

BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Minutes of the meeting 14 January 2025
Held at Bishop Auckland Town Council Offices, Kingsway Court, Bishop Auckland

In Attendance: M Harker (chair), K Fryatt, K Lawson, M Siddle, K Lawson, S Zair,

Also Present: Vicki Booth (Acting Town Clerk),

TC 114/24 Apologies for absence:, H Balmer-Howieson, D Wilson, A Zair, L Zair

Resolved: that apologies were accepted. No apologies were received from A Legge, J Blackburn

TC 115/24 Declarations of Interest - To invite members to declare any interest they may have.

Resolved: Cllr S Zair declared a declaration of interest on the Planning report

TC 116/24 Minutes - To approve the Minutes of the following meetings:

- Full Council on 17 December 2024

Resolved: that the minutes were accepted and approved

TC 117/24 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 118/24 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 119/24 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.

TC120/24 Report of the Mayor - the Mayor gave feedback on meetings and events he has attended.

Resolved: that members noted the Mayor's update

TC 121/24 Report of Acting Town Clerk –

- i) **Website** – that members were advised that the first meeting will take place this week with the development company and any suggestions would be gratefully received.

Resolved: that members noted the update.

- ii) **Precept** – that confirmation has been received that the precept has been submitted to DCC

Resolved: that members noted the update.

- iii) **Payments for Authorisation** – that members reviewed the payment report

Resolved: that members approved the payments

- iv) **Letter to DCC in October** – that the letter submitted by the Council in October to DCC regarding the pricing structure at the Town Hall as not been responded to or acknowledged. The Acting Clerk requested how members would like to proceed.

Resolved: that members agreed the letter should be resubmitted to Elizabeth Scott portfolio holder for Economy and partnerships and Amanda Hopgood Leader of Durham County Council.

- v) **Sub Committees** – advised that an update was required regarding the sub committee for the floral arrangements in the town and the Stockton and Darlington Railway 200.

Resolved: that the sub committees were unable to meet due to ill health regarding the floral arrangements. Cllr Siddle remains in attendance to some other groups regarding the development of the S&DR200 events.

TC 122/24 Planning Applications - that Hair Haus had requested planning permission for a new fascia board.

Resolved: that members agreed the current situation is that only half the sign remains and looks bad, members happy to support the application.

TC 123/24 Correspondence - details of any Correspondence (letters or email received) (standing Item) The Acting Clerk discussed a number of correspondences relating to plans for Go Ape to develop at Hamsterly Forest

Resolved: that members agreed for this item to be discussed at the Allotment and Environment Committee in more detail.

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 124/24 HR Update (standing Item) update was given as to the staff situation

Resolved: that members noted the update