

Minutes of the **MEETING** of **BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Wesley Room at the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY, 27TH JULY 2010** at 6.00 p.m.

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

Also Present: Linda Goldie (Town Clerk), a representative from The Northern Echo and Duncan Leatherdale (Wear Valley Mercury) and three members of the public.

TC 53/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Lethbridge.

TC 54/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Anderson declared a personal interest in Minute No. A&E 15/10 – South Church Lane Allotments Association, as he was Honorary Chairman of the Association.

Councillor Laurie declared a personal interest in Minute No. TC 40/10 – Weardale Railway Inaugural Train Journey to Stanhope as she was Chair of Bishop Auckland Town Centre Forum.

Councillor Lee declared a personal interest in Minute No. TC 40/10 – Weardale Railway Inaugural Train Journey to Stanhope as she was a member of the Bishop Auckland Town Centre Forum.

TC 55/10 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were three members of the public in attendance but no matters were raised.

**TC 56/10 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 29TH JUNE 2010**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 29th June 2010 be approved and adopted.

TC 57/10 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Car Parking (Minute No. TC 47/10 refers)

Councillor Golightly enquired whether any replies had been received from correspondence sent to the County Council regarding car parking provision in Bishop Auckland.

The Town Clerk informed members that Craig Rudman, the County Council's Licensing Manager was dealing with this matter but was on annual leave until 9th August.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

TC 58/10 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(a) Youth Council - 7th July 2010

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Youth Council Committee held on 7th July 2010 be approved and adopted.

(b) Finance Committee - 20th July 2010

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 20th July 2010 be approved and adopted.

Signed: **1 - 4**
Town Mayor

(c) Allotments Committee - 20th July 2010

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Allotments Committee held on 20th July 2010 be approved and adopted.

(d) Planning Committee - 26th July 2010

The Planning Committee scheduled to be held on 26th July 2010 was not held due to it being inquorate.

TC 59/10 MATTERS ARISING –

**(a) Youth Council Committee – 7th July 2010
(Minute No. YC 03/10 refers)**

Councillor Golightly commented on the meeting held with members of Shildon Youth Council and stated that she felt there should be wider representation from the local schools on the Bishop Auckland Youth Council.

Councillor Fleming also commented that although the Bishop Auckland Youth Forum were not keen to have C.C.T.V. installed in the town recreation ground as they considered this to be an invasion of their privacy, he felt this provision would have many advantages including health and safety aspects.

Other members agreed with Councillor Fleming but it was pointed out that the main problem would be the costs involved.

RESOLVED: That the above comments be discussed in more detail at the next meeting of the Youth Council Committee.

(b) Finance Committee – 20th July 2010

There were no matters arising.

(c) Allotments and Environment Committee – 20th July 2010

There were no matters arising.

TC 60/10 REPORT OF TOWN MAYOR

During the month, the Town Mayor reported that she had:-

- Attended the Bishop Auckland College Awards evening
- Opened the Butterwick Hospice Strawberry Fayre
- Hosted the first official Town Council civic event, Tea with the Mayor
- Opened a new Estate Agents in Fore Bondgate – Lifestyle Properties
- Attended the new football stadium to see up-to-date progress
- Attended the official opening of the new Bishop Auckland Fire Station
- Attended the Service of memories at Coundon Crematorium
- Opened Etherley Lane Primary School allotment garden
- Supported the Cystic Fibrosis Charity night at the Manor House, West Auckland
- Attended King James 1st School 'Dress Down' day to accept a donation to her nominated charity

TC 61/10 UNITARY AUTHORITY UPDATE

- Councillors Sam Zair and Lee stated that the biggest issue at the Unitary Authority is finding savings of £18m this year and there would be some hard decisions to make over the coming months.

Signed:
Town Mayor

TC 62/10 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND TRAINING EVENTS

Councillor Anderson reported that he had attended a joint Bishop Auckland and Shildon Local Council's Committee along with Aycliffe and Middridge on 20th July where a presentation was given on the County Durham Development Plan. He also attended the ordinary meeting of the Bishop Auckland and Shildon Local Council's Committee on 22nd July where the County Durham Development Plan was also discussed. He commented that at both meetings the question of tourism for the Bishop Auckland and Shildon areas was considered a high priority.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

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

TC 63/10 CHEQUES – PRESENTED FOR AUTHORISATION

Cheque nos. 456 - 457 were presented for authorisation:-

RESOLVED: That the above cheques be authorised for payment.

TC 64/10 APPLICATION FOR DONATION – LEEHOLME TODDLERS

An application for a donation had been received on behalf of Leeholme Toddlers and a copy of their letter was circulated for information.

RESOLVED: That the request be refused.

TC 65/10 COUNTY DURHAM & CLEVELAND COUNTY TRAINING PARTNERSHIP – RISK MANAGEMENT TRAINING

The County Training Partnership was holding a Risk Management Training Course on Thursday, 16th September at County Hall at 6.30pm.

RESOLVED: That anyone wishing to attend should inform the Town Clerk.

TC 66/10 DEPUTY MAYOR’S CHAIN OF OFFICE – PURCHASE

In order for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to carry out their increased civic duties officially, it now seemed appropriate to provide a chain of office for the Deputy Mayor and details of costings had been circulated.

Councillor Laurie commented that she was disgusted that the chain and medallion presented to Bishop Auckland was being held by the County Council along with those of other previous Local Authorities and were to be put on display.

All members agreed that the provision of a chain of office for the Deputy Mayor would now be appropriate and the Chair of the Finance Committee stated that funds were available due to unspent election monies.

RESOLVED: That a Working Party comprising the Mayor and Deputy Mayor together with the Chair of Finance and the Town Clerk be authorised to choose and purchase an appropriate chain and medallion.

TC 67/10 THE COUNTY DURHAM PLAN CORE STRATEGY ISSUES AND OPTIONS CONSULTATION PAPER

Members had previously been circulated with a copy of the County Durham Plan and several members had seen presentations by the County Council and a further presentation was to be given at the next A.A.P. meeting to be held on 29th July.

Signed:
Town Mayor

Councillor Anderson stated that there was not a lot of detail given in the presentations he had seen and that the economic cutbacks in the future could well water down a lot of the proposals.

Councillor Sam Zair commented that he did not like the style of the presentations where a preferred option was given.

Councillor Laurie felt that Option A was the obvious option for the Town Council to choose as Bishop Auckland was mentioned as a priority town.

RESOLVED: That the views and comments expressed by members be conveyed to the County Council.

TC 68/10 TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

There were no topics for future discussion.

TC 69/10 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

In accordance with the provision of Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council do now exclude the press and public for the remaining item on the agenda by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted since publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

TC 70/10 WEARDALE RAILWAY INAUGURAL JOURNEY

As a result of the Town Council's letter to the Chair of the Marketing and Promotions Group of the Bishop Auckland Town Centre Forum, two letters had been received from Mrs. Snowden, copies of which had been circulated.

RESOLVED: That a further letter be sent to the Chair of the Marketing and Promotions Group asking for the Town Council's letter to be discussed by that Group.

Signed:
Town Mayor