

BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Minutes of the meeting 17 September 2024
Held at Bishop Auckland Town Council Offices, Kingsway Court, Bishop Auckland

In Attendance: M Harker (chair) Councillors J Blackburn, H Balmer-Howieson, K Lawson, M Siddle, A Zair, L Zair, S Zair.

Also Present: Vicki Booth (Acting Town Clerk)

TC 062/24 Apologies for absence: Cllr D Wilson, K Fryatt

Resolved: that absences were noted and accepted

TC 063/24 Declarations of Interest - To invite members to declare any interest they may have.

Resolved: no declarations of interest were made

TC 064/24 Minutes - To approve the Minutes of the following meetings:

- Town Council 16 July 2024

Resolved: that the minutes were accepted.

TC 065/24 Matters Arising To receive any matters arising from the above Minutes which are not included elsewhere on the agenda (for information only).

Resolved: that no matters arose from the minutes

TC066/24 – Lindsey Fox gave a presentation on Hop the Trains free open space public art gallery with bespoke fibreglass trail decorated by local artists to encourage footfall to the town and wider communities.

Resolved: that members listened to the proposal and agreed to discuss the proposal further at the next Events Committee to bring a proposal back to Full Council.

TC 067/24 Public Participation - To hear from any members of the public subject to [Public Participation Policy](#)

Resolved: that no members of the public were present.

TC 068/24 Reports

a) **Durham County Council**

Resolved: that members noted the update from Cllr S Zair asked Council to consider a funding contribution to the repairs required to Bridge Road.

b) **Outside Bodies representation feedback**

Dawn Knight from the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner's office gave an overview of their Don't Suffer in Silence campaign and the easy access for directional services using the QR code.

Resolved: that members noted the updates

TC069/24 Report of the Mayor The Mayor gave feedback on meetings and events he has attended.

Resolved: that members noted the Mayor's update

TC 070/24 Report of Acting Town Clerk

a. Events Update

An update was given with regards to summer activities and planned forthcoming events.

Resolved: that members noted the vast amount of engagement that took place with communities throughout these events.

b. Allotment Update

Resolved: that members agreed that no progress should be made at present with the water leak at Mill Race and for tenants to continue to turn the stop cock off and on when required as the land is not in a fit state to pinpoint the water leak at present. Members also agreed for the water and maintenance charge to remain unchanged for the 24/25 season and for the rates to increase by £0.02p per sq/m for the 2025/26 season to reflect inflation changes as prices have remained unchanged since 2020.

Resolved: that members noted the update

TC071/24 Finance

- a. Account Balance
- b. Community Fund Applications
- c. Other - PWLB & Insurance
- d. Payment for Authorisation

Resolved: that members noted the balances, PWLB payments and insurance. Authorised payments and discussed community fund applications.

TC 072/24 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 073/24 Correspondence - details of any Correspondence (letters or email received) (standing Item)

Resolved: that members discussed each piece of correspondence

TC 074/24 HR Update (standing Item) that members noted staffing, annual leave remaining for all staff, the requirement to appoint an allotment officer/handyperson and the requirement for a policy for time back for overtime accrued and for a dress code policy.