



**FLITWICK TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
MEETING HELD ON 10TH DECEMBER 2024 AT 7:45 PM AT THE RUFUS CENTRE**

Present:

Cllr Blazeby

Cllr Hodges

Cllr Parsons

1578. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Snape – holiday, Cllr Roberts – work commitment and Cllr Harald – unwell.

1579. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive Statutory Declarations of Interests from Members in relation to:

(a) Disclosable Pecuniary interests in any agenda item – none.

(b) Non-Pecuniary interests in any agenda item – none.

1580. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no chairman's announcements.

1581. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public in attendance.

1582. INVITED SPEAKER

There was no invited speaker.

1583. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

No questions.

1584. MINUTES

For Members to receive and adopt the Minutes of the Business I&DB Committee held on **Tuesday 12th November 2024.**

It was **resolved** to adopt the minutes of the Business Improvement & Development Board meeting held on Tuesday 12th November 2024, as an accurate record.

1585. MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the Business I&DB Committee **Tuesday 12th November 2024.**

There were no matters arising.

1586. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

a. Projects Report

Members asked what items were being covered under the insurance claim following the flooding. The BFM advised that the following would be covered; ceilings to the former Christmas cupboard and Warrenfield room, acoustic panelling in the Lockyer Suite, and the foyer carpet.

Members were in favour of all projects listed, but concern was raised with the frontage of the Rufus Centre due to the current financial situation and Station Road refurbishment project.

Members felt that item 2 – frontage to the Rufus Centre, should be deferred to the February meeting, at which point the financial situation would be clearer.

It was **resolved** to go ahead with the following works, which will be funded via the £40,000 EMR – Rufus Surplus;

1. Item 1 – Lockyer Suite Lighting – Quote 1 - £8,500
2. Item 3 – Fire Alarm Panel – Quote 1 £2,229
3. Item 4 – Guttering Replacement – Quote 1 £3,945

1587. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

No items.

1588. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

No members of the public.

1589. EXEMPT ITEMS

The following resolution will be **moved** that is advisable in the public interest that the public and press are excluded whilst the following exempt item issue is discussed.

a) Confidential Report

Members noted the report.

b) Officer Update

Members noted the officer update.

c) Draft Business Budget 2025/2026

It was **recommended** to accept the draft Business budget 2025/26.

d) Business Rates

It was **resolved** to proceed with option b at a cost of £3,000;

- i) Apply to the Valuation Office for 3 Station Road to benefit from any entitled relief from business rates during the refurbishment project.
- ii) Progress with a revaluation via the Valuation Office for the Rufus Centre in line with the Retail, Hospitality & Leisure Relief Scheme if there is deemed to be a benefit in doing so based on recommendations from the advisors.
- iii) Progress with challenging the size of the rateable value of all FTC properties to align with other valuations in the local area.

e) Dance Studio

Members noted the response from the legal team at NALC.

f) Potential Projects Discussion

No items.

g) Occupancy Stats

Members noted the occupancy stats.

Meeting closed – 20.47

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the public bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Council **resolve** to exclude the public and press by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.

Chairman's Signature