllr G Barrett, Cllr M Foster.

**Members:** Cllr D Albone, Cllr M North, Cllr S Sajid, Cllr C Thomas, Cllr M Russell, Cllr M Knight.

### **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL ASSEMBLY REPORT 2023/2024**

Report on Financial Accounts  
Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

The Finance and General Purposes Committee's main functions are to monitor the overall financial governance and performance of the Council, including:

- Preparation of the budget and precepts and submitting them to Council for approval.
- Ensuring adequate financial controls are in place to utilise and protect the Council's finances and assets – to include insurance of buildings, property, and maintenance of the asset register.
- Monitoring compliance with financial procedures, regulations, and statutes, and to implement correct measures from internal and external audits.
- Oversight of loans (including Public Works Loan Board), leases, property and vehicle insurance, mortgages, and debt recovery.

In addition, the committee has responsibility for the management of the Orchard Community Centre and the management of the Council's grant process.

#### **Financial summary:**

The financial overview of the Town Council's financial performance for the year 2024/25 shows an overall surplus of £45,379. This report is not the final position for the year as the year end closedown is underway and it is only indicative. A more detailed report will be made available upon completion of the accounts.

The Council has worked hard to manage costs and deliver savings this year. The agreed precept for 2025/26 is £1,838,460, an increase of £212,530 compared to the last financial year. This will allow the Council to continue to invest in projects to improve the town.

#### **Major Activities:**

The Council has continued to implement the actions identified during the Finance Review carried out in 2021/22. Major activities during the financial year include:

- Restructuring of the financial organisation within the Council, to align responsibilities to the appropriate roles and to bring financial management completely in house.
- The Council continues its review of finance policies and procedures to ensure best practice, including implementation of new systems for purchase orders and allotment management.

- The Council has this year applied for £408,000 of additional grant funding and has successfully accessed £174,000. It will continue to apply for more grants and access to monies from CBC from S106 monies paid by developers.
- Officers have been able to generate cost savings of £63,874.
- The Council incurred unbudgeted expenditure to improve its football pitches and support Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) at the planning enquiry into the development of land to the north of Furzenhall.
- As a result of the diligent work of officers the Council has been able to make considerable savings which has resulted in the surplus which will now be used to replenish our reserves. This is consistent with the expectations of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

The committee continues to review all its financial systems, processes, and policies to simplify its reporting structure, improve transparency and increase the Council's efficiency.

In 2024/25, the Council used loan monies from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLb) to fund the first phase of a number of improvements to the Town's assets. This includes refurbishment of Playgrounds and the Cemeteries as well upgrading the allotment provision in the town. Works at Drove Road on the chapel and cemetery and the improvements at Brunel Drive Recreation Ground were completed.

This year, twenty-three grants totalling £21,807 were awarded to charities and good causes that benefit the residents of Biggleswade, in addition to our ongoing support to fund the employment of a Community Agent by Bedfordshire Rural Community Charity.

I would like to thank all the Officers and Members who have supported the work of the committee this year.

**Cllr. Duncan Strachan**

**Chairman, Finance & General Purposes Committee**

## **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE 2024/2025**

**Chair:** Cllr M Russell. **Deputy Chair:** Cllr P Guilcher.

**Ex-Officio Members:** Cllr G Barrett, Cllr M Foster.

**Members:** Cllr D Albone, Cllr J Jones, Cllr M Knight, Cllr D Strachan, Cllr C Thomas,  
Cllr J Woodhead.

## **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL ASSEMBLY REPORT 2024/2025**

Our staff team continues to evolve to meet the challenges of supporting our growing town in so many different ways. Current staff acquire new skills and, if a vacancy occurs, the role is assessed to see whether it is better to recruit someone with slightly different competencies.

The churn in staff that we have experienced has largely been for personal reasons, with people moving to other parts of the country to be nearer their family. Although not happy to lose their experience, we, of course, wish them well.

The Council appreciates very much that, as well as dealing with the demands of day-to-day business, staff are willing to work evenings and weekends as required: at the Orchard Centre, attending formal Council meetings or supporting events in the town such as the Markets, Christmas Fair and Lights Switch-On and Remembrance Sunday.

All Council staff have had regular appraisal and target setting meetings and have received a satisfactory or above in their level of performance. All staff also have an individual training plan, discussed at their annual review, to ensure that they can refresh their skills and learn new skills as required. Many staff have had Fire Warden and First Aid training, and some have had safeguarding training to know how to handle issues like lost children at public events.

