

BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting 28 October 2025

Bishop Auckland Town Council Offices, Kingsway Court, Bishop Auckland

In Attendance: Cllr Sam Zair, Mayor (Chair), Councillors, R Elliott, S Gray, M Harker, A Legge, M Siddle, D Wilkinson, and L Zair

Also Present: Sarah Harris (Town Clerk) Vicki Booth (Assistant Town Clerk) and 4 members of the public

TC063/25 - CDALC presented the Deputy Clerk with an award for passing the CiLCA qualification

TC 064/25 Presentation from Believe Housing

Resolved: that members listened to the presentation and asked questions relating to the proposed project

TC 065/25 Apologies for Absence – Apologies for Absence were received from Cllr Fox, Wilson & L Zair

Resolved: That the apologies were noted and received.

TC 066/25 – Declarations of Interest

Resolved: Cllr Wilkinson declared an interest in Bishops Press and Bishop Auckland Rugby Club . Cllr Siddle declared an interest in Bishop in Bloom

TC 067/25 – Approve the minutes of

- a) Town Council 23 September 2025
- b) Policy and Resources Committee 7 October 2025
- c) Allotment & Environment Committee 10 October 2025
- d) Allotment & Environment Committee 21 October 2025
- e) Allotment & Environment Committee 28 October 2025

Resolved: that the minutes were agreed and all actions within approved.

TC068/25 - Matters arising: no matters discussed

Resolved: that members noted no matters required discussion

TC069/25 Reports

a) Durham County Council

Cllr Gray gave an update regarding Stack project, LCTRS, MTFP and S13A

b) Outside Bodies

Cllr Harker gave a brief update from CDALC

Resolved: that members requested an update on the Local Area Networks (LAN) that has been stalled since May 2025. That the update given advised that the governance and structure of the LAN is being reviewed with the hope it is relaunched by the end of the financial year and the budget will be rolled over to the next financial year. Members received confirmation that councillor neighbourhood budgets are still in place.

TC070/25 Report of the Mayor – the Mayor gave an update on the recent meetings and events he has attended.

Resolved: that members noted the update.

TC071/25 Christmas Activity update including parade Update

Resolved: that members noted the update and approved the donations.

TC072/25 – Consultations - the Clerk advised the current DCC consultations running via the Lets Talk platform are in relation to the MTFP and exemptions to the empty and unfurnished properties and second homes council tax premium.

Resolved: that members noted the update and approved the donations. Stoma Support Group was listed twice and this was agreed for one to be altered to Cornerstone.

TC073/25 – Finance –

a) Payments for authorisation – copy attached.

Resolved: that members approved the payment report

b) Bank signatory required

Resolved: that members agreed to wait until the councillor vacancy is filled before electing a new bank signatory

c) Community Fund Applications

Resolved: that members agreed on the funding of the Choral Society, Bishop Auckland Rugby Club and Bishop in Bloom

d) Quotes for allotment works

Resolved: that members discussed and agreed on a quote for the allotment works including the remedial works on Edge Hill and the fencing work with contractor A for Pollards.

TC074/25 – Public Participation – that no questions were raised from the public

Exclusion of Press and Public

TC075/25 BATC Strategy 2025 – 2029 the Clerk advised that a comprehensive update will be taken to the Policy and Resources Committee for discussion

Resolved; that members noted the comments

TC075/25 Budget Planning 2026-27 preparations

a) Floral displays

Resolved: that members agreed on a floral budget of £25,000 ahead of the budget due to the time constraints for the 2026 floral requirements.