

Bishop Auckland Town Council
Minutes of the Community Committee

15th July 2026 at 18.00

Town Council Offices, Kingsway Court, Bishop Auckland

Cllr Present: Chair Cllr L Zair, Cllr Harker, Cllr Elliott, Cllr T Redmond, Cllr J Fox (Cllr Fox arrived at 6.55pm)

Also, present: S Harris, V Booth, J Turnock, M Jordan, S Zair, Ben Tinkler (Bridge Creative CIC) and Thomas Wales (Baccanalia CIC) who run Christmas Town, Alison Curry (Dispel Art)

CC008/26 - Apologies for Absence –

Resolved: that as no apologies were received members did not note or approve any absences or apologies.

CC009/26 - Declaration of Interests –

Resolved: that members made any declarations of interest, therefore none were recorded.

CC010/26 - Action Log from Previous Meeting –

Resolved: that the members noted the action log and members agreed that it was accurately updated.

CC011/26 Public Participation

Resolved: two members of Christmas Town were present to answer later questions.

CCO12/26– Community Support

CCO12a/26– Community Fund application Bridge Creative Group

Tabled request for £170 for bus and driver hire to take some members of the Henknowle community who have been accessing the COSE centre for the community Fridays to on a trip to South Shields with Bridge Creative Service users. vulnerable service member users, on a trip to South Shields.

Resolved: that Members considered the request and the funding request.

CCO12B/26 Community Support Update

Signed:

Clerk gave an update of the Community Support requirements in advance, and referred the report (see file copy).

CCO12bi/26– Community Fund donation AYCC update

Paper produced and presented to identify amounts allocated to AYCC

- £5,000 - Community Centre from Community Organisation support to help with overheads and running costs.
- £4,000 – School Holiday Support – support school holiday activities for the summer holiday period, particularly for children and families who do not qualify for external funding programmes but are nevertheless experiencing financial hardship. This would address a recognised gap in current support provision. More funding could be considered for the further school holidays across the year.
- £2,000 – Wider Christmas Activity – consider continuing to support the ‘Winter Wonderland’ initiative, recognising its positive impact on local children and schools helping to ensure that participation remains free and accessible.

Total £11,000

Resolved: that members agreed to allocate the funding on the provision of an audit trail, and detailed feedback reports to the council.

CCO12bii/26– Community Fund donation Woodhouse Close update

Paper produced and presented to identify amounts allocated to Woodhouse Close

- £5,000 - Community Centre from Community Organisation support to help with overheads and running costs.
- £2,000 – Wider Christmas Activity – consider continuing to support the Christmas day luncheon which saw 57 individuals come together for Christmas 2025 as well as the Christmas activity for the 10+ groups using the centre and the centre volunteer Christmas luncheon.

Total £7,000

Resolved: that members agreed to allocate the funding on the provision of an audit trail , and detailed feedback reports to the council.

CCO12biii/26 – Wear Community Action Valley Action

Paper produced and presented to identify certain amounts allocated to Wear Valley Action

- £1,000 –from School Holiday support to with the seasonal events, and information roadshows (at least 4 per year).

Resolved: members agreed to allocate the funding on the provision of an audit trail and , and detailed feedback reports to the council.

Signed:

CCO13a/26 – Strategy Update

A reminder that it is request members promote the current ongoing strategy consultation, and that they commit to supporting engagement and consultation at events such as Family Festival and Street food and Food Carousel as there is currently very few responses to the consultation and we need considerably more to make it meaningful and to shape the strategy.

Resolved: members agreed to promote the Strategy at all events and will commit to supporting activity. It was agreed by members that shorter information sheets, and surveys into shops and cafes would be useful, and the clerk was tasked with enabling this.

CCO13b/26 – Moving Together

An update produced by Maxine (Community Support) and presented covering the visit to Moving Together Bishop Auckland. (see file copy)

Resolved: members noted the report and welcomed future information on the project.

CCO13c/26 – Greener Together Community Gardens

CCO13ci/26 – Kings Trust

Update on the Garden outside of the Kingsway Office presented. (see file report)

Resolved: members noted the report and acknowledged the improvements made through effective partnership working.

CCO13cii/26 – Railway Station Garden

Update on the Railway Garden presented. (see file report)

Resolved: members noted the report and acknowledged the improvements made through effective partnership working.

CCO14a/26 – Youth Awards 2026 update

Reports produced and presented on the Youth Award (see file report)

Resolved: members accepted the update and complimented the Youth Awards and billed it as the best one yet.

CCO14b/26 – Pride 2026 update

Update reports produced and presented on Pride 2026 (see file report).

Resolved: members noted the update.

Signed:

CCO14c/26 – Freedom of the Town

Report detailing the event that will be bestow Freedom of the Town on Dame Sue Snowdon and Dr Robert McManners, the event at will include a Town Crier and canopies at £15.95pp, with an order of service at Bishop Auckland Chapel. (see file copy)

Resolved: Members accepted the report and acknowledge the work that has gone into the organisation of the event, with tight timescales. Members agreed that with the decisions the Chair had made regarding the medals, and scrolls to ensure that they would be delivered on time.

CCO14d/26 – Lego Trail 2026

Paper showing the Lego trail is being displayed in Bishop Auckland was presented following the display in Durham, £3,000 will be used to two days of Lego build on a princess themed activity. There will be 6 sessions at the Town Hall. (see file copy) A competition will run alongside the trail added excitement. And £1,000 will be used to promote the event.

Resolved: Members accepted the recommendation and the spend required

CCO14e/26 – Family Festival 2026

Paper update produced and presented on the Family Festival and current planning and the event will be delivered 15th August 11-4pm. Last years event was extremely popular, and it was free to enter, and a list of attractions was provided.

Resolved: members agreed and accepted the recommendations from the report.

CCO14f/26 – Heritage Fair

Paper produced and presented setting out the programme which will be marketplace level (see file copy).

Resolved: members agreed to the proposals and agreed that it would be much better on one level. It was agreed that the Chair would seek to secure the mobile barrell organ to play in the market place.

CCO14g/26 – Christmas Town 2026

Report produced and presented outlining preparation and how the residents, partners and families would be brought together. This places Bishop Auckland in a position as a prime Council in the County for Christmas time events. Issues around last years parade were discussed and changes such as a vehicle type parade and other options rather than a foot parade could be explored.

Resolved: members agreed that the funding had been allocated, however they wished to seek approval from full council to make the payments in early august and early September rather than September and October like previous years.

CCO14h/26 – Word Fest

Signed:

Proposal to run a range of activities looking at authors, poets, writers word trail and a request to sponsor the event for £5100 was submitted from Alison Curry at Dispel Art (see File Copy)

Exhibition 7th – 20th September with an activity event 11/12/13th September.

Resolved: members acknowledged the report and an offer of £6000 from the ward and in year events budgeted was made, with the Council billed as the primary sponsor. The Clerk is tasked with ensuring that the appropriate funding agreement is in place, and that the council is appropriately acknowledged.

Signed: