

BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Minutes of the meeting 18 June 2024
Held at Bishop Auckland Town Council Offices, Kingsway Court, Bishop Auckland

In Attendance: M Harker (chair) Councillors Balmer-Howieson, J Blackburn, A Legge, D Wilson, A Zair, L Zair, S Zair.

Also Present: Vicki Booth (Acting Town Clerk)

TC 032/24 Apologies for absence K Lawson, M Siddle, K Fryatt

Resolved: that absences were noted and accepted

TC 033/24 Declarations of Interest - To invite members to declare any interest they may have.

Resolved: no declarations of interest were made

TC 034/24 Minutes - To approve the Minutes of the following meetings:

- Town Council 23 May 2024

Resolved: that the minutes were accepted.

TC 035/24 Election of Deputy Mayor - To elect a Deputy Mayor for the 2024-5 Municipal Year.

Resolved: that Cllr Adam Zair was nominated and was a unanimous vote in favour

TC 039/24 Declaration of the Acceptance of Office for the Deputy Mayor - The Deputy Mayor to sign a declaration of acceptance of office.

Resolved: that the newly appointed Deputy Mayor signed the declaration of the acceptance of office

TC 036/24 Appointment of Finance Committee

Resolved: that members agreed to adopt the current committee (now known as Policy and Resources Committee) and add an extra member to give resilience. Cllr A Legge was nominated and accepted the position.

Policy and Resources Committee 6 Members	DW (Chair), AZ (Deputy) MS, MH, JB, AL
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TC 037/24 Adoption of New Model Finance Regulations

Resolved: that members requested more time to consider the changes to the new model regulations and for the current process to remain in the interim. The model regulations to be deferred until the next Town Council meeting.

TC 038/24 Matters Arising To receive any matters arising from the above Minutes which are not included elsewhere on the agenda (for information only).

Resolved: that members discussed the PWLB balance and the possibility of over payment. Members agreed to make a one-off payment of £85,000 then to relook at the outstanding balance and the possibility of another payment in the future to reduce or clear the balance in full. Acting Clerk to carry out the transfer of £85,000

TC 039/24 Public Participation - To hear from any members of the public subject to [Public Participation Policy](#)

Resolved: no comments made by the member of the public

TC 040/24 Reports

- a) Durham County Council
- b) Outside Bodies

Resolved: that members noted the update of the Bus Station anticipated opening spring 2025

TC041/24 Report of the Mayor

Resolved: that members noted the Mayoral activities and that he is now a member of the Stronger Towns Board. Members requested the Mayor raise at the next Stronger Town Board the question of the outstanding works on the Canny Hill roundabout and if it is not to go ahead where will the funds be reallocated to? Also an explanation of the substantial legal costs incurred on the purchase of a property on Newgate Street and a request to see invoices in the strive for transparency.

TC 042/24 Report of Acting Town Clerk

- a. Youth Awards
- b. D Day Summary
- c. Heritage Fair
- d. Christmas Town

Resolved: that members noted the update on future events

TC043/24 Allotment Association Agreements

Resolved: that members were satisfied with the revised draft of the allotment association agreements and these were adopted. That members requested the constitution for the self-managed site be reviewed with the secretary of the site in order to clarify some points and to return this to the next meeting.

TC 044/24 Finance

- a) AGAR Update
- b) Account Balances
- c) Payments for Authorisation

Resolved: that members noted the submission of the AGAR, the account balances and approved the payment report.

TC 045/24 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.

TC 046/24 Correspondence - details of any Correspondence (letters or email received) (standing Item)

Resolved: that members noted the updates

TC 047/24 HR Update (standing Item) that members note staff absences continue.