

## **Bishop Auckland Town Council**

The Four Clocks Centre, 154a Newgate Street, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham DL14 7EH

**Tel:** 01388 609852 **Email:** council@bishopauckland-tc.gov.uk

Website: www.bishopauckland-tc.gov.uk

**Town Clerk: David Anderson** 

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

15<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear Councillor.

I hereby give you notice that the next meeting of **Bishop Auckland Town Council** will be held in the **Wesley Room** at **The Four Clocks Centre** on **Tuesday**, 21<sup>st</sup> **January 2020 at 6.00 p.m**.

Yours sincerely

**David Anderson** 

Clerk to the Council

#### **AGENDA**

#### 1. Apologies for absence

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

To invite members to declare any interest they may have.

#### 3. Public Participation

(Subject to Public Participation Policy)

#### **Presentations**

\*The Mayor will be flexible with the amount of time allocated where it is helpful to the debate.

Time Allocation\*

#### 4. Town Team

1. Core Team (Chairman, Nigel Bryson)

Events Team (Chairman, Clive Auld)

10 mins presentation 5 mins questions

#### 5. Minutes

To approve the Minutes of the following meetings:-

Town Council 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019
Planning Committee 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019
Events Committee 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020
Finance Committee 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020

#### 6. Matters Arising

To receive any matters arising from the above Minutes which are not included elsewhere on the agenda (for information only).

#### 7. Report of Mayor

To receive a report from the Mayor detailing activities attended to represent the Council since the Annual Meeting.

#### 8. Report of Town Clerk

- 1. Review of Allotment Rent
- 2. Mobile Phone
- Medium Term Financial Plan 2019/20 to 2022/23 and Council Tax 2020/21

#### 9. Topics for Future Discussion

To consider topics for future presentations and discussions which are of relevance to the town.

• Sue Jacques, Chief Executive, County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, regarding proposed changes to services at Bishop Auckland Hospital

#### **Exclusion of Press and Public**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council do now exclude the press and public for the remaining item on the agenda by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted since publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

#### 10 Report of Town Clerk continued

4. Office Accommodation. (Report to follow)

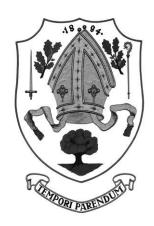
#### Item for information

12. Delegated Decisions Under Financial Regulation 4.5

None

#### DO I HAVE AN INTEREST?

#### **DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS** This flowchart provides Does the matter to be discussed affect:assistance for Councillors to YOU SHOULD DECLARE THAT YOU HAVE A 1. You, or your spouse's/partner's, business, help determine whether you DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST employment or profession have an interest in a matter YES 2. Anyone that employs or has appointed you You should take no part in the discussion or vote being discussed at a Council or your spouse/partner meeting. 3. Anyone that you or your spouse/partner has If your Standing Orders dictate you should withdraw from the received sponsorship from. meeting by leaving the room. However it is a Councillors 4. A contract with the Council, land or licence Do not try to influence the decision. own responsibility to comply in the Councils area, corporate tenancy or with the Code of Conduct securities in which you or your spouse/ and declare an interest partner has an interest. where appropriate. NO Failure to disclose or register a Disclosable OTHER REGISTERABLE INTERESTS Pecuniary Interest is a Does the matter to be discussed affect:criminal offence under SHOULD DECLARE THAT YOU HAVE AN OTHER 1. A body where you are in a position of section 34 of the Localism REGISTERABLE INTEREST general control or management and to which YES Act 2011. you have been appointed or nominated by You should not vote on the matter but you may make your Council. representations or answer questions about the matter if 2. Any body which members of the public can do so. (a) exercises functions of a public nature (b) is directed to charitable purposes or If your Standing Orders dictate you should withdraw from the (c) whose principal purpose include the meeting by leaving the room. influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member in a position of general control or management 3. Any gifts or hospitality with more than an estimated value of £50 DECLARE THAT YOU HAVE A NON-REGISTERABLE PERSONAL INTEREST NO You should not vote on the matter but you may make representations or answer questions about the matter if members of the public can do so. If your Standing Orders dictate you should withdraw from YES OTHER NON-REGISTERABLE PERSONAL the meeting by leaving the room. INTERESTS Does the matter to be discussed affect:-1. A financial interest of a friend, relative or NO close associate You can participate in the meeting and vote



# BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL

# MINUTES 2019/20 Book 6

#### Contents

Town Council
Planning Committee
Events Committee
Finance Committee

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 A meeting of Bishop Auckland Town Council was held in the Wesley Room at the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Allen (Mayor) and Councillors Blackburn, Brownson, Chappell, Cullen,

Fleming, Wilson, A Zair, L. Zair and S Zair.

