

**Bishop Auckland Town Council
Community Committee Minutes
4th November 2025 @64.30pm
Held at Bishop Auckland Town Council Office, 54 Kingsway**

Present: Cllr Lesley Zair (Acting Chair), Cllr Elliott, Fox & Wilkinson

Also present: Sarah Harris – Town Clerk & Vicki Booth - Assistant Town Clerk

CC025/25 Apologies for absence – no absences

CC026/25 – Declaration of Interest

Resolved: that Cllr Wilkinson declared an interest in the Bishops Press and Cllr Fox declared an interest in events at the Newgate Centre.

CC027/25 – Public Participation

Resolved: No members of the public.

CC028/25 – Actions from previous meeting - the Clerk gave an update on outstanding actions

Resolved: that members noted that all actions are covered on the agenda

CC029/25 – Community Support

- a) **Recognition Scheme** – the Clerk discussed the report and the Freedom of the Town based on the fact the council has the general powers of competence. General recognition rewards such as life time contribution, environmental contribution award.

Resolved: that members agreed the introduction of wider recognition awards and the freedom of the town award. That the appointment of the New mayor would be a good time for this to bring it all into one big celebration event. Requested the Clerk explore this further, that the first recipients were agreed.

- b) **Community Fund** – advised 3 funds were approve at full council due to time constraints. That a promotion of the available grants could be published in one of the future Bishop Press articles.

Resolved: that members agreed the promotion of the grants again.

CC030/25 – Event Programme 2025

- Remembrance 2025
- Christmas Town
- Other activities
- Post-Christmas Events
- Event budget summary and measurables

Resolved: that members noted that updates and agreed to schedule another meeting to clarify Christmas Town details prior to the event taking place. That members discussed a possibility of reading event for World Book Day. That a photography competition would be a suitable idea

Signed Chair:

which is accessible to all for Heritage and link refence a future legacy. Artist hub and possibility for an art exhibition in collaboration with the college. Possibility for Easter event.