

Minutes of a **MEETING** of **BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Wesley Room at the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **MONDAY, 30TH NOVEMBER 2010** at 6.00 p.m.

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

Also Present: Linda Goldie (Town Clerk).

TC 126/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Lee and Lethbridge.

TC 127/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

TC 128/10 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

**TC 129/10 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 26TH OCTOBER 2010**

RESOLVED: That, subject to Minute No. TC 121/10 (Council/Committee Meetings – Protocol) being amended to read:-

“RESOLVED: That the undermentioned suggested amendment to Standing Orders be considered at the next Annual Council Meeting:-

That any Councillor can attend a Committee Meeting of which they are not a member and with the permission of the Chairman, can speak on a specific item on the agenda but take no further part in that meeting”

the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26th October 2010 be approved and adopted.

TC 130/10 MATTERS ARISING

- (a) **Durham County Council – Fireworks Spectacular –
Bishop Auckland Rugby Club – Thursday, 4th November
(Minute No. TC 116/10 refers)**

Councillor Laurie asked Councillor Sam Zair (County Councillor) whether the fireworks display would be held in future years as it was such a good event. Councillor Zair replied that the budget would be set in February but given the present economic climate, future events could be under threat.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

**TC 131/10 MINUTES OF A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 1ST NOVEMBER 2010**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 1st November 2010 be approved and adopted.

TC 132/10 MATTERS ARISING

- (a) **Budget for 2011/2012 – Future Jobs Fund –
Park Wardens
(Minute No. TC 125/10 (h) refers)**

Councillor Laurie asked whether any progress had been made with regards to securing funding under the Future Jobs Fund for a Park Warden(s).

Signed: **1 - 6**
Town Mayor

The Town Clerk advised that she was waiting for further details from Groundwork Northeast but would chase this up after which a meeting of the Working Party would be arranged.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

TC 133/10 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(a) Finance Committee - 16th November 2010

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 16th November 2010 be approved and adopted.

There were no matters arising.

(b) Planning Committee - 22nd November 2010

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 22nd November 2010 be approved and adopted.

There were no matters arising

TC 134/10 REPORT OF TOWN MAYOR

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

- 27th October - Opened the new Sainsbury Store along with a pupil from St. Helens School
- 29th October - Attended a charity evening at Shildon in aid of the Mayor's Charity
- 2nd November – Attended an afternoon tea at Wynyard Hall in aid of the Butterwick Hospice
- 4th November – Attended the fireworks display at the Rugby Club and at the request of the Chairman of the County Council, joined him in lighting the fireworks
- 10th November – Presented trophies at the N.E.T.O.A. at Howden-le-Wear for the Wurlitzer
- 12th November – Attended a charity night at Chilton in aid of the Mayor's Charity
- 13th November – Attended a flag waving night at Ferryhill in aid of the Mayor's Charity
- 14th November – Attended a charity tea and baking demonstration at Mrs. Barbara Shepherd's home (Chittocks) in aid of the Butterwick Hospice
- 20th November – Opened the fashion show which was held in the Newgate Centre and organized by the Town Centre Manager and delivered by Durham County Council Events Team which was a huge success with all shops who took part saying their sales had been increased
- 25th November – Presented a basket of flowers to Mr. & Mrs. Brown at Arundel Close in celebration of their 60th Wedding Anniversary
- 30th November – Was going to present awards at Escomb School on behalf of Jack Drum Arts but due to the weather this was cancelled.
- 30th November – Attended at the Town Clerk's office together with local artist Eric Thompson and judged the Children's Christmas Art Competition

TC 135/10 UNITARY AUTHORITY UPDATE

- Councillor Sam Zair commented that all Council services were under review and, unfortunately, were all potentially under threat.

TC 136/10 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND TRAINING EVENTS

(a) County Durham Association of Local Councils A.G.M. – 30th October

Councillor Anderson had attended the above event when he came fourth in the nominations for Vice-President.

Signed:

2 - 6

Town Mayor

A presentation had been given by the Police Authority on reorganisation. The two guest speakers who attended was the Chairman and Chief Executive of the National Association of Local Councils.

