

Minutes of the **MEETING** of **BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Wesley Room at the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY, 28TH SEPTEMBER 2010** at 6.00 p.m.

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

Also Present: Linda Goldie (Town Clerk).

TC 71/10 FOOD FESTIVAL 2011 – PRESENTATION BY DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

The Mayor welcomed Wendy Benson, Area Regeneration Manager and Beryl Anderson from the County Events Team who had been invited to the meeting to outline proposals for the 2011 Food Festival.

Now that the Town Centre Forum Marketing and Promotions Sub-Committee had handed over responsibility of the organisation of the event, the County Council had made a commitment to manage and develop the Food Festival to ensure its continuance in 2011 and to deliver a successful event that would raise the profile of Bishop Auckland and increase economic activity.

The Food Festival was a significant regional annual event which had been running for the past seven years. The first event attracted just over 5,000 visitors and this year's event attracted nearly 30,000 visitors.

A slide presentation was given outlining the success of this year's event and the benefits to the Town which the County Council wanted to repeat and asked the Town Council to recognise the importance to continue the event into 2011 and requested sponsorship for financial support of £12,000.

The Chair of the Finance Committee commented that the Finance Committee would have to look at the proposal next month when it was to start its budget setting process.

Following a brief question and answer session, the Mayor thanked Wendy and Beryl for their presentation, after which they then left the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the request from the County Council for financial support towards the 2011 Food Festival be considered at the next meeting of the Finance Committee.

TC 72/10 DVD OF WEARDALE RAILWAY INAUGURAL JOURNEY

Following the presentation by Durham County Council, members were shown a DVD of the Weardale Railway Inaugural Journey which had been received from the Town Centre Forum.

The launch was a memorable and successful event and the message of all who contributed was constant and clear. The Town Council recognises and appreciates that this railway has enormous potential, which if capitalised on, would bring economic and social regeneration to the town and the Durham Dales and the Council was committed to partnership working which was crucial to the future of Bishop Auckland and its prosperity.

RESOLVED: That anyone wishing to obtain a copy of the DVD, please inform the Town Clerk.

TC 73/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Huntington, Laurie and Wilson.

TC 74/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

Signed:
Town Mayor

TC 75/10 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

**TC 76/10 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 27TH JULY 2010**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27th July 2010 be approved and adopted.

TC 77/10 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

TC 78/10 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(a) Strategy Committee - 4th August 2010

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Strategy Committee held on 4th August 2010 be approved and adopted.

(b) Strategy Committee - 1st September 2010

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Strategy Committee held on 1st September 2010 be approved and adopted.

(c) Finance Committee - 21st September 2010

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 21st September 2010 be approved and adopted.

(d) Planning Committee - 27th September 2010

The Planning Committee scheduled to be held on 27th September 2010 was not held due to it being inquorate.

TC 79/10 MATTERS ARISING –

(a) Strategy Committee – 4th August 2010

There were no matters arising.

(b) Strategy Committee – 1st September 2010

There were no matters arising.

(c) Finance Committee – 21st September 2010

There were no matters arising.

TC 80/10 REPORT OF TOWN MAYOR

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

- 30th July – presented a bouquet of flowers to Emily Fothergill who was 100 years old
- 1st August – attended Asda supermarket for the Director's annual fund raiser by cycling round the country visiting as many stores as possible to raise money for cancer charities

Signed:
Town Mayor

- 4th August – attended the Butterwick Hospice Laura Ashley event at Hallgarth
- 20th August – the Deputy Mayor had attended the Mayoress of Spennymoor's home tea
- 23rd August – taken part in a fashion show in Beverley's Fashions in Bondgate as a fundraising event for her chosen charity
- 25th August – presented the trophies to the winners of the Bishop Auckland in Bloom Competition
- 26th August – attended the Chairman of Durham County Council's Charity Night at Durham Town Hall
- 9th September – attended the Rifles Freedom march in Stockton which was a truly memorable occasion
- 10th September – attended the Mayor of Chilton's charity evening in aid of his charities
- 22nd September – along with other members of the Town Council, attended the opening of the new Italia Restaurant in the Market Place
- 23rd September – attended St. Peter's Church, Princes Street for their harvest festival event
- 24th September – attended a press event at Bishop Auckland Fire Station to receive a cheque for £224 towards the Mayor's Charity

Councillor Lethbridge commended the Mayor for all her hard work.

TC 81/10 UNITARY AUTHORITY UPDATE

No updates were reported.

TC 82/10 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND TRAINING EVENTS

(a) Risk Management Training Course – 16th September 2010

Councillor Anderson reported that he had attended the above training course together with the Town Clerk. He felt that although the course proved beneficial, it was perhaps aimed at larger town and parish councils.

