

Minutes of the **MEETING** of **BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Wesley Room at the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2014** at 6.00 p.m.

**Present:** Councillor Race (Mayor), and Councillors Anderson, Blackburn, Brownson, Fleming, Golightly, Lethbridge, Wilson,

**Also Present:** Beryl Anderson , Kate James (Durham County Council), Clive Auld (Bishop Auckland Town Team) and David Anderson (Town Clerk)

**TC.98/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Zair, L. Zair and S. Zair

**TC.99/14 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No issues were raised under this item.

**TC.100/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors AJ. Blackburn and A Golightly declared an interest in respect of Item No 12(1) Old Boys Grammar School and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

**TC.101/14 FOOD FESTIVAL 2015**

Beryl Anderson and Kate James (Durham County Council Events Team) gave an update on preparations for the 2015 Food Festival, which would take place on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> April.

It was noted that proposals were being developed taking into account feedback on the previous year's event from attendees and traders. Whilst feedback had been overwhelmingly positive it enabled the Team to build on previous successes. The ambition for the Festival remained to be a destination event.

The 2015 event would again take place in the grounds of Auckland Castle, Bishop Auckland Market Place and Town Hall. It would feature three popular markets as well as a range of free and ticketed events with celebrity chefs, food related street entertainment and master classes.

This year's programme would also include an outreach project in the week prior to the Festival, which would involve festival chefs visiting schools to engage children and young people with all aspects of food production, preparation and consumption.

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

**TC.102/14 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2014**

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

**Matters Arising**

In respect of Minute No TC.86/14 'River Gaunless for the People Wildlife Project', it was noted that the Wear Rivers Trust's application for HLF had been unsuccessful. The Trust were to meet later in the month to consider their future plans for the project.

**TC.103/14 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

- a. Planning, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2014
- b. Finance Committee, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes be approved and adopted.

**Signed:** .....  
**Town Mayor**

There were no matters arising

**TC.104/14 REPORT OF TOWN MAYOR**

The Mayor reported that he had attended the following events since the last Council meeting including.

01 November 2014	Presented trophies at performance by Extreme Dance Fuzion in the Town Hall
09 November 2014	Attended Remembrance Day Service
11 November 2014	Remembrance Service and Exhibition to mark the Centenary of the First World War, St. John's School & Sixth Form College.
13 November 2014	Presented flowers to Ethel Watson in celebration of her 105th Birthday
21 November 2014	Attended Bishop Auckland Christmas Spectacular.
26 November 2014	Attended Urban Panel and Guest Dinner organised by English Heritage

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

**REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND TRAINING EVENTS**

**TC.105/14 TOWN TEAM**

Clive Auld updated members on recent activities of the Town Team, including details of this year's Christmas programme being held on 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

Small Business Saturday had also taken place on 6<sup>th</sup> December. Twenty small business in the town had taken part in the event. Participating businesses had offered a range of discounts and deals to encourage people to shop local. The event was currently being evaluated.

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

**TC.106/14 THE BIG LOCAL – GAUNLESS GATEWAY**

Members were updated with regard to the Big Local project. Meetings were taking place with local community groups to appraise them of the project and potential outcomes.

A meeting was to be held with national representative of the Big Local to discuss the proposed project.

The Gaunless Gateway Santa Run would take place on 16<sup>th</sup> December. This involved Santa visiting various locations within the Gaunless Gateway area to hand out free goody bags to children.

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

**TC.107/14 REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members noted that since Councillor Fleming's appointment to Bishop Auckland and Shildon Local Councils Committee to represent the Town Council, the Committee had appointed him to the AAP Board and to the Executive Committee of the County Durham Association of Local Councils.

It was also noted that Councillor Fleming had successfully stood for election to the National Association of Local Councils' Larger Council's Committee.

Signed: .....  
Town Mayor

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

**TC.108/14 TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION**

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

- Jean Clark, Woodhouse Food Bank (20<sup>th</sup> January 2015)
- Beryl Anderson, Kate James, Bishop Auckland Food Festival (3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015)

**TC.109/14 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.

**REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

**TC.110/14 OLD BOYS GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

Consideration was given to a report updating members on the situation regarding the Old Boys Grammar School

Members noted information regarding the timescales involved in the restoration of the building. Following discussion of the various options Members reaffirmed their preference for the Council to own its own office premises.

It was suggested that a working group be established to consider options available to the Council .

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the Town Council reaffirm its preference to purchase its own office premises.
  2. That an Accommodation Working Group be established to consider options for the Town Council to own its own premises.
  3. That the following members be appointed to the Working Group.

The Mayor, Councillor Colin Race,  
Chairman of Finance Committee, Councillor Alan Anderson  
Councillor David A. Fleming  
Councillor Sam Zair

**TC.111/14 PROPOSED NEIGHBOURHOOD FUND PROJECT, BISHOP AUCKLAND RAILWAY STATION**

Consideration was given to a request to support a Neighbourhood Fund Project to install a mural at Bishop Auckland Railway Station.

Following discussions on the merits of the project Members agreed to adopt the mural, should Finchale Properties be unable to do so, subject to clarification of the Town Council's potential liabilities, commitments and likely costs of maintenance.

Signed: .....  
Town Mayor

**RESOLVED:.**

That the Town Council agree to the principle of adopting the Railway Station Mural subject to clarification of potential liabilities, commitments and maintenance costs.

**Signed:** .....  
**Town Mayor**