Over the past year, the Committee has reviewed or agreed new policies for: Capability and Absence Management; Anti-Bullying and Harassment; Health & Safety; Grievance Procedure and Dress Code Guidance.

In addition, the Committee has agreed a more formal Member Code of Conduct as recommended by the National Association of Local Councils and the Local Government Association.

The Committee receives regular reports on staff sickness levels; overtime; uptake of annual leave; and Time off in Lieu. These metrics are consistently satisfactory.

Last year saw the introduction of the first ever Council-wide employee survey, looking at the culture within the organisation and the level of employee satisfaction. An outside firm was appointed to conduct and analyse the survey, and their report went to the Personnel Committee, along with proposals to address the few concerns and misapprehensions raised by staff. The Committee monitored the implementation of those proposals during the year and the issues raised by staff have all been addressed.

The survey has just been repeated in 2025, conducted by the same firm and with the same questions for comparison. It is encouraging to hear that there has been a 100% response rate from staff. The firm are now preparing their report, which will go to the first meeting of the Personnel Committee in the new municipal year, in May.

Overall, a satisfactory year. We have a good team at the Town Council ready to face the new challenges that will inevitably arise.

**Cllr. Madeline Russell**

**Chairman, Personnel Committee**

## **BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL - TOWN COUNCILLORS**

**As of 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

<b>CONTACT DETAILS</b>		<b>WARD/PARTY</b>	
<b>Agnew</b> , Cllr Inessa <a href="mailto:Inessa.agnew@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk">Inessa.agnew@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk</a> 2 Planets Way, Biggleswade, SG18 8 FB	07833103690	Stratton	Conservative
<b>Albone</b> , Cllr David <a href="mailto:david.albone@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk">david.albone@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk</a> 48 Drove Road, Biggleswade SG18 8HD	01767221385	Ivel	Labour
<b>Barrett</b> , Cllr Gary <a href="mailto:gary.barrett@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk">gary.barrett@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk</a> 27 Wharf Mews, Biggleswade, SG18 0AW	07740565575	Stratton	Conservative
<b>Foster</b> , Cllr Mark <a href="mailto:mark.foster@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk">mark.foster@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk</a> 22 Sorrell Way, Biggleswade SG18 8WB	07812 208684	Stratton	Conservative
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<b>Knight</b> , Cllr Mark <a href="mailto:mark.knight@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk">mark.knight@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk</a> 30 Mountbatten Drive, Biggleswade, SG18 0JJ	07753250584	Stratton	Conservative
<b>Jones</b> , Cllr Jo <a href="mailto:jo.jones@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk">jo.jones@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk</a> 60 Beech Avenue, Biggleswade, SG18 0EQ	07958300247	Stratton	Independent
<b>North</b> , Cllr Michael <a href="mailto:michael.north@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk">michael.north@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk</a> 52 Dells Lane, Biggleswade SG18 8LP	07776202055	Holme	Conservative
<b>Patel</b> , Cllr Sarju <a href="mailto:Sarju.patel@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk">Sarju.patel@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk</a> 87A High Street, Biggleswade, SG18 0LA	07795014731	Ivel	Conservative
<b>Russell</b> , Cllr Madeline <a href="mailto:madeline.russell@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk">madeline.russell@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk</a> 31 Ivel Gardens, Biggleswade SG18 0AN	01767312966	Ivel	Conservative
<b>Sajid</b> , Cllr Sabeel <a href="mailto:Sabeel.sajid@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk">Sabeel.sajid@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk</a> 89 Potton Road, Biggleswade, SG18 0DZ	07779528777	Holme	Conservative
<b>Skilton</b> , Cllr Andrew <a href="mailto:Andrew.skilton@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk">Andrew.skilton@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk</a> 5 Winston Crescent, Biggleswade, SG18 0ET	07572581472	Ivel	Independent
<b>Strachan</b> , Cllr Duncan <a href="mailto:duncan.strachan@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk">duncan.strachan@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk</a> 3 Tennyson Avenue, Biggleswade, SG18 8QD	01767225919	Holme	Independent
<b>Thomas</b> , Cllr Colin <a href="mailto:colin.thomas@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk">colin.thomas@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk</a> 11 Drove Road, Biggleswade, SG18 8HD	07940053496	Holme	Conservative
<b>Woodhead</b> , Cllr Jonathan <a href="mailto:jonathan.woodhead@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk">jonathan.woodhead@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk</a> 21 The Baulk, Biggleswade, SG18 0PX	07719888476	Holme	Conservative

### **CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Gareth Tranter  
Cllr Steven Watkins  
Cllr Grant Fage  
Cllr Dr Hayley Whitaker  
Cllr Paul How

## **MEMBERSHIP OF STANDING COMMITTEES 2024/25**

The Chairman and Deputy Chairman, ex-officio, shall be voting Members of every Committee, unless they signify that they do not wish to serve.