RESOLVED: (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That training event be designated as an approved duty.

(b) Bishop Auckland Town Centre Forum – 17th September 2010

Councillor Kay reported that an informative presentation had been given by Jeanette Armin, Town Centre Development Officer of Durham County Council on the market place development arising out of which some interesting alternatives for car parking were suggested.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(c) Bishop Auckland and Shildon Local Councils Committee – 23rd September 2010

Councillor Anderson reported that he had chaired the above meeting although it was inquorate. Discussion took place around the items on the forthcoming Area Action Partnership agenda.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(d) Charter Review Meeting – 27th September 2010

Councillors Lesley and Sam Zair reported that they had attended the above meeting at Marwood. All parties seemed to be happy with progress made to date and a new Charter would be signed in December.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

Signed:
Town Mayor

Note: At this point, Councillor Kay left the meeting.

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

TC 83/10 CHEQUES – PRESENTED FOR AUTHORISATION

Cheque nos. 478 – 480 from the Current Account and cheque nos. 19- 20 from the Allotments Account were presented for authorisation.

RESOLVED: That the above cheques be authorised for payment.

TC 84/10 RISK ASSESSMENT STATEMENT 2010/2011

A copy of an updated Risk Assessment Statement for 2010/2011 had been circulated for consideration.

RESOLVED: That the Risk Assessment Statement for 2010/2011 be approved.

TC 85/10 RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT (FINANCIAL) 2010/2011

A copy of an updated Risk Assessment and Management (Financial) for 2010/2011 had been circulated for consideration.

RESOLVED: That the Risk Assessment and Management (Financial) for 2010/2011 be approved.

TC 86/10 AUDIT PLANNING DIARY 2010/2011

A copy of an updated Audit Planning Diary for 2010/2011 had been circulated for consideration.

RESOLVED: That the Audit Planning Diary for 2010/2011 be approved.

TC 87/10 BISHOP AUCKLAND IN BLOOM COMPETITION 2010

The Town Council held its 2nd Bishop Auckland in Bloom Competition and the prizes and trophies were presented by the Mayor to the winners at a ceremony held in the Town Hall on Wednesday, 25th August.

Entries were slightly up on last year and were judged on Sunday, 25th July by Mr. Mike Whatmore who was a Horticulture Lecturer at Newcastle College and who started off life as a golf green- keeper and worked in the orchid nurseries at Kew Gardens.

The overall winner was Dianne Chapman.

The trophies for the event were kindly sponsored by Deco Trophies and Engraving Ltd. from Tindale.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

**TC 88/10 CAR PARKING, BISHOP AUCKLAND
(Minute No. TC 57/10 (a) refers)**

In accordance with the above Minute, Councillors Golightly, Lethbridge and Lesley Zair together with the Town Clerk, met with Craig Rudman, Licensing Officer for Durham County Council on Thursday, 2nd September at 10.30 a.m. to discuss car parking in Bishop Auckland.

Councillor Golightly opened the meeting asking whether:-

- an extension of the three hour parking could be considered
- car parking fees could be reduced
- free disabled parking could be implemented as in most other towns
- more long stay parking and better signage towards Long and Short stay car parks could be provided

Signed:
Town Mayor

- a free parking shopping day could be implemented,

During discussion, Councillor Lethbridge commented that town centre traders should be involved in any car parking discussions.

Craig pointed out that by October 2011 there was going to be a county wide review of car parking and charges. Members commented that by then the damage caused to the town's economy could be irreversible. Councillor Lesley Zair said that with the opening of two major supermarkets before Christmas, the public have worries that the town will become a ghost town.

Councillor Golightly pointed out that the subject of car parking came out as a high priority in the Town Council's survey which had recently been carried out.

Craig pointed out that the members concerns would be passed to Neill Smally, Head of Public Safety and Joanne Waller, Head of Environmental Health and Consumer Protection.

RESOLVED: That the County Council be requested to respond to the Town Council's requests as outlined above as a matter of urgency.

Note: The Town Centre Manager in his report to the Town Centre Forum on 23rd July reported "that he was making enquiries regarding the possibility of reducing car parking charges in and around the town centre at certain times of the day in order to attract more people to migrate to that area" and "the Traders Sub-Group were considering options for a trader discount scheme (including the possibilities of a car parking fee refund scheme)".

TC 89/10 DOG FOULING
(Minute No. STR 15/10 (a) refers)

In accordance with the above Minute, Councillors Anderson and Golightly together with the Town Clerk met with Mark Farren, Education & Enforcement Manager (South) for Durham County Council on Tuesday, 14th September at 11.00 a.m. to discuss the problem of dog fouling.

