# WINSFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **Brunner Guildhall Working Group** held in Room G1, Wyvern House on **Monday 12th October 2026.**

**PRESENT**
Councillors Fitzsimmons and Roberts (WTC)
Mr. John Malam (Community)
Mr. Tim Ashcroft (Outside Organisations)
Ms. Susan Ravenscroft and Ms Christina Dears (Trustees)

**IN ATTENDANCE:**
Dr M Bailey (Town Clerk)

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| **1** | **APOLOGIES** | Apologies were submitted from Cllrs Newton and from Ms. Tracy Morley. Mr. John Malam took the chair. |
| **2** | **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** | The following declarations were made at the meeting.<br>• Communications (Any Other Business) – Mr John Malam made a person declaration of interest relating to the possible development of a dedicated website for the Guildhall. |
| **3** | **MINUTES – 15TH SEPTEMBER 2026** | The minutes were noted, having been approved by the Town Council on 28th September 2026. |
| **4** | **MATTERS ARISING** | The following were matters arising from the minutes.<br>• Membership – it was confirmed that several individuals had been approached to join the Working Group. |
| **5** | **ACTION LOG** | The Group reviewed the action log and made the following observations<br>• Vacancies – it was noted that the Group is looking for someone with historic buildings knowledge and in funding. It was agreed to advertise for people both on social media and in the printed media. It was noted that the Victorian Society had been contacted. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would draft a person spec.<br>• WhatsApp Group – it was confirmed that a WhatsApp Group had been established.<br>• Action Log – the Working Group **RESOLVED** to accept the action log/tracker. |
| **6** | **REVIEW OF** | Members noted that there were two vacancies on |

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| | **MEMBERSHIP/TERMS OF REFERENCE** | the Working Group. Members reviewed the Terms of Reference. |
| **7** | **ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE WORKING GROUP** | The following issues were considered by the Working Group.<br><br>• Establishment of a CIO – the Group considered a report on the application process and noted that a number of items needed to be done, including formal agreement between the Town Council and the Foundation.<br><br>• Maintenance Work – the Group reviewed the action log for this work. It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Town Council registers ownership of the piece of land next to the building. It was noted that an approach had been made to WTC staff regarding an assessment and that a specialist had been approached for advice. It was **AGREED** to ask for volunteers and for anyone interested to contact the Town Clerk. It was noted that members of the Working Group would have access to keys. It was further agreed to investigate the issue of an alarm for the building.<br><br>• Development of Heating/Lighting Systems and Funding – it was noted that work is ongoing in terms of gathering estimates for the installation of solar panels/heat pumps. In addition, a range of funding bodies have been approached. It was noted that work needs to be done in terms of enhancing accessibility.<br><br>• Visit by Sir Hugo Brunner – it was noted that a visit will be taking place on 15th October 2026. Members expressed an interest in attending the visit. it was agreed that entrance will be via the front door. |
| **8** | **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** | The following matters were raised under this agenda item.<br><br>• Events – the Group noted the proposal to hold events in the Guildhall. Several options were considered including ghost hunts/private investigations and escape rooms. The Working Group requested that visual mock-ups are provided of the events.<br><br>• Communications – several areas were raised:<br><br>o A spokesperson for the Working Group |

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| | | – it was agreed that this will be the Town Clerk<br>o Website including booking forms – WTC has several sites in place which can be used. It was noted that an offer had been made for the site to be populated (Mr John Malam declared an interest on this point) by Joe Malam.<br>o Social media – it was agreed to recommend that the Guildhall has dedicated pages on social media.<br>o To establish a Friends Group – this is seen as a longer-term aspiration.<br>o It was agreed that there will be a launch date in the new year. |
| **9** | **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** | It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Monday 9th November 2026. |

**CHAIR** ……