

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

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

Also Present: Vicki Booth (Acting Town Clerk),

TC 102/24 Apologies for absence: H Balmer-Howieson, J Blackburn, A Legge

Resolved: that apologies were accepted.

TC 103/24 Declarations of Interest - To invite members to declare any interest they may have.

Resolved: Cllr Fryatt Declared a declaration of interest on Christmas Town

TC 104/24 Minutes - To approve the Minutes of the following meetings:

- Full Council on 26 November 2024

Resolved: that the minutes were accepted and approved

TC 105/24 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 106/24 Public Participation - To hear from any members of the public subject to [Public Participation Policy](#)

Resolved: that no members of the public were present

TC107/24 Q&A with event organisers of Christmas Town

Company Director Thomas Wales gave an overview of how Christmas Town was received by the community prior to it's unscheduled closure forced by adverse weather. Members were given the opportunity to ask questions and offer feedback on their observations.

Resolved: that members thanked the organisation for their hard work and effort and also asked them to consider feedback that had been given.

TC 107/24 Reports

- a) **Durham County Council** – Cllr S Zair gave a brief update as to DCC's ongoing works

Resolved: that members noted the update

- b) **Outside Bodies representation feedback**

Resolved: no update given.

TC108/24 Report of the Mayor - the Mayor gave feedback on meetings and events he has attended.

Resolved: that members noted the Mayor's update

TC109/24 Finance – The budget planning and precept report for 2025-26 was presented.

Resolved: that members agreed on an 18.29% increase to cover the deficit only

TC 110/24 Report of Acting Town Clerk –

- i) Festive Funds Distribution Update** – that BATC supported 28 organisations in their festive activities

Resolved: that members noted the update.

- ii) General Events Update** – that the dates for the Youth Awards & heritage fair have been scheduled.

Resolved: that members noted the update.

- iii) Floral Update** – that the floral displays were considered to be taken over by BATC from DCC so that the town can continue with their displays throughout Sprint & Summer.

Resolved: that members agreed in principle but want a service level agreement in place.

- iv) Allotment Update** – that the new plots at Woodhouse are causing some issues whereby tenants are reporting they cannot penetrate the ground and can't get fence posts in or use it to cultivate. Quotes were presented for a professional company to erect the posts and the possibility of raised beds on each plot.

Resolved: that members request this item is discussed in further detail at the next Allotment Committee.

- v) Website** – members were presented with a choice of web developers to build and maintain a new website for BATC.

Resolved: that members reviewed quotes and opted for company B

- vi) Payments for Authorisation** – that members review the payment report

Resolved: that members approved the payments

TC 111/24 Planning Applications - that no planning applications were presented for discussion

Resolved: no correspondence was discussed

TC 112/24 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 113/24 HR Update (standing Item) confirmed the start date for the new part time allotment officer

Resolved: that members noted the update