

**Bishop Auckland Town Council
Community Committee Minutes
7 April 2026 at 4.30pm
Held at Bishop Auckland Town Council Office, 54 Kingsway**

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

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

CC052/25 Apologies for absence – apologies were received from Cllr Wilkinson

Resolved: that members received and accepted the apologies.

CC053/25 – Declaration of Interest – no declarations were made

Resolved: that members noted no declarations received.

CC054/25 – Action Log Update -

Street Food Markets – Cllr Zair raised the issue that there are now two street food markets, and that she thought that the proposal was to support a joint venture.

Resolved: The Clerk advised that the matter was raised at Full Council on the 24th April, as she was aware that it was a potential issue for members, and that the Council had agreed that the funding agreed was to support Bacchanalia CIC, as they had worked with the council to establish branding guidelines etc. The proposal from Bacchanalia CIC at the last meeting of the committee in February did not mention Bridge Creative CIC. An apology has been received from Bridge Creative CIC for using the Councils logo without permission and it will be on the full council agenda for later in the month. Cllr Zair raised the issue that she wasn't at the full council meeting, and the Clerk acknowledged that but had raised it at that meeting as that was the meeting approving the minutes of meetings and their decisions within, and didn't think it could wait until the April meeting.

CC055/25 – Public Participation – there were no members of the public present.

Resolved: that members noted no members of the public present.

CC056/25 – Community Support

Community Fund Grant Applications

- I. **Bishop Auckland Army Cadets** – that an application had been received for £1000 to secure the purchase of Tablets for cadets to undertake the online log of activities for training and award accreditation. The bank statement had not been received with the application, as this comes centrally and not Soley for the Bishop Auckland Branch.

Resolved: that members agreed that the tablets can be purchased by the council and donated to the cadets along with the 3 redundant tablets the town council currently own and are going to be obsolete, once the new iPads are issued to the members.

- II. Community Support Donations Update** – that the Clerk advised that the paper hasn't been tabled today as approach to organisations hasn't been made yet, and it will be one of the initial tasks for the Clerk or Deputy to do with the Community Development Officer. Therefore a report will come to a future meeting.

Resolved: that members noted the update, and welcomed the report once the new officer was in place. .

- III. Annual Meeting of the Parish and Town of Culture Engagement Opportunity** – that a community based activity could be carried out at the time of the annual meeting to consult with the community and to raise the profile of the council. That the Policy and Resources Committee thought it was too soon for this to happen and maybe something that could be a stand alone event in the summer.

Resolved: that members thought a chance could encourage people to attend, however due to timescales, therefore at this time they do not wish to make changes to the programme due to financial implications.

CC057/25 – Events Update

Food Festival – following the brief at the last Community Committee and update was given of the activities prepared and volunteers schedule. That support was required in order to deliver the can crushing, the plot to plate and leaflet distribution on both days. That a member of BATC staff will be present each day.

Resolved: that members noted the update, and that the Deputy Clerk would send the rota round to all members again, asking for support and members of the community committee would look at their diaries. That members agreed the brochure for the food festival and that it is to be ordered from Lintons Printers.

Youth Awards – that the Clerk gave a summary following the opening for nominations of the 2026 Youth Awards. That sponsorship is going well and a schedule is in place for social media promotion. Posters have been delivered to some schools and organisations however they have all received the information via email.

Resolved: that members noted the update.

CC058/25 Exclusion of Press & Public *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.*

CC059/25 – Strategy and Action Plan Development – An update was given with a working draft of the strategy and that the final strategy will be presented at full council then it will go for consultation.

Resolved: that members noted the update, and that the final strategy would be circulated for comment in the next week and that members would look to respond.