

Minutes of the **MEETING** of **BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Wesley Room at the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2010** at 6.00 p.m.

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

**Also Present:** Linda Goldie (Town Clerk), Bessie Robinson (Northern Echo), Lee Brownson (Bishop F.M.), residents from Seymour Street, – Mr. J. Fenwick, Mr. J. Hutchinson, Mrs. R. Cunningham and Mrs. M. Purdy.

### **TC 28/10 INTRODUCTION OF INSPECTOR MARTIN PEACE**

The Mayor welcomed Inspector Martin Peace who had been invited to the meeting to up-date members on police issues in Bishop Auckland especially the problems with ‘boy racers’ which had been the subject of discussion at an earlier meeting.

Inspector Peace said that the boy and girl racers problems had gone on for years and the police were running operations all the time; the latest being ‘Operation Covehalt’ which resulted in: 25 x non endorsable (seat belts), 6 x non endorsable (fog lights), 3 x endorsable (mobile phone), 1 x endorsable (danger of injury due to manner in which carried), 1 x non endorsable (reg mark), 9 x VDRS, 1 x vehicle seizure (anti-social driving), 1 x vehicle seizure (no insurance, 5 x traffic 183 (warning notice) and 1 x arrest (S18 assault – wanted on PNC0. In order to help further reduce this problem the LMAPS Group (Local Multi-Agencies Problem Solving) was looking at monitoring the bollard at Fore Bondgate.

The Nightsafe Scheme had been running for a number of years to reduce violent crime in the town and the Police were looking at the provision of taxi marshalls and portable urinals.

Door staff were being trained and most glasses were now polycarbonate. ‘Direction to Leave’ notices were being used. Over 100 test purchases had been carried out and one pub had been closed down.

The effectiveness of CCTV was queried. This was run by Durham County Council and contracted out to Darlington B.C. and the agencies were trying to get volunteers to help in the CCTV offices. It was agreed that the cameras should be used more proactively.

Councillor Kay thanked Inspector Peace for the information given but commented that he did not think the police were giving the problem of ‘boy and girl racers’ the priority it deserved and would like to see more tangible concrete evidence.

Councillor Lethbridge commented that he understood the level of concerns which have also been discussed at the PACT meetings (Police and Communities Together) and members asked that this type of operation be repeated.

The Mayor thanked Inspector Peace for his report after which he left the meeting.

### **TC 29/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Golightly and Lee.

### **TC 30/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **TC 31/10 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Residents of Seymour Street had attended the meeting to inform the Town Council of problems they were experiencing with the square in Seymour Street. Some residents had been told that this was a play area and friction had arisen between residents concerning children playing ball games etc.

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

Councillor Lethbridge said he had been contacted by Mr. Fenwick of Seymour Street regarding this problem which he had discussed with the Beat Officer, the Street Wardens and Neighbourhood Safety. Durham County Council was looking at possible changes in this area to try to alleviate problems.

The Town Council informed residents that the PACT meeting would be the appropriate forum to consider this problem and the residents were given details of where and when the next meeting would be held.

**TC 32/10 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
HELD ON 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2010**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2010 be noted.

**TC 33/10 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2010**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2010 be approved and adopted.

**TC 34/10 MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising

**TC 35/10 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2010**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May be approved and adopted.

**TC 36/10 MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

**TC 37/10 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

**(a) Planning Committee - 24<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2010 be approved and adopted.

**TC 38/10 MATTERS ARISING**

**(a) Application 3/2010/0102**

Councillor Laurie queried the design change with regard to the above application.

Councillor Sam Zair informed the Council that this application had since been refused.

**(b) Finance Committee - 25<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2010 be approved and adopted.

**(c) Allotments Committee - 8<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Allotments Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2010 be approved and adopted.

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

**(d) Strategy Committee - 9<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Strategy Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2010 be approved and adopted.

**(e) Planning Committee - 28<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2010 be approved and adopted.

**TC 39/10 MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

**TC 40/10 REPORT OF TOWN MAYOR**

During here first month in office, the Town Mayor reported that she had:-

- Presented a Royal Humane Society Certificate to P. C. A. Riley
- Given an interview on BBC Radio Tees on the problems with 'boy racers'
- Presented certificates and prizes to the winners of the Town Council's Youth Awards Competition
- Been on the Weardale Railway's inaugural train journey to Stanhope

At this point, Councillor Kay commented that, although not present at the above event, a third party had commented to him that the Town Council had not received the treatment expected of a main sponsor and apart from the Mayor, no other Town Councillor had been invited. The Mayor had not been included with the other people who had V.I.P recognition. He went on to say that, in his opinion, all members of the Town Council should have been invited and that this was not the first time the Town Council had not been recognized.

Other members agreed with Councillor Kay's comments.

Councillor Laurie, who had attended the train journey as a representative of the Town Centre Forum said that the whole purpose of the event was about people who were going to bring business to the town.

