

**Bishop Auckland Town Council
Community Committee Minutes
6th January 2026 at 6.30pm
Held at Bishop Auckland Town Council Office, 54 Kingsway**

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

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

CC031/25 Apologies for absence – no absences

CC032/25 – Declaration of Interest

Resolved: that Cllr Wilkinson declared an interest in the Bishops Press

CC033/25 – Public Participation

Resolved: No members of the public.

CC034/25 – Actions from previous meeting - the Clerk gave an update on outstanding actions

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

CC035/25 – Wider Community Update

a) Hearth – Ali Hone – Network Lead for Hearth – new community engagement initiative from the Auckland Project.

Launched in March 2025 and connect local people to everything TAP has to offer. Hearth represents the central part of bringing people together and give people an invitation to be part of the cultural life of their town.

Series of engagement levels –

3 beacon events (free to access family fun events)

Medieval Mayhem will be repeated in June 2026,

Horticulture Show will be repeated in Sept 2026

Ignite (21st – 22nd Feb 2026) developed with Daisy Arts and other artists from the community

Weekly & Monthly reliable activities – broken into art, culture and nature such as deer park family activities, folk night at No1, creative forums, 100 portraits of Bishop Auckland.

Social Prescription partnership work

b) Artist Hub – Resident artists where people can create, support each other, expand their ideas and support the community. Currently working on engagement and exhibitions going forward and the process forming is the sub committee looks at the overall programme. Starting with a creative forum and the classical art strand connected with the Spanish Art Gallery.

c) BA College Week of Action – the Clerk gave an overview of what is on offer and expressions of interest that the Town Council may want to propose to give the students real life work experience such as photographs of the town etc.

Resolved: that members agreed that the Town Council should submit interest. Agreed items – Updated photographs of the town for our social media and website, video of the changing times in the town and our allotment sites as well as other submissions. Establish the level of involvement required by the Town Council staff and that the onus is primarily on the college.

CC036/25 – Event Programme 2026 –

Possibility of Easter Egg Hunt in Jane Armstrong Park or Town Rec and for Clerk to obtain quotes from an event company.

Resolved: that members considered and discussed a number of events and requested further information on various options to be brought to the next committee meeting.

CC037/25 – Community Support

- a) Community Fund Applications – 1 application was considered.

Resolved: that members considered the application, and they requested that the applicant be contacted regarding a couple of further questions relating to the accreditation, and then be considered once questions answered.