Also Present: Clive Auld and Nigel Bryson (Bishop Auckland Town Team); Jill Wood (Festival &

Events Team Manager, Durham County Council), Audrey Christie (CDALC) and

David Anderson (Town Clerk).

Public in Attendance: A. Anderson.

#### TC.97/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Blackburn and Newton Woods.

#### TC.98/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were submitted.

#### TC.99/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

#### TC.100/19 BISHOP AUCKLAND FOOD FESTIVAL

Jill Wood, Festival & Events Team Manager, Durham County Council), gave a presentation detailing the proposed programme for Bishop Auckland Food Festival which would be held on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Jill began by thanking the Town Council for its continued financial support for the Food Festival, without which the event would not be possible.

Members noted arrangements for the Festival including the footprint for the event and park and ride arrangements, celebrity chefs that had been booked to attend, workshops, engagement with schools and marketing. Demand for stalls for 2020 had again been higher than the actual number of stalls possible for the event. The possibility of holding an event on the evening of Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> April was being investigated.

It was noted that it was not possible to extend the footprint of the event to include the car park at the west of Fore Bondgate.

**RESOLVED:** That the information be noted

#### TC.101/19 BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN TEAM

#### **Core Team**

Nigel Bryson, Chairman of the Town Team, gave an overview of various regeneration activities within the town centre, which were being undertaken by partner organisations, including: -

Signed:	:			 	 	 	 	
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- **Kynren**: The 'pyromusical' fireworks display held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2019 had been a great success. The town had been very busy following the display with many town centre businesses benefiting from the additional footfall.
- **Auckland Castle** officially opening on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2019. Attendance had been fantastic with sales of season tickets being greater than anticipated. The election coverage by the BBC, which had been based in Auckland Castle, had also helped to raise the profile of the Castle and Bishop Auckland nationally.
- Community WiFi equipment was now installed. The Wi-Fi was accessible, however a few technical issues were to be resolved to enable footfall monitoring to commence. An announcement of the scheme would be made after the purdah period.
- Heritage Action Zone projects were continuing
- Future High Street Fund bid was being developed by Durham County Council.
- MyTown funding had been suspended until after the general election

#### **Events Team**

Clive Auld, Chairman of the Events Team, gave an update with regard to recent activity of the Events Team.

- An Electric Vehicle Roadshow had been held in the market place and Auckland Tower on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019.
- Advent Windows has started on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019.
- **Small Business Saturday** would be held on 7<sup>th</sup> December, with the local 'Indiecember' promotion of local businesses continuing throughout December.
- Santa Claus would be making a visit to the town on the three Saturdays prior to Christmas.

A booklet of events to take place in 2020 was being developed.

**RESOLVED:** That the information be noted

#### TC.102/19 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Town Council 29<sup>th</sup> October 2019
Planning Committee 29<sup>th</sup> October 2019
Finance Committee 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes be approved as a correct record and

recommendations contained therein be adopted

There were no matters arising

#### TC.103/19 REPORT OF MAYOR

Members noted a report of the Mayor detailing the events attended since the last meeting. (For copy see file of Minutes).

**RESOLVED:** That the information be noted.

#### REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

#### TC.103/19 ROYAL GARDEN PARTY 2020

Consideration was given to making a nomination to CDALC for a representative to attend the Royal Garden Party 2020.

**RESOLVED**: That Councillor A Zair be nominated to attend the Royal Garden Party 2020.

Signed:	
Town Mayor	

#### TC.104/19 TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

The following would be invited to attend an appropriately timed meeting to update the Town Council on their activities:

 Sue Jacques, Chief Executive, County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, regarding proposed changes to services at Bishop Auckland Hospital. Noted that consultation had been suspended due to purdah.

#### TC.105/19 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

In accordance with the provisions of Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council excluded the press and public for the remaining items on the agenda by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted since publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

#### **REPORT OF TOWN CLERK (CONTINUED)**

#### TC.106/19 OFFICE ACCOMMODATION

Consideration was given to a report updating members on the current situation regarding the purchase of office accommodation. (For copy see file of Minutes)

**RESOLVED:** That the information be noted

Signed:		 
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A meeting of the Planning Committee was held in the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019 at 7.10 p.m.