Mark informed members that commencing on Monday, 20th September a campaign was being run for a month by Durham County Council in conjunction with the Keep Britain Tidy Group based on AAP areas, to draw attention to the problems of dog fouling and the Town Recreation Ground had been selected as the targeted area.

The main thrust of the campaign is to:

- change the behaviour of the group of people that the campaign is targeted at;
- increase awareness that dog waste can be placed into any bin;
- significantly reduce the level of dog fouling in the target areas, and;
- encourage residents to provide DCC with more intelligence about who is responsible for dog fouling in their area so that it is better placed to target its enforcement work.

The campaign would involve the Neighbourhood Wardens spending 3 hours a day in the recreation ground over the month. A door knock on all the houses was to be carried out with postcards being issued for anyone to complete if they saw dog fouling taking place. Leaflets and posters saying "There is no such thing as dog poo fairy" were to be distributed.

Mark went on to say that the vast majority of dog owners cleaned up after their dog. There was only a minority that did not and it was these people who needed to be educated.

Discussion took place around the number of bins in the rec. Dog poo could be placed in litter bins as well as dog bins.

Signed:
Town Mayor

Councillor Anderson stated that the bin near to the entrance at B. & Q. needed to be replaced and suggested that a bin could be placed at the end of the path at West Mills which is used a lot by dog walkers.

Councillor Golightly stated that the campaign was a good idea but it was felt that the Town Council would like to do more and the undermentioned ideas had been suggested:

- continue to encourage people to report dog fouling
- request additional bins
- consider payment of additional bins if request is refused on financial grounds
- request additional dog control powers to cover a certain area

RESOLVED: (i) That the Town Council submits a press release supporting the joint County Council/Keep Britain Tidy initiative which encourages people to report dog fouling.

(ii) That the County Council be requested to provide an additional bin at the end of West Mills Road.

TC 90/10 BISHOP AUCKLAND STATION TRUST –

(a) Request for Support for Charter Train to York

A request had been received from Bishop Auckland Station Trust for the Town Council to support their request to Northern Rail to provide a train on a Sunday for a York Christmas shopping trip. Their plan was to use one of Northern's spare Sunday trains and go direct to York from Bishop Auckland just like the summer Sunday Whitby service. If this was a success, they would like to run the service more often which would benefit the town and would get more people to use the train.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council fully supports the Bishop Auckland Station Trust's request to Northern Rail to provide a train on a Sunday for a York Christmas shopping trip

(b) Appointment of President

The Station Trust was looking to appoint a President who would have more influence in meetings with Northern Rail and DCC than they did at present and asked if anyone from the Town Council would be interested.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Station Trust be informed that at the present time it was not possible for anyone to take up this appointment.

(ii) That the Station Trust be informed that Councillor Golightly would be willing to attend any meetings with Northern Rail and DCC as the Town Council's representative.

(c) Talk on Bishop Auckland Station

One of the Station Trust members had made a power point talk on the history of Bishop Auckland Station and the future of the station and was keen to make this talk into a DVD to market the town and the station and the Bishop Line.

The Trust had asked whether the Town Council would like the Station Trust to give a presentation at a future meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Station Trust be informed that the Town Council would be pleased to receive a presentation on the history of Bishop Auckland Station which would have to be scheduled at its meeting to be held in January 2011.

Signed:
Town Mayor

**TC 91/10 DURHAM POLICE AUTHORITY – POLICING IN THE 21ST CENTURY:
RECONNECTING POLICE AND THE PEOPLE’ - PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Durham Police Authority was undertaking a public consultation on the future of local policing and was calling for local people to have their say on what the future should look like for policing in County Durham and Darlington.

Responding to the Government plans to introduce directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners by May 2012, the Police Authority was encouraging the people of County Durham and Darlington to put forward their view on these proposals which were set to cost tax payers in excess of an estimated £50m in election and set-up costs alone.

The Police Authority wanted to represent the public view in their response to the Home Office consultation ‘Policing in the 21st Century: Reconnecting Police and the People’.

Members views could be provided on the website www.durham-pa.gov.uk or by clicking the following link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/NG65N2T>.

RESOLVED: That the Police Authority be informed that the Town Council does not support the proposal to introduce directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners.

**TC 92/10 DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL - DRAFT STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY
FOR 2011 – 2014 – PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Under the Licensing Act 2003, all licensing authorities must prepare and publish a statement of their licensing policy every three years. Before determining its policy for the next three years, the Council is required to consult with a number of organisations, persons and bodies representing responsible authorities, interested parties and the licensed trade in its area.

