

Bishop Auckland Town Council

Minutes of the Town Council Committee

18.00 at 30 June 2026

Town Council Offices, Kingsway Court, Bishop Auckland

Cllr Present: Chair Cllr M. Siddle (Chair), Cllrs D, Wilson, J Fox, R. Elliott, S Zair,

Also, present: S Harris, Town Clerk, V Booth Deputy Clerk and J Turnock Governance Support Officer and County Councillor John Kinvig

TC017/26- Apologies for Absence – Cllrs M Harker, A Legge, D Wilkinson, L Zair, S Gray

Resolved: that members agreed and accepted the above apologies, with exception of Cllr T Redmond as not correspondence received.

TC018/26 - Declaration of Interests –

Resolved: that no declarations of interest declared.

TC019/26 – Public Participation

Resolved: - No comments were made by members of the public.

TC020/26 – Minutes of the following meeting presented

- Annual Town Council Meeting 28-05-2026
- Policy and Resources Committee 02-06-2026
- Community Committee 10-06-2026
- Allotment and Environment Committee 16-06-2026

Resolved: all members accepted and approved the above minutes and the decisions contained within them.

TC021/26- Matters arising and Action Log –

The Clerk gave an overview of the outstanding action on outstanding actions and timelines for resolutions.

A discussion took place on the boundary review, there has been no response from DCC which is now exceeded the response request date.

Resolved: that the members noted the update. Members requested the Clerk contact NALC and the local MP on the matter.

Signed:

TC022/26–Reports

a Durham County Council

DCC Cllr Kinvig gave a quick update on the consultation plan and the better response on the council for Taxi drivers.

He highlighted ongoing issues around the gypsy encampment at Cockton Hill Rec

PACT meeting raised issues around catapults

Allotment/Private land looking at fencing off the Town Centre rec.

DCC have decommissioned sprinklers for bowling clubs, and it is being pushed back on from Northumbrian Water to say there is little evidence of a Legionella's issues.

Resolved: Members noted and thanked Cllr Kinvig for his updated

b Outside Bodies

The Clerk advised that there had been no Local Network Meetings, or CDALC meetings since the last council. However the Clerk and Deputy had been to the NALC conference and an update report to note will be submitted to the next council meeting.

Stronger Towns Board – The Chair gave an update, and advised that the Tindale retail park crossing was discussed and remains an issue. However it is not a simple fix as the road is national speedlimit, and therefore a temp crossing cannot be installed, however DCC have started the process to have the road reclassified to the correct limit for a pedestrian crossing in line with the retail park expansion.

Fencing has been removed from Newgate Street however the stack development remains paused whilst the issues with the former works building are dealt with. A new management team has been appointed by DCC for the Newgate Centre.

Resolved: that members noted the update and thanked the chair for raising the crossing once again.

TC023/26 – Report From the Mayor

Cllr Siddle gave an update that he attended the Pride event which BATC are a principal partner and participated in the strategic plan consultation, which was well attended

He also attended the Choral Society which was very well attended.

Deputy Mayor attended Youth Awards in Mayor's absence

The Clerk and Mayor attended Bishop Auckland Aspire awards and presented the apprentice of the year award.

Resolved: Members noted the update

Signed:

TC024/26 – Dashboard Summary.

The Clerk has developed and summary of the previous month's activities. This Dashboard is to be presented at the beginning of the meeting in future to start meetings on positive notes. .

Resolved: Councillors to give feedback and like the format on the dashboard and happy to implement.

TC025/26 - Finance

a Payments for Authorisation -

payment report was presented (see appendix 1) to members.

Resolved: members authorised the payments to be made.

TC026/26 – Consultations

a Town Council Strategy

Request for the consultation period to be extended until the end of August with 30 responses, focus group session and visits to various groups.

Resolved: Members agreed to extend the consultation period to maximise the responses received.

b Durham County Council Consultations

i) County Durham Plan

A summary was prepared and a draft response (see file copy)

Resolved: Members agreed with the response and tasked the clerk to respond.

ii) New Selective Licencing schemed

A summary was prepared and a draft response (see file copy)

Resolved: Members agreed with the response and tasked the clerk to respond.

iii) Adult Social Care

1. Communicating and Sharing Information

A summary was prepared and a draft response (see file copy)

Resolved: Members agreed with the response and tasked the clerk to respond.

2. Shaping Adult Social Care

A summary was prepared and a draft response (see file copy)

Resolved: Members agreed with the response and tasked the clerk to respond.

TC027/26 – Office Telecoms and Internet

The Clerk gave a summary of the ongoing issues with the current Internet provision the current supplier charges £159 but an upgrade would be required.

Signed:

Three quotes were received and presented; this would have a 1 gig line increase in cost 3 yr contract and additional futureproofing and enhanced security of the internet.

Resolved: Members agreed to the third quote provided it can be negotiated down to a 3-year contract at a reasonable rate. It was agreed that the revised rate is to be represented to the next Policy and Resources committee for confirmation.

TC028/26 – Correspondence – to consider items of correspondence including: -

a) Annual General Meeting of Auckland Youth and community Centre invitation, (poster attached)
Vicki to attend and possible other councillors

Resolved: Members noted the invitation and the Clerk or Deputy Clerk will be in attendance.

Signed: