

Minutes of the **MEETING** of **BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Wesley Room at the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY, 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2010** at 6.25 P.M.

**Present:** Councillor L. Zair (**in the Chair**) and Councillors Anderson, Fleming, Golightly, Laurie, Lee, Lethbridge, Wilson and S. Zair.

**Also Present:** Linda Goldie (Town Clerk), Rachel Wearmouth (Northern Echo) and Duncan Leatherdale (Wear Valley Mercury), Sue Elms (Youth Development Worker), Jack Cullen and Sam Hunter (Town Council's Youth Panel)

**TC 12/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Huntington.

**TC 13/10 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**TC 14/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**TC 15/10 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2010**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2010 be approved and adopted.

**TC 16/10 MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

**TC 17/10 REPORT OF TOWN MAYOR**

There was no report of the Town Mayor.

**TC 18/10 UNITARY AUTHORITY UPDATE**

- The Annual Meeting of the Unitary Authority had been held last week.

**TC 19/10 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND TRAINING EVENTS**

There were no reports presented.

**Report of Town Clerk.** The Town Clerk reported as follows:-

**TC 20/10 ONE DAY BUT NOT A NIGHT IN BISHOP AUCKLAND –  
COMPLAINT ABOUT BOY RACERS  
(Minute No. TC 239/10 refers)**

Arising out of the above Minute, copies of e-mails received from Inspector Martin Peace and Raj Devgan, Chairman of Bishop Auckland Town Centre Licensing Association were circulated for information which outlined the amount of work the relevant partners were doing in order to alleviate the problem.

**Signed:** .....  
**Town Mayor**

Raj Devgan had commented that it was a pity the Town Council were too embarrassed to bring the visitors back to the Queens Head Hotel in the town centre. If the objective was to demonstrate that their initial experience was not typical of night life in Bishop Auckland then why whisk them away from the town centre. Surely, they should see that we collectively have “got our act together”, listened to their complaint, acted and “made a difference”.

Councillor Laurie agreed with the comments saying that the Town Council had lost an opportunity to say we can improve the situation and we should have had the courage of our convictions.

**RESOLVED:** That the information be noted.

**TC 21/10 FISHING RIGHTS  
(Minute No. TC 238/10 refers)**

In accordance with the above Minute, an e-mail was sent to Chris Rolle of Durham County Council requesting him to explore the possibility of leasing back the fishing rights on the River Wear to the Town Council at a peppercorn rent.

He replied saying that there was always a value to this sort of asset, and that the Council was under pressure to maximise the return from its assets. He said he would take up the Town Council's suggestion with senior officers and would consult with the local members, but could not guarantee that the suggested arrangement would be either approved or accepted. The County Council's leisure services team did a lot of work with fishing clubs and syndicates on the river, and there was a demand for access to water of this sort particularly for game fishing. It was understood that the AAP's and possibly the Town Council would have access to resources, so perhaps there would be some work necessary to look at the business case around any letting of the fishing rights.

He said he would be happy to meet and discuss if that would be helpful.

**RESOLVED:** That the outcome of discussions be awaited.

**TC 22/10 RELOCATION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS FROM PROUDFOOT DRIVE  
(Minute No. TC 201/10 refers)**

In accordance with the above Minute which highlighted the Town Council's concerns regarding the relocation of the Neighbourhood Wardens from Proudfoot Drive to Crook a letter had been received from the Head of Direct Services reassuring members that the service provided to the Bishop Auckland area would not suffer as a result of the move. The number of Neighbourhood Wardens allocated to the area and their role would remain unchanged. The relocation would improve the overall service and improve interaction and co-operation with a number of services that contribute to tackling the issues that Neighbourhood Wardens address and further details had been submitted thereon.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

**TC 23/10 CAR PARKING  
(Minute No. TC 212/10 (a) refers)**

Arising out of the above Minute, an e-mail had been received from Keith Jameson from Durham County Council saying that attendance at an evening meeting was difficult for him but he would be prepared to meet representatives of the Council in normal working hours. He was based at Etherley Lane Council Depot or could meet at The Four Clocks.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillors Golightly, Lethbridge and L. Zair be authorised to meet with Keith Jameson to discuss the question of car parking.

**Signed:** .....  
**Town Mayor**

**TC 24/10 BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE  
(Minute No. TC 204/10 refers)**

Arising out of the above Minute, a copy of a letter received from the Project Director of Building Schools for the Future had been circulated which answered Mr. Clark's questions which he recently brought to the Town Council. A copy had also been sent to Mr. Clark.

**RESOLVED:** That the information be noted.

**TC 25/10 PROPOSED CINEMA AND BOWLING ALLEY, TINDALE CRESCENT  
(Minute No. TC 212/10 (b) refers)**

Arising out of the above Minute a reply had been received from Chris Baxter of Durham County Council stating that with regards to the cinema and bowling alley parts of the Terrace Hill development at Tindale Crescent, the Town Council was dismayed with the cinema and bowling alley being 'shelved'. After speaking with the developers, Terrace Hill, it appeared that they had been unable to attract service operators to the cinema and bowling alley parts of the development. The reason for this was predominantly due to the current down turn in the economic climate. Terrace Hill had indicated that they were still actively looking to attract service operators for the cinema and bowling alley. Works have begun on the site to build the football stadium, Sainsburys store and more importantly the main road infrastructure through the site. Terrace Hill believe that once the road infrastructure has been constructed along with the football stadium and Sainsburys store being fully operational, the cinema and bowling alley would become much more attractive to service operators".

**RESOLVED:** That the information be noted.

**TC 26/10 TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION**

**(a) Youth Council**

**RESOLVED:** That the offer from the Deputy Town Clerk of Shildon to speak to the Town Council on the success of their Youth Council be accepted and she be invited to the June Town Council Meeting.

**TC 27/10 ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION –  
P.C. ALEX RILEY**

At the end of the meeting, the Mayor made a presentation of a Royal Humane Society Certificate to P.C. Alex Riley of Durham Constabulary who was commended for his praiseworthy action in assisting in saving the lives of 3 men at a road traffic accident on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2008 near the Aldi roundabout, Bishop Auckland.

Area Commander, Chief Superintendent Andy Reddick had also attended along with colleagues and family of P. C. Riley, after which refreshments were served.

**Signed:** .....  
**Town Mayor**