Present: Councillor Cullen (Chairman) and Councillors Allen and Wilson.

Also Present: David Anderson (Town Clerk)

#### PL.21/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Newton Woods, A. Zair and L. Zair.

#### PL.22/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors A. Zair and L. Zair declared a 'disclosable pecuniary interest' in respect of application no DM/19/03299/FPA and left the meeting.

#### PL.23/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

#### PL.24/18 DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL: PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Consideration was given to a schedule of planning applications received since the last meeting. (For copy see file of Minutes).

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council has no objections to the planning

applications detailed on the schedule.

#### PL.25/18 DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL - PLANNING DECISIONS

Consideration was given to schedule of planning decisions that had been determined under delegated authority. (For copy see file of Minutes)

**RESOLVED:** That the schedule be noted.

Signed: ......
Chair

A meeting of the Events Committee was held in the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 5.30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Brownson (Chairman), and Councillors Blackburn, Chappell and L.Zair

Also Present: David Anderson (Town Clerk) and Caitlin Boylan (Events & Projects Officer)

#### EC.6/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Allen and Newton Woods.

#### EC.7/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

#### **EC.8/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

#### **EVENTS PROGRAMME**

#### EC.9/19 YOUTH AWARDS

Consideration was given to a report reviewing the 2019 Youth Awards and examined options for the 2020 event. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Members noted that the Town Hall was to be re-opened by May 2020 and the venue would be available in June when the presentation evening was usually held.

The format of the 2019 event had worked well and therefore Members were in agreement that the same format be used. It was suggested that a monetary award or voucher could also be provided to individual nominees. This would be investigated further.

Discussion arose on Business Awards or Civic Awards. This was to be discussed during the budget setting process for 2020/21.

#### **RECOMMENDED:**

- That the Youth Awards be held in the Town Hall between May and June 2020
- 2. That the format of the Awards be the same as 2019.
- 3. That further consideration be given to the inclusion of a monetary award for the nominees.

#### EC.10/19 HORTICULTURAL AND PRODUCE SHOW

Consideration was given to a report reviewing the 2019 Horticultural and Produce Show. The report also considered arrangements for the 2020 Show. (For copy see file of Minutes).

The Town Hall would be open in September but opinion was that the venue of McIntyres provided higher footfall for the event.

Members were of the opinion that the Show should be held in 2020 with the same format as previous years at the same time as the Bishop Celebrates Together (BCT) event. A meeting of the Growers Organising Group was to be held to discuss the date of the event, classes for the Show and also consider the venue.

Signed:													
Chair													

RECOMMENDED:

That a meeting be held with the Growers Organising Group to agree a date, format and suitable venue

#### EC.11/19 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Consideration was given to a report reviewing arrangements for 2019 and considering arrangements for 2020. (For copy see file of Minutes).

The 2019 event, had been organised in close association with the Royal British Legion, 8 Rifles, Bishop Auckland Pipes & Drums and St Anne's Church. Around 2,000 people had attended the service in the Market Place. It was felt that this had been a fitting act of remembrance of those who had served their country.

A meeting was to be held with partner organisations to discuss arrangements for 2020. Due to the number of people attending the event in 2019 the use of additional stewards to help with crowd management was to be considered.

It was suggested that the road closure arrangements be extended to limit traffic driving past the service, particularly during the two minute silence.

#### **RECOMMENDED:**

- That a meeting be arranged with partner organisations to discuss arrangements for Remembrance Day 2020
- 2. That consideration be given to options to prevent traffic driving by during the service

#### EC. 12/19 VE DAY and VJ DAY 75th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Consideration was given to holding celebration events for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day and VJ Day in 2020.

The events were to be organised with direction from Royal British Legion. It was expected the VE Day event would be similar to the Remembrance Sunday, with VJ Day being a smaller event.

A meeting was to be held with partner organisations to discuss arrangements for the events. Due to the nature of the event, additional seating for those in attendance should be considered.

**RECOMMENDED:** 

That a meeting be arranged with partner organisations to discuss arrangements for VE Day and VJ Day 2020

#### EC.13/19 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

In accordance with the provisions of Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council excluded the press and public for the remaining items on the agenda by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted since publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

#### EC.14/19 CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Consideration was given to a report reviewing the 2019 Christmas event and also considering arrangements for 2020. (For copy see file of Minutes).

It was noted that due to the success of AH Events providing event support for the event, this company would be used for 2020 and 2021 Christmas events, provided costs remain in line with budgets.