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Centre Forum be informed of the Town Council's discontent at the lack of recognition of the Town Mayor and the Town Council.

- Attended the Toronto Playground opening ceremony
- Attended a photoshoot at the College to promote The Proms
- Been invited to attend the funeral of Councillor Jim Smith (Councillor from Willington T.C.)
- Taken part in the Butterwick Hospice Twilight Walk
- Attended Sedgefield Town Council's Civic Service
- Attended the Co-op Funeral Care Rededication Ceremony together with the Deputy Mayor
- Been to Woodhouse Community School together with the Deputy Mayor to meet an African Teacher
- Presented the winning cup at the Vintage Car Rally held in the town
- Attended the Butterwick Hospice Fundraising lunch
- Attended the 15 year celebration dinner for the Butterwick Hospice and met Mary Butterwick, the Founder of the Hospice
- Given an update on BBC Radio Tees on the 'boy racers'
- Attended the three day Music Festival at the College, including opening the proms

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

## **TC 41/10 UNITARY AUTHORITY UPDATE**

- Councillor Kay congratulated the County Council on the works carried out to repair the roads since the severe winter

### **Councillor Kay then left the meeting.**

- Councillor Sam Zair informed members that the County Council would be holding seminars in October to invite Councillors' suggestions as to where cutbacks could be made.
- Councillor Lethbridge stated that staff were concerned as to whether they would still have jobs

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

## **TC 42/10 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND TRAINING EVENTS**

Councillor Anderson reported that he had attended the Bishop Auckland Shildon Local Council's Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> May when the agenda for the next AAP meeting had been discussed including the lessons learned from last winters' gritting problems.

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

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

## **TC 43/10 CHEQUES –**

### **(a) Written Under Delegated Powers – Current Account and Allotments Account**

In accordance with Minute TC 54/09, the Mayor and Chair of Finance had authorised payment of the cheque nos. 416 – 437 from the Current Account and cheque no. 009 from the Allotments Account.

**RESOLVED:** That the action taken be noted.

### **(b) Presented for Authorisation**

Cheque nos. 438 – 441 from the Current Account had been presented for authorisation:-

**RECOMMENDED:** That the above cheques be authorised for payment.

## **TC 44/10 INVITATION TO MAYOR AT HOME – TOWN HALL, BISHOP AUCKLAND - SUNDAY, 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2010**

An invitation had been extended to all members of the Council to attend the Mayor at Home in the Town Hall, Bishop Auckland on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2010 at 2.00pm – 4.00pm. This is the Mayor's first official fundraising event and members support was requested. Tickets were £6.00 each.

**RESOLVED:** That any member interested in attending the event should inform the Town Clerk.

## **TC 45/10 COMMUNITY FUND APPLICATION – (L.G.A. 1972 – Section 19) 2<sup>ND</sup> BISHOP AUCKLAND SCOUT GROUP**

A Community Fund application had been received from Mr. D. Ward on behalf of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bishop Auckland Scout Group for £500 for the purchase of visual training aids for scouting, e.g. plastic signs to go on Headquarters walls for cubs and scouts. One sign is 8ft x 4ft - £100 and 8 x 4ft – 4ft @ £50 each - £400 – Total £500.00.

**RESOLVED:** That, subject to receipt of satisfactory paid invoices, the application for £500.00 be approved.

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

**TC 46/10 PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS CONFERENCE –  
CODE OF CONDUCT ETC. – COUNTY HALL, DURHAM –  
MONDAY, 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2010 – 3.30PM**

A copy of details of the above Parish and Town Councils Conference had previously been circulated to members.

To date, no replies had been received.

**RESOLVED:** That any member interested in attending the event should inform the Town Clerk.

**TC 47/10 CAR PARKING  
(Minute No. TC 212/10 (a) and TC 23/10 refer)**

Arising out of the above Minute, a meeting had been arranged to be held between Keith Jameson, Area Traffic Engineer (South) of Durham County Council and Councillors Golightly, Lethbridge and L. Zair to discuss the question of car parking.

A meeting took place on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2010 at 10.00 a.m. and Councillors Golightly and Lethbridge were in attendance together with the Town Clerk.

Keith Jameson was unable to attend and Steve Jones, Professional Assistant had attended in his place.

Councillor Golightly expressed dissatisfaction that Keith Jameson could not attend and it appeared from later discussions that Steve Jones had not been brought up-to-date with the Council's concerns.

Councillor Golightly said that nobody was encouraged to stay in Bishop Auckland because car park charges were for less than three hours and people would like to stay longer. The concern was that this was killing Bishop Auckland Town Centre.

Steve pointed out that the car parks in Bishop Auckland were maintained by Craig Rudman of D.C.C. and that he would get in touch with him to find out if the question of charging could be looked at especially as some neighbouring Councils did not make a charge.

Arising out of discussions, it was established that there were 9 parking bays at the Railway Station which were free and for 24/7 parking. Councillor Lethbridge commented that in order to increase rail useage these car parking spaces could be allocated to the Railway Station.