Through the implementation of its licensing policy, Durham County Council aims to:

1. help to build and maintain the development of fair, prosperous and vibrant communities within the District;
2. promote, protect and properly balance the rights of individuals and organisations affected by or associated with licensed premises and activities; and to
3. effectively integrate its aims and the four licensing objectives with other initiatives that will:
 - tackle and reduce crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour
 - promote and encourage tourism
 - reduce drug and alcohol misuse
 - reduce the burden of unnecessary regulation on business

The Statement of Licensing Policy in draft form can be obtained from the Town Clerk or viewed on line at <http://www.durham.gov.uk/Pages/Service.aspx?ServiceId=860>

RESOLVED: That members communicate their own views by Friday, 1st October 2010.

**TC 93/10 PUBLIC MEETING – FRIENDS OF BISHOP AUCKLAND -
7TH SEPTEMBER 2010**

A public meeting had been held on 7th September to help establish a Friends of Bishop Auckland Group, who would be independent but be supported by the Town Council and who could attract funding to promote projects such as environmental schemes or facility improvements.

A copy of a press release which appeared in the Northern Echo had been circulated.

Signed:
Town Mayor

Councillor Golightly stated that she was disappointed at the turnout but measures had been put in place to contact various organisations and clubs asking them to send a representative to the next Public Meeting which was to be held on Tuesday, 12th October at 6.30pm and further press releases and posters would be circulated.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

**TC 94/10 EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT/ANNUAL RETURN –
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2010**

Copies of Sections 1 -3 of the audited Annual Return was circulated for information from which it was noted that in the External Auditor's opinion, the information contained in the Annual Return was in accordance with the Audit Commission's requirements and no matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.

A copy of the Issues Arising Report had also been circulated from which it was noted that the Internal Auditor had identified a number of weaknesses in the financial systems of the Council. Some of these issues were addressed at the time (April 2010) and the remaining issues had been addressed and implemented since.

The Council needed to again appoint an Internal Auditor to carry out an Interim Internal Audit and the Final Internal Audit for the year ending 31st March 2011.

Mr. Mike Ackroyd had carried out the Town Council's audit over the last 3 years and his fee was £15 per hour plus mileage and parking fee.

RESOLVED: (i) That the audited Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2010 be approved and accepted.

(ii) That the Issues Arising Report be accepted.

(iii) That Mr. Mike Ackroyd be appointed as the Council's Internal Auditor at the rates set out above and he be requested to carry out an Interim Internal Audit as soon as possible.

**TC 95/10 LOCAL COUNCIL TRAINING SESSION IN RELATION TO
SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS**

Durham County Council was providing free training sessions in relation to Section 106 Agreements to be held at the following venues 6.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.:-

- 21st October - Barnard Castle, Teesdale House
- 28th October - Easington, Council Offices
- 4th November - Chester-le-Street, Civic Centre

RESOLVED: (i) That anyone interested in attending, please inform the Town Clerk.

(ii) That the training session be authorised as an Approved Duty.

(iii) That the County Council be requested to provide training sessions in more central locations.

**TC 96/10 BISHOP AUCKLAND & SHILDON AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP AND
DURHAM CONSTABULARY – CRIME AND COMMUNITY SAFETY NETWORKING
EVENT – TUESDAY, 12TH OCTOBER – 9.00 A.M. – 1.30 P.M.**

Bishop Auckland & Shildon Area Action Partnership and Durham Constabulary would be holding a networking event on 12th October at Shildon Civic Centre.

The event would see the official launch of two new schemes in the area, the 4 Real Alcohol Outreach Worker and the Liberty from Addictions Worker.

Signed: **8 - 9**
Town Mayor

RESOLVED: (i) That anyone interested in attending, please inform the Town Clerk.
(ii) That the networking event be authorised as an Approved Duty.

**TC 97/10 SAINSBURY'S SUPERMARKETS LTD –
LETTER OF INTRODUCTION OF NEW STORE MANAGER**

A copy of a letter of introduction from the new Sainsbury's Supermarket Store Manager, Tom Phillipson had been circulated.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

TC 98/10 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

In accordance with the provisions 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 99/10 WEARDALE RAILWAY INAUGURAL JOURNEY

Members considered a further letter which had been received on behalf of the Bishop Auckland Town Centre Forum Marketing & Promotions Sub-Committee.

A member commented that a lot had been said on both sides which had been misinterpreted and it was now time to move on.

Councillor Sam Zair stated that the Town Council had been professional throughout this matter.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the letter be noted and no further action be taken.

Signed:
Town Mayor