<b>RECOMMENDED:</b> 1. That the	e information be noted	α.
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Signed:	 			 -			 			
Chair										

2	That the	Christmas	event he	hald on	27th N/	ovember 2	വാവ
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- 3. That AH Events be appointed event partner to provide event management and health and safety for 2020 and 2021.
- 4. That discussions continue with partner organisations with regard to the content and co-ordination of the event.

Signed:	 	 		 						
Chair										

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held in the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 5.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Wilson (Chairman) and Councillors Allen, Blackburn, Brownson, Chappell

and S Zair

Also Present: Councillors Cullen and Fleming and David Anderson (Town Clerk)

#### FIN.36/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were submitted by A Zair and L. Zair

#### FIN.37/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

#### Item No 4.4.a Authorisation of Cheques, Written Under Delegated Powers

Councillor S. Zair declared a 'disclosable pecuniary interest' in respect of cheque number 1885 and did not take part in the discussion or voting thereon.

#### Item No 4.5 Applications for Community Fund / Donations

Councillors Allen and Blackburn declared an 'other registerable interest' in respect of the application from Bishop Auckland Community Partnership cheque number and did not take part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Fleming declared an 'other registerable interest' in respect of the application from Bishop Auckland Golf Club and did not take part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Item No 4.6 Medium Term Financial Plan 2019/20 to 2021/22, Council Tax 2020/21 Councillor Allen declared an 'other registerable interest' in respect of the potential budget allocation to Operation Aries and did not take part in the discussion or voting thereon.

#### FIN.38/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public in attendance.

#### REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

#### FIN.39/19 ACCOUNT BALANCES AS AT 14th JANUARY 2020

The Town Clerk reported account balances as follows: -

Lloyds Deposit Account	£229,795.81
Lloyds Current Account	£1,501.30
Darlington Building Society	£85,234.18
Nationwide	£85,550.65
Santander	£85,000.00
NE First Credit Union	£85,000.00

**RECOMMENDED:** That the information be noted.

#### FIN.40/19 BANK RECONCILIATIONS AT END OF QUARTER 3

Members noted and confirmed that accounts held by the Council had been reconciled and signed by the Chairman of Finance Committee.

**RECOMMENDED:** That the bank reconciliations be noted and confirmed.

Signed:													
Chair													

#### FIN.41/19 SPEND AGAINST BUDGET AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2020 (QUARTER 3)

A schedule detailing spend against budget as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 (end of Quarter 3) was circulated and considered. (For copy see file of Minutes).

**RECOMMENDED:** That the information be noted.

#### FIN.42/19 AUTHORISATION OF CHEQUES - DELEGATED POWERS

In accordance with delegated powers, payments totalling the amounts below had been made as detailed in the report. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Current Account £30,754.54

**RECOMMENDED:** That the action taken be confirmed.

#### FIN.43/19 CHEQUES PRESENTED FOR AUTHORISATION

No cheques were presented for authorisation.

#### FIN.44/19 APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY FUND AND DONATIONS

Members considered applications for grants under the Community Fund from the following organisations: -

- 1. Bishop Auckland Golf Club
- 2. Bishop United CIC
- 3. Bishop Auckland Community Partnership

**RECOMMENDED:** 1. That a grant of £200 be made to Bishop Auckland Golf Club.

- 2. That a grant of £499 made to Bishop United CIC.
- 3. That a grant of £383.98 be made to Bishop Auckland Community Partnership.

All grants and donations are made under the Localism Act 2011 (Power of Competence).

#### FIN.45/19 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2019/20 to 2022/23. COUNCIL TAX 2020/21

Consideration was given to a report relating to the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2019/20 – 2022/23 and Council Tax 2020/21. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Members noted details of the Tax Base and the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTR) Grant for 2020/21, which had resulted in a net increase of £1,181.12. The MTFP had been revised to take this information into account. In addition, the MTFP has been amended to reflect increases in salaries and on costs, provision of a budget to provide a fund for the replacement of ICT equipment and anticipated changes in relation to purchase of new accommodation for the Council offices. For budget purposes it had been anticipated that the Council would have relocated to the new office on 1st April 2020.

Members noted that the Government had advised that referendum principles would not be extended to town and parish councils for 2020/21. Members were however advised to be mindful of the principles whilst considering the council tax and budget for the coming financial year, which stated that a referendum would be triggered if council tax increases were 2% or above or over £5.00, whichever was higher. If referendum principles were applicable the Town Council would therefore be able to increase Council Tax by up to £5.00 without triggering a referendum.

