

Bishop Auckland Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of Bishop Auckland Town Council held on

Tuesday 15th December 2020 at 6.00pm via Zoom

Present: - Cllrs. J. Blackburn (Deputy Mayor) L. Chappell, J. Blackburn, D. Fleming, D. Wilson, A Zair, L Zair, S. Zair.

In attendance: - Ms. S. Harris Town Clerk, Mr. J Robinson (former Acting Clerk),

FC 83.00/2020 - Notice of Meeting – Agreed

FC 83.00/2020 - Agree Notice of Motion - to call the meeting to be held on 15 December 2020.

FC 84.00/2020 - Apologies absence - Cllr. J Allen, Cllr. L Brownson, Cllr J Cullen,

FC 85.00/2020 - Declarations of interest – Cllr S Zair is a member of DCC Planning Committee.

FC 86.00/2020 - Minutes – Members approved the Minutes of the Town Council 15 November 2020, subject to one date being amended.

FC 87.00/2020 - Matters Arising - To from the above Minutes which are not included elsewhere on the agenda (for information only).

- Christmas Event update
 - Light projection has been well received
 - Lights had been supplied to woodhouse close community centre, Bishop Trains, and Eden Lodge Care home. Additional décor had been added to the market place.
 - 364 entries to the colouring competition were received.
 - Hampers for 1st, 2nd and 3rd had been sourced from within the Town. Ten businesses had been supported with this.
 - Winners had been selected.
 - 3 primary schools had been arranged.
 - It was acknowledged that the Christmas programme couldn't of happened without the support of Beryl Anderson, from the South Durham Enterprise Agency.

Resolved: Members agreed that flowers be bought and given to Beryl Anderson for her support.
 Members asked if the Events Officer could approach Her Majestys Lord Leiateant for County Durham Mrs Sue Snowdown to read a story to share online as part of the programme.

FC 88.00/2020 - Public Participation – No Members of the public were in attendance.

FC 89.00/2020 Reports

FC 89.01/2020 County Councilor Report

Cllr. S Zair reported:

- a. There has been wisperings in the town that DCC have terminated the lease of WH Smiths. This is not the case.
- b. Footfall in the down had dropped due to the pre Christmas lockdown.

FC. 89.03/2020 - Mayors Report – No Mayors report as apologies were received.

FC 90.00/2020 Finance

FC 90.01/2020 AGAR - The Town Clerk reported that the AGAR has been received from the External Auditor. However there is a minor recommendation. They have queried why no interest was declared for the Public Works Loan Board for 2019-20. The reason this hadn't been completed was the first loan payment was due in the 2020-21 year. Both internal audit and financial advisor said completion was done correctly. It is thought that we have just been unlucky with the audit. As the Financial Advisor has completed several like this before and had no issues. This will be resolved in the next audit.

Resolved: .

FC 90.02/2020 – Monthly Accounts and Payments – Town Clerk presented the monthly accounts and payments to be made.

Resolved: These were accepted and agreed.

FC 90.03/2020 – Budget and Precept for 2021-22 - the Town Clerk outlined the timeline for setting the budget and precept for 2021-22. Members requested that the meeting to discuss and agree the budget happens in person if possible.

Resolved: Members agreed that if possible under the tiered coronavirus restrictions an in person meeting will be held to discuss the budget on 11th January 2021.

FC 90.04/2020 – Community Fund – The Town Clerk outlined that the BATC Community Fund had not been ran in two formal rounds for 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. Therefore three applications needed to be considered:

Resolved: To fund the Woodhouse Close Community Foodbank Van repairs – subject to receiving the paperwork up to the sum of £400.

Application One – Members Felt that the project was outside the boundaries of the Town. Therefore they felt that they were unable to support the project.

Application Two – members were happy to support the repairs to the clock and fund the total amount requested.

Application three – after some debate members were happy to support the society with a grant of £400 towards the servicing of the piano.

FC 91.00/2020 Correspondence – The Town Clerk presented two items of correspondence:

FC 91.01/2020 – Custody Suit Consultation

Resolved: Members agreed that they were happy to support the principles of the combined custody suite, but did acknowledge that better community information had been needed on this and quality community engagement should have been undertaken. Members would always welcome having additional policing resources available on the streets. Town Clerk to send response to convey these messages.

FC 91.02/2020 – Rural Energy Fund – an update was given to members that the application had been submitted.

Resolved: Outcome of the application to be reported to Members once it has been decided.

FC 91.03/2020 Care Home Christmas Lights. A request has been received to help provide some outside lights to Eden Lodge Care home to help brighten Christmas for residents.

Resolved: Members agreed to provide some lights as part of the Christmas event programme.

FC 91.04/2020 100 Birthday Celebrations – a care home resident is turning 100 years young and have requested a message from the Mayor.

Resolved: A message to be requested from the Mayor and a celebratory balloon and card would be arranged from the Town Council. (Flowers are not allowed due to COVID-19)

FC 91.04/2020 North East Transport Plan Consultation - members were advised that the North East Transport Plan is out for Consultation. It included proposals to improve transport infrastructure within the BATC area. Members were in support of this.

Resolved: Members agreed for the Town Clerk to submit a response on behalf of BATC.

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.

FC 92.00/2020 - Reports of the Town Clerk – the Town Clerk Presented Reports on:

FC 92.01/2020 - Human Resources Report – An update was given to Members on the ongoing situation.

Resolved: Members agreed to request the actual time line of events and then make a final decision at their meeting on the 11 January 2021.

FC 92.02/2020 – Code of Conduct – Members were advised that the Town Clerk had been advised of a reported breach of code of conduct by one of the Members which the County Monitoring Officer was looking into.

Resolved: Members noted the information.

Signed: -

Cllr. J. Allen

Mayor at Full Council meeting held 19th January 2021