

BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Minutes of the meeting 26 November 2024
Held at Bishop Auckland Town Council Offices, Kingsway Court, Bishop Auckland

In Attendance: M Harker (chair), M Siddle, D Wilson, K Lawson

Also Present: Vicki Booth (Acting Town Clerk),

TC 092/24 Apologies for absence: A Zair, L Zair, S Zair, K Fryatt, H Balmer-Howieson, J Blackburn, A Legge

Resolved: that apologies were accepted.

TC 093/24 Declarations of Interest - To invite members to declare any interest they may have.

Resolved: no declarations of interest were made

TC 94/24 Minutes - To approve the Minutes of the following meetings:

- Full Council on 22 October 2024
- Policy and Resources Committee 20 November 2024

Resolved: that the minutes were accepted and approved

TC 095/24 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 were discussed

TC 095/24 Public Participation - To hear from any members of the public subject to [Public Participation Policy](#)

Q1 – Can you give us an update with regards to tenants request to purchase the land at broken Banks?

Response – The Acting Clerk advised that this is a long process. The site was visited by the National Allotment Society in February 2024. Their representative was satisfied that the land could be repurposed should they be requested their opinion by the Secretary of State. This was primarily due to access and locality of the allotment site. The forms were completed and submitted in the summer but there has been no reply to date.

Resolved: that the Acting Clerk will resend information to the Secretary of State and also contact the national Allotment Society regarding their opinion of a timeline.

Q2 – I own various prestigious buildings in the town and on the high street. I have planning permission for all buildings. Unfortunately, things have come to a stand still as funds I was promised back in 2022 have not come to fruition. This is funds from the Stronger towns Board. As it stands if this money is not released soon then all the projects will remain as are and incomplete. The request is the support of the Town Council for DCC to fulfil their promise.

Response – The Town Council have a chair at the Stronger Towns Board. Chair Mike Harker advised he will bring the matter to the next Stronger Towns Board for discussion.

TC 096/24 Reports

- a) **Durham County Council** – No representative of DCC was present

Resolved: that members noted no update could be given

- b) **Outside Bodies representation feedback**

Resolved: no update given.

TC097/24 Report of the Mayor - the Mayor gave feedback on meetings and events he has attended.

Resolved: that members noted the Mayor's update

TC098/24 Finance – The budget planning and precept report that had been agreed by Policy and resources Committee was presented.

Resolved: that members, whilst not a requirement, decided to delay the approval of the budget and precept until there were more members present at Decembers full council meeting.

TC 099/24 Report of Acting Town Clerk –

Environmental Groups – Request for a representative of the Council to attend various groups such as Bishop in Bloom, Green matters etc

Resolved: that members voted Cllr Michael Siddle for this role.

Community – An update was given to the request for donations from the Community Christmas Budget. The S&DR200 ideas and the town floral displays.

Resolved: that members noted and agreed with the distribution of funds and that a sub committee should be appointed regarding the S&D Railway 200.

TC 100/24 Correspondence - details of any Correspondence (letters or email received) (standing Item)

Resolved: no correspondence was discussed

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 10124 HR Update (standing Item) confirmed an offer had been issued to the part time allotment office

Resolved: that members noted the update