

BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held at
The Parish Hall, Victoria Place, Brightlingsea on:
Thursday 1st May 2025 at 7.00 p.m.

Present:
Councillor J Carr (Mayor)

In attendance:
Councillors:
M Barry, M Court, J Chapman, J Howard, M Judson,
R Morgan, C Paveley, K Pentney, G Steady

Tracey Pulford –Town Clerk
Julie Crittenden – Administrative Assistant
County Councillor Alan Goggin
16 Members of the Public

01. MAYOR TO OPEN MEETING:

The Mayor of Brightlingsea, Councillor John Carr, opened the meeting by welcoming all those present. He reiterated that this is the Annual Town Meeting, organised by the Town Council, it is not a Council meeting, but a legal requirement of the Council to hold this meeting for the organisations of the town.

02. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL TOWN MEETING:

The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 9th May 2024 were **agreed** by those present.

03. REPORT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2024/2025:

The Mayor said that he has had a fantastic year, attending 69 functions with two more to go for VE 80 Day, including cake bakes to meeting HRH Princess Anne. He then gave an overview of the Council during the past year (see copy of PowerPoint presentation).

04. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:

District Councillors:-

A copy of the District Councillors report had been circulated to all present.

County Councillor:-

A copy of the report from County Councillor Goggin had been circulated to all present.

County Councillor Goggin briefed members on his report. He gave thanks to the Staff of the Council, who represent the Town well.

Town Organisations:

The following written reports has been circulated to all present:-

- Brightlingsea & District Rotary Club
- 4th Brightlingsea Scout Group
- Brightlingsea Beach Hut Association
- Brightlingsea Co-Op Women's Guild
- Brightlingsea Free Music Festival
- Brightlingsea in Bloom

- Brightlingsea Litter Pickers
- Brightlingsea Museum
- Brightlingsea Nature Network
- Brightlingsea Regatta
- Brightlingsea Regent Football Club
- Brightlingsea U3a
- Mending Matters Brightlingsea
- RNLI Brightlingsea & District Branch
- The Royal British Legion
- Royal Naval Association, Brightlingsea Branch
- The Springmead Trust
- Brightlingsea & District Horticultural Society
- YMCA

The Mayor highlighted the report from the Rotary Club, and said that volunteers are needed to help. If anyone knows of anyone who can volunteer to help, please pass on their details.

Verbal reports were given from:-

- Winterfest, in its 10th year, have raised over £7,500 holding 44 different events throughout February 2025. We offer grants to local people and organisations, to help improve health and wellbeing.
- Accessibility Map for Brightlingsea – a short presentation was given on an idea of an Accessibility Map for Brightlingsea. A ‘Vote of Confidence’ has been given by the Town Council and they will work in collaboration with the group and help where necessary.
- The Saturday Club has been running for 25 years. It is for adults with special needs of any kind. We hold a disco in the YMCA hall once a month, it costs £3.50 including refreshments and a free raffle. We have 10 volunteers helping and we thank the Town Council for all your support over the years.
- Brightlingsea Free Music Festival – would like to thank the Town Council for supporting and offering a grant every year. The costs are increasing more and more and this year it will cost around £30,000 to put on. We are always looking for volunteers, and this year are having an accessible area, an accessible toilet. We have a new safeguarding policy and hope to install a sensory area next year.

05. OPEN FORUM:

The following questions were raised:-

A1) The ‘No Cycling’ signs on the Promenade, people do not take any notice of the signs by the Sailing Club.

A1) Another one is to be installed by the Paddling Pool and Millionaires Row. Councillor Judson added that signs should also be installed by the Lido on the Promenade. Councillor Steady replied that he has requested one on the slope by the Lido/Shelter.

Q2) The Royal Visit by HRH Princess Anne to the Museum - Dave and Margaret Stone and their team did a fabulous job and they should be congratulated on this. A round of applause was given.

Margaret Stone thanked everyone and replied that it was a ‘team’ effort.

Q3) The team that ran the Late-Night Shopping event put in a huge amount of work, there was also a lot for families on low income. A round of applause was given.

Kerry Pentney thanked the resident for their comments and added that it was also a ‘team’ effort.

06. CLOSE OF MEETING:

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.36 p.m.

Chair

Date: 30.04.26