RECOMMENDED:	That the budget detailed at Appendix 3 of the report be
	considered by Council.

Signed:	 										 
Chair											

#### **Bishop Auckland Town Council**

#### 21st January 2020

#### Item No 7. Mayor's Report

The Mayor and/or Deputy Mayor has represented the Town Council at the following engagements since the last Council meeting.

Date of Event	Event Detail	Mayor	Deputy Mayor
04 Dec 2019	Hartlepool Borough Council	Υ	
	Mayor and Consort 'At Home'		
	Civic Centre, Hartlepool		
05 Dec 2019	Durham County Council	Y	
	Chairman's Christmas Celebration		
	County Hall, Durham		
05 Dec 2019	Sedgefield Town Council	Υ	
	Ecumenical Civic Carol Service		
	St. Edmund's Church, Sedgefield		
06 Dec 2019	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council		Υ
	Mayor's Carol Service		
	Parish Church, Stockton-on-Tees		
08 Dec 2019	Shildon Town Council	Y	
	Civic Carol Service		
	Civic Hall, Shildon		
08 Dec 2019	Great Aycliffe Town Council		Y
	Civic Carol Service		
	St Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe		
09 Dec 2019	Ferryhill Town Council	Υ	
	Civic Carol Service		
	St Lukes Church, Church Lane, Ferryhill		
11 Dec 2019	Seaham Town Council		Y
	Seaham's Ecumenical Civic Carol Service		
	St John's Church, Seaham		
12 Dec 2019	Chilton Town Council	Y	
	Civic Carol Service		
	St Aiden's Church, Chilton		
17 Dec 2019	Hartlepool Borough Council		Y
	Mayor's Celebrations of Christmas		
	Borough Hall, Middlegate, Hartlepool		
20 Dec 2019	Bishop Auckland Town Council	Y	
	Mayor's Carol Event		
	St. Anne's Church, Bishop Auckland		
22 Dec 2019	Darlington Borough Council	Y	
	Mayor's Carol Service		
	St Cuthbert's Church, Darlington		
09 Jan 2020	Bishop Auckland and Coundon in Bloom	Y	
	Charity Fundraising Dinner		
	Ramside Hall, Durham		

**RECOMMENDED:** That the information be note

#### 21st January 2020

#### Item No 8. Report of Town Clerk

#### 1. ALLOTMENT RENT REVIEW 2021/22

In accordance with allotment regulations the Council must give tenants 12 months notice of an increase in rent. Notification is therefore given of any future rent increase when invoices are issued in March each year.

Allotments are not uniform in size and therefore rent is changed on a square meter basis. Individual plots vary in size from 74 sq m (Toronto) to 439 sq m (Broken Banks). The average size plot is 204 sq m.

To encourage cultivation a 50% discount is applied if over half of an allotment is cultivated. The discount does not apply to plots at Mill Race, where a wither on the vine policy is in place to allow tenant to continue to keep horses, as the whole of the plot should be used for the welfare of the animals. No new tenants of Mill Race will be allowed to keep horses or larger animals.

The table below sets out the rent history from 2010/11 to 2020/21. It also sets out the rent for an average size plot (204 sq m).

Voor	Rent per sq m	% increase of	Cost of average plot (204 sq m)		
Year	, ,	previous year	Uncultivated	Cultivated	
2010/11	£0.34		£69.36	£34.68	
2011/12	£0.42	23.53%	£85.68	£42.84	
2012/13	£0.42	0.00%	£85.68	£42.84	
2013/14	£0.42	0.00%	£85.68	£42.84	
2014/15	£0.50	19.05%	£102.00	£51.00	
2015/16	£0.50	0.00%	£102.00	£51.00	
2016/17	£0.50	0.00%	£102.00	£51.00	
2017/18	£0.50	0.00%	£102.00	£51.00	
2018/19	£0.50	0.00%	£102.00	£51.00	
2019/20	£0.50	0.00%	£102.00	£51.00	
2020/21	£0.50	0.00%	£102.00	£51.00	

The rent charged varies widely between neighbouring parish/town councils and reflects the services offered, e.g. supply of water, skips, improvements to allotment sites, etc. This makes a rent comparison quite difficult.

A comparison is usually made with Durham County Council, however they are currently reviewing their allotments service, including a review of rent.

Allotment rent has not increased since 2014/15, whereas costs of water, skips, and other services have increased incrementally over the years. Members may therefore wish to consider the following options for 2021/22.

