



Minutes of **FILTTON TOWN COUNCIL'S – Full Council Meeting** held at 7:00PM on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 – Held at: Studio 1, Elm Park Leisure Centre, Filton, Elm Park, Bristol, BS34 7PS

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**PRESENT: Cllrs:** T Mewies (*Chair & Mayor*), B. Mead (*Deputy Mayor*), A.Bird, B. Dewfall, D. Harris, J. Molloy, S. Milestone, J.Baverstock

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Simon Davies (*Town Clerk*), Robert Hutton (*Deputy Clerk*), Lucy Frost (*Press*), Sean Bell (*Centre Manager*), Ollie Keeble (*Filton Athletic Chair*), PC Megan Lyons (*Beat officer*)

**APOLOGIES: Cllrs:** A. Monk, A. Doyle.

**NON-ATTENDANCE:** E. Adjeivi

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***MEETING STARTED AT 7:05PM***

**1. EVACUATION PROCEDURES  
NOTED.**

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE  
NOTED:** A. Monk, A. Doyle

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- a. No declarations of interest were received.
- b. Cllr D. Harris advised that he is no longer a member of the Labour Party and is now sitting as an Independent member.
- c. No requests for dispensations were received.

**4. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:** That **items 22 and 23** be excluded from the press and public.

**5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**RESOLVED:** No questions were received from members of the public or press.

**6. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026 be approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

**7. MINUTES FROM COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL**

**NOTED:** The following minutes were received and noted.

- Staffing Committee – 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026
- Finance & Scrutiny Committee – 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026
- Assets & Open Spaces Committee – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026
- Planning & Climate Committee – 3<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**8. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

No matters were raised.

**9. ONE YEAR IN REFLECTION – LEISURE CENTRE**

**NOTED:** The Town Clerk reflected on the one-year anniversary of the collapse of the previous leisure operator. He outlined the unprecedented challenges faced, including the immediate impact on staff, customers, and the Council.

It was noted that the Council acted swiftly to implement emergency measures, resulting in the successful reopening of the centre within 53 days under new management. Significant progress has been made over the past year, including improved financial performance, increased usage, and strengthened community engagement.

The Mayor formally thanked the Town Clerk and officers for their commitment and hard work. Members expressed their appreciation.

## **10. REPORT FROM LOCAL BEAT TEAM**

**NOTED:** The report from the Filton Beat Team was received and presented by PC Megan Lyons.

Key priorities identified:

- Anti-social behaviour involving off-road bikes in the Elm Park area
- Shop theft at Shield Retail Park, with incidents previously reaching up to five per day

Actions taken include increased police patrols, collaboration with trading standards and HMRC, and targeted enforcement activity. Updates were also provided regarding vehicle-related offences and ongoing monitoring of suspicious activity.

## **11. ELM PARK CAR PARK ENTRANCE MURAL**

**NOTED:** A presentation was received from a student designer outlining the concept and progress of the Elm Park mural.

The design reflects Filton's heritage, including its links to aviation, wartime history, and community life. The project has involved detailed research and community engagement. Completion is expected by the end of May 2026. The mural will support wider initiatives including the Green Flag Award and the Town of Culture bid.

## **12. PRESENTATION BY ELM PARK LEISURE**

**NOTED:** The Centre Manager presented a performance update for February 2026.

Key points:

- Membership increased by 73 to a total of 1,418
- Growth of approximately 10-15% over recent months
- Positive revenue trends with continued projected growth
- Planned promotional campaigns to attract and retain members

Operational updates included energy management measures, maintenance works, and compliance activity, with a reported 91% audit score.

Members discussed retention rates, energy usage, and future growth potential.

## **13. FILTON ATHLETIC FC – DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION**

A presentation was received outlining the club's growth, structure, and ambitions for league promotion.

The club highlighted the need for infrastructure improvements to meet league requirements, including:

- Floodlighting
- Spectator facilities
- Pitch upgrades
- Changing facilities

Funding opportunities were identified, including the Premier League Stadium Fund. Members expressed strong support for the club's role within the community.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council works in partnership with Filton Athletic FC to explore and support the delivery of required infrastructure, subject to further detailed proposals.

**14. SLANT E-CARRIAGE POWERED TRAILER**

**RESOLVED:** That this item be deferred to the Assets & Open Spaces Committee meeting scheduled for April 2026.

**15. SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

**NOTED:** Written reports were received in advance and read out by the Town Clerk due to the absence of attending councillors.

**16. ACCESS TO MAYOR'S CHAIN**

Members considered arrangements for the use of the mayoral chain at official events.

**RESOLVED:** That the Deputy Mayor be permitted to wear the chain when required, and that options for modification be explored.

**17. LOCALISM – VERGES MAINTENANCE**

**RESOLVED:** That the existing arrangement with South Gloucestershire Council for verge maintenance be continued for a further year.

**18. BLENHEIM DRIVE PLAY AREA TRANSFER**

**RESOLVED:** That the Council accepts the transfer of the play area.

**19. UK TOWN OF CULTURE BID**

**NOTED:** The Town Clerk provided an update on the submission of the Expression of Interest. Members were advised:

- Outcome expected mid-May 2026
- Potential funding of £60,000 if successful
- Extensive partnership working underway with local organisations and stakeholders

**20. BUS GATE UPDATE**

**NOTED:** Members discussed ongoing delays relating to the proposed bus gate scheme. Concerns were raised regarding communication and progress with South Gloucestershire Council. It was noted that estimated costs have reduced, however no formal decision has yet been made.

Members agreed to continue engagement via the Town Clerk.

**21. ITEMS TO NOTE**

**NOTED:** The following updates were received:

- Work experience programme
- Conygre Project update and launch planning
- Upcoming election for Conygre Ward (anticipated May 2026)
- Cancellation of BRISKA Family Fun Day

**22. EXCLUSION ITEMS (CONFIDENTIAL)**

- Corporate Services Restructure – Deferred.
- Planning Enforcement Update – Noted.

**23. COMMITTEE VACANCIES**

Members were advised of current vacancies on the following committees:

- Planning & Climate Committee
- Assets & Open Spaces Committee

**NOTED:** Cllrs Mead and Harris expressed interest in joining the Assets & Open Spaces Committee.

**24. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

No other urgent business was declared.

**25. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7pm.

***MEETING CLOSED AT 8:51PM***