

**Bishop Auckland Town Council  
Community Committee Minutes  
24<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 4.00pm  
Held at Bishop Auckland Town Council Office, 54 Kingsway**

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

**Also present:** Vicki Booth - Assistant Town Clerk

**CC045/25 Apologies for absence –** Cllr Elliott

**CC046/25 – Declaration of Interest**

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

**CC047/25 – Public Participation**

**Resolved:** 1 member of the public but did not raise any questions

**CC048/25 – Community Support**

**Community Fund Grant Applications**

**Renaissance CIC** – that an update was given following the questions raised at the last review of the application.

**Resolved:** that members agreed to support this application for £900

**Durham Amateur Football Trust** – members reviewed the application submitted.

**Resolved:** that members agreed to support the application for the £340 requested but agreed that if more exhibition and promotional material be required they would consider increasing the amount of grant allocated.

**Community Support Donations Update** – the Deputy Clerk advised members of how some donations were allocated at the beginning of the financial year to help support local organisations for the everyday work they carry out within the community. That a request to bring recommendations for the distribution of some of the funds be brought to next committee for consideration.

**Resolved:** that members noted the update and would be in support of a report at the next community committee.

**CC049/25 – Events Update**

**Food Festival** – the Deputy Clerk gave a summary that activities the council will be hosing at the food festival which includes a planting activity, can crushing and the distribution of leaflets showcasing all the activities, events and groups the town has to offer. That a request was made

Signed Chair:

for members support at the event to ensure that it could be attended by the Council on the Sunday as well as the Saturday.

**Resolved:** that members noted the update. That Cllr Wilkinson offered to support the stand on the Saturday afternoon. That members agreed to supply gift voucher prizes to support St Anne's photography competition again this year. That Cllr Wilkinson offered to help develop the 'what's on' handout and requested it be ready to present to full council on the 24<sup>th</sup> march as opposed to the original proposed completion date of 31<sup>st</sup> March.

**Christmas Town Final Report** – Bacchanalia gave a quick update on the Christmas Town data following the questions raised by community committee at the last meeting.

**Resolved:** that members noted the update report and thanked Bacchanalia for their report and insight and agreed that the event had been a success.

**Request for Town Council support for community events:**

- I. **Bishop Auckland Street Food Market** – a proposal to support the markets again this year was discussed. That members requested what the funds would be used for as vendors are charged for their pitch. Confirmation was made that this would be towards production and that the benefits to the council were confirmed.

**Resolved:** That members confirmed the £2,000 support, from the Ward and In Year Events budget, would be supplied to Bacchanalia CIC for Street Food Market production, it was agreed that Members were satisfied of the benefits to the council, including the use of the logo on advertising, an A Board at each Market, and the opportunity to promote other council activities at the event.

- II. **Pride** – a request for continued financial support for the third year of Bishop Auckland Pride in order to continue and grow the event and to continue to ensure this is a free inclusive event again.

**Resolved:** that members agreed to support Pride 2026 and fund Bacchanalia CIC £5,000 from the ward and in year events budget. Members have agreed they are happy with the benefits to the council and that they will look to support with a stand.

- III. **Family Festival** – that a proposal was made for continued financial support for the family festival event in 2026 following its huge family success in 2025.

**Resolved:** that members agreed to support this successful event, and fund Bacchanalia CIC £7,000 from the ward and in year events budget. Members have agreed they are happy with the benefits to the council and that they will look to support with a stand.

**Resolved:** that members agreed that due to underspend in the current year, that to ensure that the event planning can get underway that the £14,000 of funding to Bacchanalia CIC, would be split into 3 payments, with the first installment being paid before the end of march.

**Including Branding and Recognition Information** – Bacchanalia presented information of how the Bishop Auckland Town Council branding will look throughout 2026 if they are the principle partner to an event as well as how it will be presented when it is a smaller partner.

**Resolved:** That members requested the wording on the BATC branding be bigger to fill the space better and make it more prominent. They also reiterated that events that were stand alone and not partnered must be promoted as such and not looking like they are in partnership with any promotional organisation.

**CC050/25 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.*

**CC051/25 – Strategy and Action Plan Development** – An update was given with a working draft of the strategy.

**Resolved:** that members agreed on the overall sub-strategy proposal.