Cost per Increase			Cost of Average Plot (204 Sq M)		Increase		
	Sq M		Uncultivated	Cultivated	Uncultivated	Cultivated	
Current	£0.50		£102.00	£51.00			
Option 1	£0.52	4%	£106.08	£53.04	£4.08	£2.04	£489.88
Option 2	£0.54	8%	£110.16	£55.08	£8.16	£4.08	£979.77
Option 3	£0.56	12%	£114.24	£57.12	£12.24	£6.12	£1,469.65

**RECOMMENDED**: That consideration be given to allotment rent costs.

#### 2. MOBILE PHONE

Staff have been using their own person phones for work purposes, particularly to communicate during events. This raised potential issues in relation to GDPR in terms of taking photos and videos of the event and also sharing mobile phone numbers with event partners.

It is proposed that the Council purchase a mobile phone that could be used as the event control phone. The number could then be freely shared with event partners and others should the need arise. A Council mobile phone would also have the advantage that photos and videos could be posted direct to the Town Council's Facebook page.

The Council would also be able to live stream parts on an event. The phone could also be used to help mitigate potential lone worker risks while officers are working out of the office, for example at an allotment site.

The following is an example of costs obtained for a suitable mobile phone.

#### Samsung Galaxy A20e 32GB

Purchase cost £149

Monthly cost (pay as you go) £10 includes 6GB data, unlimited minutes and texts.

**RECOMMENDED**: That a suitable mobile phone be purchased.

# 3. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2019/20 TO 2022/23 AND COUNCIL TAX 2020/21 Finance Committee considered the Medium Term Financial Plan 2019/20 to 2022/23 and Council Tax 2020/21 at its meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020. (Minute No FIN.45/19 refers).

A copy of the report considered by the Finance Committee has been circulated to all members of the Council and in line with normal practice all members of the Council were invited to attend the meeting.

A copy of the recommendations of the Finance Committee are attached at **Appendix 1**, which result in a Council Tax of £52.10 (Band D) and increase of 90p (1.76%).

In making its recommendations the Finance Committee noted a small increase in the Council Tax Base and a reduction in the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant which had a net effect of the increasing total revenue by £1,181.12 if there was no increase in Council Tax.

#### **Referendum Principles**

The Government has advised that referendum principles will not be extended to town and parish council for 2020/21. It may however be advisable for members to be mindful of the principles whilst considering the council tax and budget for the forthcoming year, which state that a referendum would be triggered if council tax increases are 2% or above or over £5.00 whichever is higher. If referendum principles were applicable the Town Council would therefore be able to increase Council Tax by up to £5.00 without triggering a referendum.

