

BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Minutes of the meeting 1 October 2024
Held at Bishop Auckland Town Council Offices, Kingsway Court, Bishop Auckland

In Attendance: M Harker (chair) Councillors, K Lawson, A Legge, M Siddle, D Wilson, L Zair, S Zair.

Also Present: Vicki Booth (Acting Town Clerk)

TC 075/24 Apologies for absence: Cllr A Zair

Resolved: that prior notification of absences was noted and accepted

TC 076/24 Declarations of Interest - To invite members to declare any interest they may have.

Resolved: no declarations of interest were made

TC 077/24 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 078/24 Report of Acting Town Clerk

a. HR Committee

In 2023 the HR function was included within the new committee structure of the Policy and Resources Committee this was confirmed at the Annual Meeting again in May 2024. However, due to ongoing HR issues from before the annual meeting, it had been agreed that a smaller group of individuals would reform the HR Committee, as reported in the minutes of the meeting of March 2024 ([TC1285/23](#)). HR committee was not reconfirmed at the Annual Meeting in May 2024 so defaulted back to Policy & Resources Committee. A smaller more agile committee is needed and therefore approval is being sought to re-enact the HR Committee.

Resolved: that members noted the requirement for a HR Committee to ensure that it runs in an agile manner and gives resilience. Members of the Disciplinary and Grievance Appeals Panel can not be on the HR panel. Members agreed HR Committee Councillors Lawson (chair), Harker, Siddle and S Zair. Disciplinary and Grievance Committee Councillors L Zair (chair), Balmer-Howieson, Fryatt and Legge.

b. Santander Account

The Acting Clerk gave a verbal update on the foreclosure notification received from Santander due to not accessing the portal to update a member's ID details. The Acting Clerk with the member has spent a number of hours speaking to Business banking and trying to access the online system to no avail.

Resolved: that members agreed that it is important to have two accounts that are easily accessible in the town. That members agree that we should try and continue to resolve the issue before the closure date to keep the account open however, money should be moved from the account. Members agreed £40,000 to Lloyds Business Banking Account and £40,000 to the CCLA account with a better interest rate. This will leave £5,001 in the Santander account.

