

Bishop Auckland Town Council

Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Town Council Committee

11 August 2026 at 18:00

Town Council Offices, Kingsway Court, Bishop Auckland

Cllr Present: Chair Cllr M Siddle, Cllrs M Harker, Cllr D. Wilkinson, L Zair, S Zair, T Redmond, R Elliott, S Gray and J Fox.

Also present: S Harris, Town Clerk

TC042/26 Welcome – Mayor Siddle welcomed everyone to the Extra Ordinary meeting of the Town Council and thanked members for attending in what usually would be recess. He asked members to note his thanks to the Staff team for the delivery of the Freedom of the Town Event, last week. It was a fantastic event and put Bishop Auckland truly on the map. To have Northern Echo, local press and Tyne Tees cover the event was brilliant.

Resolved: Members noted the Mayors remarks and agreed that the Freedom event had been fantastic.

TC043/26 - Declaration of Interests – Cllr D Wilkinson declared an interest in Bishop Press for media activities.

Resolved: that members noted the declaration.

TC044/26 – Minutes - to approve the follow minutes of the Town Council meeting on the 28th July 2026.

Resolved: that the members noted and approved subject to an amendment of agreeing apologies from Cllr Legge, and that the point of order raised by Cllr S Zair, included a request for a meeting. Members agreed with this and the minutes were changed and printed for signature.

TC045/26 Action Log –

The format of the action log have been changed, and moving forward members will receive them as excel documents so that they can view the achieved actions on the second sheet. Members were asked to re-approve the minutes of the 21 July 2026 Allotment and Environment Committee meeting, two of the minute numbers were incorrect and the actions in the closed part of the meeting had not been recorded in full. A copy of the wording change can be found on file

Resolved: Member noted and approved the action log. There were four members of the Allotment Committee present, and they agreed with the new wording for the decisions, as it was more detailed and reflective of the discussions taken. The Mayor signed the changed minutes for file.

TC046/26 Public participation – no members of the public in attendance.

Resolved: that members noted that there were no members of the public in attendance.

Signed Chair:

TC047/26 Exclusion of the press and Public

Resolved that the Members agreed to now exclude the press and public for the remaining item on the agenda by reason of Confidential nature of the business to be transacted since publicity would be prejudicial to any public interest. This is in accordance with the provisions of section 1 of the Public Bodies Act (admission to meetings) 1960, as amended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972.

TC048/26 – Finance – Christmas Town Donation

Members of the Council considered the paper presented. Each member was given the opportunity to speak in relation to the paper.

Resolved:

- that members were unanimous in their support for Bishop Auckland's Christmas Town, and the benefit that it brings to the residents, business and the volume of visitors it brings to the Town, and the positive impact upon the economy.
- That members agreed the revised grant agreement, and that whilst both companies would be jointly liable for the grant terms, the funds would be paid to Bacchanalia CIC. A named vote was held and resolved that the Payment would be made in three instalments, 12th August 2026, 12 September 2026 and 12th October 2026 over making the payment in Full. The vote was as follows:
 - Those in favour of making the grant payment in full, Cllr Siddle, Wilkinson and Elliott.
 - Those in Favour of making the grant payment in three instalments Cllr S Zair, L Zair, J Fox, S Gray, T Redmond and M Harker.
- That members agreed that during the autumn budget setting the terms and payment timelines would be agreed for any grants.