**RECOMMENDED:** That consideration be given to the recommendations of the Finance Committee.

### Appendix 1

	Code	Description	Centre	2019/20 Budget	2019/20 Anticipat ed Outcome	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
1	4000	Salaries*	101 - Admin	82,103	63,046	83,928	86,163	88,461
1	4001	HMRC*	101 - Admin	20,147	16,924	20,595	21,144	21,708
1	4002	Pensions*	101 - Admin	22,806	19,916	23,318	23,939	24,578
	4003	Training - Staff	101 - Admin	320	320	320	320	320
	4006	Travel & Subsistence - Staff	101 - Admin	500	100	500	500	500
2	4010	Rent	101 - Admin		8,040	0	0	0
	4011	Photocopier - Lease	101 - Admin	278	340	278	278	278
	4012	Photocopier - Usage	101 - Admin	420	360	420	420	420
2	4035	Room Hire	101 - Admin		748	0	0	0
	4039	Postage	101 - Admin	650	628	650	650	650
	4040	Stationery	101 - Admin	2,312	509	2,312	2,312	2,312
3	4041	ICT	101 - Admin		4,500	2,000	2,000	2,000
	4042	Legal and Professional Fees	101 - Admin	4,190	1,200	4,190	4,190	4,190
	4043	Audit Fees	101 - Admin	810	786	810	810	810
	4044	Subscriptions & Membership	101 - Admin	2,360	2,371	2,360	2,360	2,360
3	4045	Insurance	101 - Admin	1,190	913	1,200	1,200	1,200
	4049	Citizens Advice Durham	101 - Admin	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
	4051	Engagement	101 - Admin	2,000	150	2,000	2,000	2,000
	4059	Parish Plan - Delivery Fund	101 - Admin	0	0	0	0	0
5	4060	Capital Programme (Office)	101 - Admin	0	600	0	0	0
6	New	Loan Repayment	101 - Admin	7,904	3,918	8,302	8,302	8,302
6	New	Gas/Electricity	101 - Admin	2,195	549	2,195	2,195	2,195
6	New	Water	101 - Admin	397	99	397	397	397
6	New	Telephone	101 - Admin	1,837	459	1,837	1,837	1,837
6	New	Broadband	101 - Admin	228	57	228	228	228
6	New	Waste/Recycling	101 - Admin	1,200	300	1,200	1,200	1,200
6	New	Maintenance / Repairs (EMF)	101 - Admin	3,000	750	3,000	3,000	3,000
6	New	Cleaning	101 - Admin	1,440	360	1,440	1,440	1,440
-	4001	HMRC	102 - Democracy	600	525	600	600	600
	4004	Training - Members	102 - Democracy	320	0	320	320	320
	4005	Allowances	102 - Democracy	4,700	4,755	4,700	4,700	4,700
	4007	Travel & Subsistence - Members	102 - Democracy	700	0	700	700	700
	4036	Civic & Approved Duties	102 - Democracy	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	4048	Elections	102 - Democracy	4,000	6,293	4,000	4,000	4,000
	4061	Youth Engagement	102 - Democracy	1,000	0,200	1,000	1,000	1,000
	4099	Miscellaneous	102 - Democracy		59	0	0	0
7	4010	Rent	103 - Allotments	713	654	770	770	770
'	4031	Skips	103 - Allotments	713	570	770 750	770 750	770 750
	4031	Water	103 - Allotments	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500
	4032	Pest Control	103 - Allotments	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
	4033	Subscriptions/membership	103 - Allotments	55	55	3,000 55	3,000 55	3,000 55
	4044	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	103 - Allotments				1,000	1,000
	4046	Repairs & Maintenance Capital Projects	103 - Allotments	1,000 1,035	3,800	1,000 1,035	1,000	1,000
	4080	Christmas	104 - Events	8,000	8,990	8,000	8,000	8,000
	4081	Food Festival	104 - Events	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
	4082	Horticultural Show	104 - Events	3,500	2,351	3,500	3,500	3,500
	4083	Remembrance Day Ceremony	104 - Events	750	700	750	750	750
	4084	Summertime Activities	104 - Events	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
	4085	Youth Awards	104 - Events	5,000	1,319	5,000	5,000	5,000

Code Description	Centre	2019/20 Budget	2019/20 Anticipat ed Outcome	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
4086 Contingency	104 - Events	3,500	5,000	3,500	3,500	3,500
4015 Electricity - Skatepark	105 - Leisure	500	120	500	500	500
4016 Community Toilet Scheme	105 - Leisure	2,520	2,070	2,520	2,520	2,520
4070 Floral Displays	105 - Leisure	2,000	1,793	2,000	2,000	2,000
4050 Grants / Donations	107 - Community Support	5,000	7,607	5,000	5,000	5,000
Council Forward Plan - Proposed P						
HIGH PRIORITIES						
Wealthier Bishop Auckland		3,000	0	3,000	3,000	3,000
6a. Introduction of community WiFi in t	he town Centre 🕑 £					
12. Lobby for free parking within the To	own Centre. (9					
Better Bishop Auckland for Children	and Young People	9,000	0	9,000	9,000	9,000
<ul> <li>13. Consider the creation of a fund to p school with a grant of £2,000 to super that supports the development of y suitable projects / topics may be determined to the function of the support of the creation alleviating child poverty in the town clothing, school uniform fund). </li> </ul>	oport a student led project oung people. (Menu of eveloped). ② £ age in areas of shed organisations. ② £ of a fund aimed at . (Possible winter/warm					
Healthier Bishop Auckland		1,000	0	1,000	1,000	1,000
<ul><li>22. Support operation Aries to tackle u and substance abuse.</li><li>29. Celebrate social inclusion and iden</li></ul>		·			·	·
Safer Bishop Auckland						
33. Promote Selective Licensing Scher	me. 🖰			0	0	0
Greener Bishop Auckland		1,000	0	1,000	1,000	1,000
<ul> <li>36. Work with agencies such as Durha tackle environmental issues. (e.g. Neighbourhood Warden provision)</li> <li>38. Seek innovative solutions to tackle ⊕ £</li> <li>40. Consider each planning application merits and make appropriate comm Council (the Planning Authority) why green spaces from development. €</li> <li>43. Promote sustainable transport initial</li> </ul>	funding of enhanced  ① £££  littering and dog fouling.  affecting the town on its nents to Durham County here necessary to protect  £					
<b>Enhance Democratic Representation</b>	1					
44. Seek boundary changes so that Et Dene are included in BATC area.				0	0	0
MEDIUM PRIORITIES		1,500	0	1,500	1,500	1,500
(Contingency) Wealthier Bishop Auckland		5,000	0	5,000	5,000	5,000
<ol> <li>Deliver and / or contribute where ponew events and initiatives to increase centre.</li> </ol>				0,000	0,000	
Healthier Bishop Auckland		300	0		_	
23. Contribute to initiatives that promot 'Little Chef, Big Chef'. ② £  Safer Bishop Auckland	e nealthy eating, such as	200	0	200	200	200
32. Consider contribution to youth crim such as 'Prison Me! No Way!' (pos:		200		200	200	200
Greener Bishop Auckland		1,500	0	1,500	1,500	1,500
37. Support Civic Pride initiatives ③ £						
Low Priority				0	0	0
6. Consider introduction of Town Crye	er 🖰 £			0	0	0
<ol> <li>Create a Youth Forum to engage w the issues that are important to you</li> </ol>				0	0	0