(b) Bishop Auckland and Shildon Local Councils Committee – 18th November

Councillor Anderson had attended the above meeting when the contents of the agenda for the next Area Action Partnership meeting was discussed with the Co-ordinator. A report was also given on the County Strategy for Young People.

(c) Bishop Auckland Town Centre Forum – 12th November

(i) Car Parking

Councillor Laurie had attended the above meeting where Dave Lewin, Senior Highways Officer, Durham County Council, spoke on car parking issues stating that a full review was ongoing and a report would be ready in March 2011. Councillor Laurie then distributed a leaflet containing information on Changes to Parking Enforcement in Co. Durham.

(ii) Food Festival – Website

Councillor Sam Zair stated that he understood from the County Council that there was a designated website relating to the Food Festival which it would like to purchase to promote the 2011 event, and asked Councillor Laurie whether this was owned by the Town Centre Forum.

Councillor Laurie replied that it was bought privately by Shaun York (Ex Town Centre Forum Treasurer) and any correspondence should be directed to him. Councillor Zair said that apparently a D.C.C. Officer had tried on a number of occasions to make contact but no reply had been forthcoming, he then asked Councillor Laurie, as Chair of the Town Centre Forum, if she would contact Shaun to ask if he was prepared to donate the domain name to D.C.C. or, if not, would he consider selling it.

(d) Bishop Auckland and Shildon A.A.P. Forum Event – 25th November

Councillor Anderson had attended the above event at which an exercise was carried out to see where Forum members felt the 25% reduction in Council Services should be made. After this, a review of the existing 3 priority areas was undertaken by the 3 Task and Finish Group Co-ordinators and as a result of this exercise, the same 3 priorities were chosen by the Forum.

TC 137/10 THE ZURBARAN PAINTINGS AT AUCKLAND CASTLE

Councillor Lesley Zair said that she had attended a meeting organized by Robert McManners, Chairman of the Auckland Castle Steering Group to discuss the campaign to save the Zurbaran paintings from being sold by the Church Commissioners.

The Lord Lieutenant of the County, Sir Paul Nicholson was to lead a working group to explore options that would keep the £15m pictures in Auckland Castle which had been their home for 250 years. As well as the Lord Lieutenant, the group included the Bishop of Jarrow, representatives from Durham County Council and the Dean of Durham, Michael Sadgrove.

Helen Goodman, M.P. had organized a petition which was available to be signed at the Town Hall and libraries. She had also tabled several early day questions about the Zurbarans in the chamber. Country Life was sponsoring a similar campaign on a national scale and had requested the support of the Town Council, through the Mayor, to add her name to a letter with about fifty authoritative signatures which they were to publish. The proposed sale had provoked fierce opposition both locally and nationally and members present agreed that the Town Council's feelings should be expressed to the Church Commissioners.

RESOLVED: That a letter be sent to the Church Commissioners expressing the Town Council's opposition to the proposed sale of the Zurbaran paintings.

Signed:

3 - 6

Town Mayor

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

TC 138/10 WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

In accordance with Minute No. TC 117/10, Councillors Anderson and Golightly together with the Town Clerk were to attend a training session in Durham on Thursday, 25th November to progress the building of the Town Council's website.

Unfortunately, due to adverse weather conditions this meeting did not go ahead but had been rescheduled to be held on Thursday, 16th December.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

TC 139/10 RISK ASSESSMENT STATEMENT – TREES ON ALLOTMENTS

In accordance with a requirement from the Internal Auditor arising out of his Interim Internal Audit Report 2010/2011, an annual inspection of all trees on land under the Council's control should be arranged and any necessary works to be carried out.

The Chair of the Allotments Committee and the Town Clerk were in the process of carrying out this inspection.

RESOLVED: That reference to the inspection of trees be included in the Council's Risk Assessment Statement 2010/2011 and the circulated amended copy be approved.

