

Minutes of a **SPECIAL MEETING** of **BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Wesley Room at the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **MONDAY, 1ST NOVEMBER 2010** at 6.00 p.m.

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

Also Present: Linda Goldie (Town Clerk).

TC 122/10 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 excludes 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 123/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Kay and Wilson.

TC 124/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

TC 125/10 BUDGET FOR 2011/2012

Members considered a second draft budget for 2011/12 which had been discussed at the Finance Committee. Although the aim of the Council has always been to be progressive, it was felt that the final percentage precept increase for this second draft was not justifiable given the current economic climate.

Alternative amendments were discussed during which Councillor Sam Zair commented that he wanted to keep the precept as low as possible and, after a lengthy debate, a final budget was agreed by all members of £114,500.

RESOLVED: That the budget be approved and adopted with a precept requirement for 2011/2012 of £114,500.00.

(a) Town Clerk's Salary/Travel

RESOLVED: That £2,000 be vired from the Newsletter/Publications/Website budget heading to the Town Clerk's Salary/Travel budget heading in order to offset the anticipated deficit.

(b) Christmas Costs

RESOLVED: That an extra set of Christmas lights be purchased to enhance the Town Council's Christmas Tree

(c) Music Festival/Proms

RESOLVED: That Bishop Auckland College be informed that the Town Council has agreed to contribute an amount of £6,000 each to the Music Festival and the Proms 2011.

(d) Food Festival

RESOLVED: That Durham County Council be informed that the Town Council has agreed to contribute an amount of £10,000 towards next year's Food Festival.

Signed:
Town Mayor

(e) Capital Budget

RESOLVED: That although no provision had been made to include an amount in the Capital Budget, it was agreed that in the event of any underspend at the end of the financial year, this be vired to the Capital Budget.

(f) Citizens Advice Bureau

RESOLVED: That the Citizens Advice Bureau be informed that the Town Council has agreed to contribute an amount of £3,000 towards the provision of its 2011 Service.

(g) Skatepark Lighting

RESOLVED: (i) That an amount of £7,500 from the working capital balances be earmarked as match funding for an Awards for All bid for the lighting at the proposed skatepark.

(ii) That the Council enter into a 25 year agreement with the County Council for the provision of £500 per annum for lighting bills at the skatepark, subject to further information being received regarding the precise details of the contract.

(h) Parks Wardens – Future Jobs Fund

RESOLVED: (i) That the Town Clerk be authorised to complete applications for two temporary Park Wardens for 25 hours a week paid at the national minimum wage for a period of 6 months with the wages being paid by Groundwork North East from funding secured from the Future Jobs Fund Programme.

(ii) That a Working Party be set up consisting of Councillors Anderson, Laurie and Sam Zair to decide the job description required for these positions and the timescale involved.

Signed:
Town Mayor