	Code	Description	Centre	2019/20 Budget	2019/20 Anticipat ed Outcome	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
		gage with Young People's Forum to				0	0	0
	issues that are important to young people. (see 14 above) 31. Consider contribution to purchase of Neighbourhood Police Car for use within the Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP area. ③ £					0	0	0
		Iflet of helpful services / contacts.	£			0	0	0
				249,877	199,164	254,880	258,284	261,786
8		Earmarked Funds / General Rese	erves		50,713			
		Total		249,877	249,877			
		INCOME						
	1000	Income - Allotments	103 - Allotments	12,000		12,000	12,000	12,000
	1020	Income - Community Toilet Scheme	105 - Leisure	2,520		2,520	2,520	2,520
9	1077	Income - LCTS Grant	101 - Admin	12,065		8,889	8,889	8,889
10		Income - Rent	101 - Admin	10,000		10,000	10,000	10,000
		Sub Total		36,585		33,409	33,409	33,409
	1076	Income - Precept	101 - Admin	213,292		221,471	224,875	228,377
		Total Income		249,877		254,880	258,284	261,786
11			Council Tax Base	4,165.9		4,251.0	4,251.0	4,251.0
			Council Tax for Band D	£51.20		£52.10	£52.90	£53.72
			+/- previous year £	4.92		0.90	0.80	0.82
			+/- previous year %	10.63%		1.76%	1.54%	1.56%

#### Notes

- 1 Updated to reflect new member of staff and anticipated wage inflation
- 2 For budget purposes I've anticipated relocation to new offices from 1st April 2020.
- 3 Need to allocated a budget to build up a fund for replacement of ICT equipment. Suggest £2,000 pa
- 4 Increased insurance based on estimates from current insurer (CAS Ltd)
- 5 Budget for new offices now held as earmarked funds
- 6 Estimated costs associated with new offices. 10% increase budgeted pa
- 7 Lease of Edge Hill Allotments. Reviewed every 3 years. Next due 2020/21. Estimating £770 pa
- 8 Anticipated surplus from 2019/20. Need to allocate to Earmarked Funds or General Reserve
- 9 LCTS Grant updated for 2020/21
- 10 Anticipated income including service charges
- 11 Council Tax Base updated for 2020/21

# Ready Reckoner 2020/21

% increase p.a.	£ increase p.a.	Council Tax (Band D)	Additional cost/month (Band D) (6.75% properties)	Additional cost/month (Band A) (61.81% properties)	Additional revenue
1.00%	£0.51	£51.71	£0.04	£0.03	£2,132.92
2.00%	£1.02	£52.22	£0.09	£0.06	£4,265.84
1.95%	£1.00	£52.20	£0.08	£0.06	£4,165.90
3.00%	£1.54	£52.74	£0.13	£0.09	£6,398.76
4.00%	£2.05	£53.25	£0.17	£0.11	£8,531.68
3.91%	£2.00	£53.20	£0.17	£0.11	£8,331.80
5.00%	£2.56	£53.76	£0.21	£0.14	£10,664.60
5.86%	£3.00	£54.20	£0.25	£0.17	£12,497.70
7.81%	£4.00	£55.20	£0.33	£0.22	£16,663.60
9.77%	£5.00	£56.20	£0.42	£0.28	£20,829.50