TOWN COUNCIL	FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES	PUBLIC LANDS & OPEN SPACES	BIGGLESWADE JOINT COMMITTEE	PERSONNEL
Cllr. M. Foster (Mayor) Cllr. G. Barrett (Deputy Mayor) Cllr. I. Agnew Cllr. D. Albone Cllr. P. Guilcher Cllr. J. Jones Cllr. M. Knight Cllr. M. North Cllr. S. Patel Cllr. M. Russell Cllr. S. Sajid Cllr. A. Skilton Cllr. D. Strachan Cllr. C. Thomas Cllr. J. Woodhead  TOTAL = 15	Cllr. D. Strachan (Chairman) Cllr. I. Agnew (Deputy Chairman) Cllr. D. Albone Cllr. M. Knight Cllr. M. North Cllr. M. Russell Cllr. S. Sajid Cllr. C. Thomas TOTAL = 8	Cllr. M. North (Chairman) Cllr. C. Thomas (Deputy Chairman) Cllr. P. Guilcher Cllr. J. Jones Cllr. M. Knight Cllr. A. Skilton Cllr. D. Strachan Cllr. J. Woodhead TOTAL = 8	Cllr. (Chairman) Cllr. M. Russell (Deputy Chairman) Cllr. D. Albone Cllr. G. Barrett Cllr. D. Strachan Cllr. C. Thomas (substitute) Cllr. J. Woodhead (substitute) TOTAL = 6  <hr/> TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT Cllr. J. Woodhead (Chairman) Cllr. S. Patel (Deputy Chairman) Cllr. I. Agnew Cllr. D. Albone Cllr. P. Guilcher Cllr. M. Knight Cllr. M. North Cllr. A. Skilton Cllr. D. Strachan Cllr. C. Thomas TOTAL = 10	Cllr. M. Russell (Chairman) Cllr. P. Guilcher (Deputy Chairman) Cllr. D. Albone Cllr. J. Jones Cllr. M. Knight Cllr. D. Strachan Cllr. C. Thomas Cllr. J. Woodhead TOTAL = 8  <hr/> APPEALS Cllr. S. Patel (Chairman) Cllr. M. North (Deputy Chairman) Cllr. I. Agnew Cllr. A. Skilton TOTAL = 4

## COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE RECORD BY COMMITTEE

**19<sup>th</sup> April 2024 – 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

Councillor	Council Meetings 2024- 2025	Joint Committee 2024- 2025	Finance & General Purposes 2024- 2025	Public Lands & Open Spaces 2024- 2025	Town Centre Management 2024- 2025	Personnel 2024- 2025	Appeals 2024- 2025	Overall
<b>Cllr M Foster (Mayor)</b>	88%		100%	100%	75%	100	N/A	<b>93%</b>
<b>Cllr G Barrett (Deputy Mayor)</b>	88%	100%	80%	50%	75%	75%		<b>78%</b>
<b>Cllr I Agnew</b>	69%		100%		50%		N/A	<b>73%</b>
<b>Cllr D Albone</b>	81%	100%	100%	100%	75%	100%		<b>93%</b>
<b>Cllr P Guilcher</b>	56%			50%	25%	75%		<b>52%</b>
<b>Cllr J Jones</b>	63%			50%		75%		<b>63%</b>
<b>Cllr M Knight</b>	50%		100%	75%	0%	50%		<b>55%</b>
<b>Cllr M North</b>	88%		80%	100%	75%		N/A	<b>86%</b>
<b>Cllr S Patel</b>	69%				50%		N/A	<b>59%</b>
<b>Cllr M Russell</b>	94%	100%	60%			100%		<b>88%</b>
<b>Cllr S Sajid</b>	31%		20%					<b>26%</b>
<b>Cllr A Skilton</b>	63%			100%	100%		N/A	<b>88%</b>
<b>Cllr D Strachan</b>	94%	100%	100%	75%	75%	100%		<b>91%</b>
<b>Cllr C Thomas</b>	88%	N/A	60%	100%	75%	100%		<b>70%</b>
<b>Cllr J Woodhead</b>	69%	N/A		75%	100%	75%		<b>80%</b>

**NB:** These attendance percentages are based upon Members recorded physical attendance at Committees and exclude joining remotely on Zoom. Members must be physically present to cast a vote since the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) (England) Regulations 2020 was repealed.