The question of double yellow lines in Westfield Road and McIntyre Terrace was raised. New double lines had been painted in Westfield Road but people were still parking on them. Steve informed members that Durham County Council had no powers at the moment and it was up to the Police to enforce and he would chase this up with them.

Councillor Lethbridge mentioned that McIntyre Terrace had recently been resurfaced and the double lines had not been reinstated. Steve said he would get in touch with the lining contractor and chase this up also.

Since the meeting, Steve has spoken to Craig Rudman who had advised that a formal application should be made stating what the Council is wanting and the reason why, to the Head of Environment, Health and Consumer Protection.

**RESOLVED: (i)** That an e-mail be sent to Keith Jameson with a copy to be sent to Steve Ketley expressing the Town Council's dissatisfaction at the way this matter has been dealt with.

**(ii)** That a formal application for consideration of the extension of the hours of stay together with a reduction in charges be made to the Head of Environment, Health and Consumer Protection as Bishop Auckland does not want to be seen as disadvantaged with other areas in the County.

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

## **TC 48/10 THE REFRESH OF THE COUNTY DURHAM COMPACT**

Members had previously been circulated, by e-mail, a copy of the above document.

The County Durham Compact was a partnership agreement between the public sector and the third sector (the voluntary and community sector) in County Durham.

Its purpose was to identify and agree to ways of improving working relationships between the two sectors and this was an opportunity to be involved in shaping how the third sector developed its working relationship with the public sector.

A Consultation Questionnaire had been attached to the e-mail.

**RESOLVED:** That the Questionnaire be completed individually.

## **TC 49/10 THE COUNTY DURHAM PLAN CORE STRATEGY ISSUES AND OPTIONS CONSULTATION PAPER**

Members had previously been circulated, by e-mail, a copy of the above document.

In order to deliver the transformation to the County's economy that was required, the County Council needed to put in place a plan which created conditions to deliver the right amount and type of new development in the most appropriate locations. So far, it had been identified that up to 2030, the County Council needed to deliver:

- 16,000 new jobs on 163 ha of employment land
- Around 29,000 new houses
- New shopping in Crook, Durham City, Ferryhill, Peterlee and Spennymoor
- Major new roads to the north and west of Durham City
- Additional new capacity for household, commercial and industrial waste
- A steady supply of minerals
- At least 20% of electricity generated to be from renewable sources

The County Council needed to decide how this development would be shared out across County Durham. To this end, it had identified two options, but were making it clear that Option A was the Council's preferred choice, i.e.:

**Option A** emphasised increased economic development, such as new jobs, housing, retailing etc. in those locations that had demonstrated strong economic performance, with the principal focus on Durham City, as the most effective way to increase the prosperity and economic performance of the County as a whole. However, Durham City was not the only focus of this option and other towns had been more successful in attracting new housing and other development such as Chester-le-Street, Consett, Seaham, Bishop Auckland and Barnard Castle. Although not priority locations other areas of the County would be allowed to grow and prosper.

**Option B** targeted the most deprived areas of County Durham to try and increase the quality of life for their residents and secure their regeneration. This had been the approach used by many of the former Districts but based on past experience the Council believed that this would be unlikely to deliver the changes to the County's economy that were required. The towns that were the main focus of this option were Newton Aycliffe, Peterlee, Spennymoor, Stanley and Shildon. Again other areas of the County would be allowed to grow and prosper.

Councillor Sam Zair pointed out that the development site at North Bondgate had been earmarked for retail and housing but was disappointed that the retailing side was being taken away, keeping it for leisure, offices and housing development. There were too many empty offices in Bishop Auckland and more housing was not needed.

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

Councillor Huntington said it appeared that Option 'A' favoured Durham City. This was already a dynamic area. Bishop Auckland, Shildon and Newton Aycliffe were not being developed. It was the places that were being left behind that needed to be looked at.

Councillor Laurie said that the Town Council should agree to Option 'A' which focuses on 6 priority town, of which Bishop Auckland was one.

**RESOLVED:** That, as this was a lengthy document and the closing date for responses was 6<sup>th</sup> August, further consideration be deferred until the July Council Meeting.

**TC 50/10 COUNTY DURHAM ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS**

The County Durham Association of Local Councils was seeking nomination of candidates for the positions of:

President ; Three Vice-Presidents ; Honorary Treasurer; and Honorary Auditor

**RESOLED:** That Councillor Anderson be the Council's nominated candidate for the position of Vice-President.

**TC 51/10 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS – MEMBERS NETWORKING LUNCH – RADISSON BLU HOTEL, DURHAM – FRIDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2010**

An invitation had been received from the National Association of Local Councils for members to have a chance of networking and to hear more about Local Area Agreements at the above event.

**RESOLVED:** That any member interested in attending the event should inform the Town Clerk

**TC 52/10 TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION**

There were no topics for future discussion.

Signed: .....  
Town Mayor