**TC 140/10 APPLICATION FOR DONATION – WEAR VALLEY/
NORTH EAST PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION
(L.G.A. 1972 – Section 137)**

An application for a donation towards their annual party had been received from Wear Valley/North East Pensioners Association. The Association had 80 members of which three-quarters of members were from the Bishop Auckland Area. They were seeking part funding towards this event - £50 would pay for four meals and a copy of their audited accounts had been received.

RESOLVED: That a donation of £200 be made to the Wear Valley/ North East Pensioners Association.

TC 141/10 ALLOTMENTS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: That the next meeting of the Allotments and Environment Committee be held on Tuesday, 6th December at 4.00p.m.

**TC 142/10 LANTERN PARADE & CHRISTMAS TREE SWITCH ON CEREMONY
THURSDAY, 2ND DECEMBER AT 4.15 P.M. – REMINDER**

All members had received an invitation to the Lantern Parade and Christmas Tree Switch On Ceremony to be held on Thursday, 2nd December at 4.15 p.m. The Town Council, in partnership with Durham County Council and the Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership had sponsored this event. Presentation of awards to the winners of the Children's Christmas Painting Competition would then follow.

Councillor Lesley Zair stated that the shop window display in the Newgate Centre, which the Town Council had sponsored in partnership with the Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership, had now been set up by Durham County Council's Events Team and had attracted favourable comments.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

Signed:
Town Mayor

TC 143/10 CHEQUES – PRESENTED FOR AUTHORISATION

Cheque nos. 508 - 511 had been presented for authorisation:-

RESOLVED: That the above cheques be authorised for payment.

TC 144/10 THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DURHAM (PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO. 37 BISHOP AUCKLAND PARISH) PUBLIC FOOTPATH EXTINGUISHMENT & DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2010

Notification had been received from Durham County Council regarding the making of the above Public Path Extinguishment & Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order 2010. The Order, made on 4th November 2010 under Section 118 of the Highways Act 1980 and Section 53A of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, would **Extinguish Public Footpath No. 37 Bishop Auckland Parish**

running from a point at the junction with the northern side of Aintree Drive, Bishop Auckland north west of Nos. 17 to 33 Aintree Drive, proceeding in a south easterly, then south south easterly then southerly and south south westerly direction for a distance of some 164 metres, to the junction with adopted highway South Church Road, as shown on the Order plan.

The above order would also modify the Definitive Map and Statement of the Public Rights of Way for County Durham by deleting the footpath described.

A copy of the order and the order map were held in the Town Clerk's office and any representations about or objections to the order may be sent in writing to the Head of legal & Democratic Services at County Hall not later than 8th December 2010.

RESOLVED: That no objections be raised to the making of the above Order.

TC 145/10 PROPOSED SERVICE DELEGATION SCHEME BETWEEN THE COUNTY COUNCIL AND PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS – FINAL DRAFT

A copy of the final draft of the proposed Service Delegation Scheme between the County Council and Parish and Town Councils was e-mailed to members on 4th November.

If the Town Council ever wished to take on any further services from Durham County Council, this document would be used as a guide to adhere to in order to secure those services and any comments should be sent to the C.D.A.L.C. by 12th January 2011.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the final draft of the Proposed Service Delegation Scheme be noted.

TC 146/10 DURHAM POLICE AUTHORITIES ANNUAL STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION EVENT – 1ST DECEMBER 2010

Details of an invitation to attend Durham Police Authorities Annual Stakeholder Consultation Event to be held in the Town Hall, Durham on 1st December had been e-mailed to members on 17th November.

As a stakeholder to Durham Police Authority, the Authority was required as part of the policing process to produce an Annual Policing Plan which contained details of both national targets and priorities identified by Government. This also included local priorities identified by the Authority to address public concerns within the County Durham and Darlington areas. Representatives at the event would be asked to identify priorities on behalf of their organisation.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

Signed:
Town Mayor

TC 147/10 TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

There were no topics put forward for future discussion.

TC 148/10 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 excluded 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 149/10 TOWN CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER –
STAFF APPRAISAL**

A copy of an appraisal report of the Town Clerk’s performance since taking up her appointment and which had been carried out by the Mayor and the Chair of the Finance Committee, had been circulated.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

Signed:
Town Mayor