# MEETING DATES FOR 2025-26

## MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND



DATES	TIME	MEETING
29 <sup>th</sup> April	7.30 pm	Annual Assembly
<b>2025</b>		
13 <sup>th</sup> May	7.00 pm	Annual Statutory Council
20 <sup>th</sup> May	7.00pm	Personnel
27 <sup>th</sup> May	7.00 pm	Council Reserve
3 <sup>rd</sup> June		
10 <sup>th</sup> June	7.00 pm	Council
17 <sup>th</sup> June	7.00 pm	Public Lands & Open Spaces
24 <sup>th</sup> June	7.00 pm	Council Reserve
1 <sup>st</sup> July	7.00 pm	Finance & General Purposes
8 <sup>th</sup> July	7.00 pm	Council
15 <sup>th</sup> July	7.00 pm	Town Centre Management
22 <sup>nd</sup> July	7.00 pm	Council Reserve
24 <sup>th</sup> July	7.00 pm	Joint Committee
29 <sup>th</sup> July		
5 <sup>th</sup> August		
12 <sup>th</sup> August	7.00 pm	Council
19 <sup>th</sup> August	7.00 pm	Personnel
26 <sup>th</sup> August	7.00 pm	Council Reserve
2 <sup>nd</sup> September		
9 <sup>th</sup> September	7.00 pm	Council
16 <sup>th</sup> September	7.00 pm	Finance & General Purposes
23 <sup>rd</sup> September	7.00 pm	Council Reserve
30 <sup>th</sup> September		
7 <sup>th</sup> October		
14 <sup>th</sup> October	7.00 pm	Council
21 <sup>st</sup> October	7.00 pm	Public Lands & Open Spaces (Budget)
23 <sup>rd</sup> October	7.00 pm	Joint Committee
28 <sup>th</sup> October	7.00 pm	Town Centre Management (Budget)

<b>4<sup>th</sup> November</b>	7.00 pm	Personnel (Budget)
<b>11<sup>th</sup> November</b>	7.00 pm	Council
<b>18<sup>th</sup> November</b>		
<b>25<sup>th</sup> November</b>	7.00 pm	Council – Broader Budget Setting
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> December</b>	7.00 pm	Finance & General Purposes (Budget)
<b>9<sup>th</sup> December</b>	7.00 pm	Council
<b>16<sup>th</sup> December</b>		
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> December</b>		
<b>30<sup>th</sup> December</b>		
<b>2026</b>		
<b>6<sup>th</sup> January</b>	7.00 pm	Finance & General Purposes (Budget)
<b>13<sup>th</sup> January</b>	7.00 pm	Council
<b>15<sup>th</sup> January</b>	7.00 pm	Joint Committee
<b>20<sup>th</sup> January</b>	7.00 pm	Council - Precept
<b>27<sup>th</sup> January</b>	7.00 pm	Public Lands & Open Spaces
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> February</b>	7.00 pm	Personnel
<b>10<sup>th</sup> February</b>	7.00 pm	Council
<b>17<sup>th</sup> February</b>	7.00 pm	Town Centre Management
<b>24<sup>th</sup> February</b>	7.00 pm	Council Reserve
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> March</b>		
<b>10<sup>th</sup> March</b>	7.00 pm	Council
<b>17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	7.00 pm	Finance & General Purposes
<b>24<sup>th</sup> March</b>	7.00 pm	Council Reserve
<b>31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	7.00 pm	Public Lands & Open Spaces
<b>7<sup>th</sup> April</b>		
<b>14<sup>th</sup> April</b>	7.00 pm	Council
<b>16<sup>th</sup> April</b>	7.00 pm	Joint Committee
<b>21<sup>st</sup> April</b>	7.00 pm	Town Centre Management
<b>28<sup>th</sup> April</b>	7.30 pm	Annual Assembly
<b>New Municipal Year – 2026/27</b>		
<b>5<sup>th</sup> May</b>		
<b>12<sup>th</sup> May</b>	7.00 pm	Annual Statutory
<b>19<sup>th</sup> May</b>		

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