

Minutes of a **MEETING** of **BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Wesley Room at the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY, 29TH MARCH 2011** at 6.00 p.m.

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

Before the meeting commenced, the Mayor, Councillor Lesley Zair announced that due to a recent bereavement, the Town Clerk was unable to be present. However, Helen Wilson from Durham County Council had kindly agreed to take the Minutes.

TC 186/10 AUCKLAND CASTLE AND THE ZURBARAN PAINTINGS

The Town Council had invited Andrew Brown from the Church Commissioners to attend this month's Council Meeting to speak to the Council regarding Auckland Castle and the Zurbarans which he had readily agreed to do. However, the Mayor advised members that Andrew was currently attending a meeting in London to discuss the future of the paintings.

Councillor Lethbridge informed members that reference to the paintings had been made on Radio 4 regarding a possible turnaround by the Church Commissioners.

RESOLVED: That this matter be deferred pending the outcome of recent discussions.

TC 187/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Huntington and Kay.

TC 188/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

TC 189/10 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

TC 190/10 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22ND FEBRUARY 2011

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 22nd February 2011 be approved and adopted.

TC 191/10 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Change of Meeting Dates – Council Meeting (Minute No. TC 177/10 (b) refers)

Councillor Anderson advised members that although it had been agreed to seek an alternative date for the April Council Meeting, this was no longer required as the meeting could still go ahead on 26th April.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(b) Bishop Auckland Town Recreation Ground – Wheeled Sports Facility - (Minute No. TC 178/10 refers)

Councillor Sam Zair advised that although work had been scheduled to start in March, it was now due to begin on 4th April. He confirmed that the site would have security and floodlights which would be monitored by staff in Sheffield.

Signed:
Town Mayor

There would also be an intercom which would inform any potential intruders that the Police had been contacted and were on their way.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

TC 192/10 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(a) Finance Committee - 15th March 2011

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 15th March 2011 be approved and adopted.

TC 193/10 MATTERS ARISING

**(a) Bishop Auckland Youth Forum – Community Fund Application
(Minute No. FIN 112/10 refers)**

Councillor Laurie advised members that she had believed that the request for funding had been submitted by Sue Elms from the Youth Forum, however, she now understood it had been from Sue from Woodhouse Close Youth Group. Councillor Anderson confirmed that a refusal letter had been issued to the address stated on the Application Form.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(b) Planning Committee - 28th March 2011

This meeting had been cancelled.

TC 194/10 REPORT OF TOWN MAYOR

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

- 25th February - Attended the Ferryhill Town Council function.
- 2nd March - Presented a bouquet of flowers at Slimmer's World.
- 4th March - Attended a photo shoot at ASDA to promote the Bishop Auckland Food Festival.
- 4th March - Attended a fundraising event at Hartlepool.
- 5th March - Took part in the B & Q dance event.
- 11th March - Attended the Bishop Auckland Music Festival meeting with Councillor Laurie and the Mayor of Shildon Town Council.
- 16th March - Attended a photo shoot with Councillors Lethbridge and Laurie to promote the Bishop Auckland Music Festival.
- 23rd March - Attended the Chairman of Durham County Council's fundraising event at Howden-le-Wear.
- 26th March – Attended a wine and cheese tasting event at Ferryhill Town Council.

To date, the Mayor has attended over a hundred events.

TC 195/10 UNITARY AUTHORITY UPDATE

Councillor Zair circulated his copy of the Members Update which was circulated to all Durham County Councillors. He also informed Members there were a number of consultations being undertaken, such as the Indoor Leisure Facilities Review and the Changes to Home/School Transport policy.

Councillor Lee informed Members that Woodhouse Close Library had been given a reprieve for at least a year. Councillor Laurie was pleased to hear this.

Signed:
Town Mayor

Councillor Lethbridge informed Members he had attended an awards ceremony at Cockton Hill Infants School which was as a result of the arts festival. He also advised that the future delivery of waste was in debate by the Unitary Authority.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

TC 196/10 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND TRAINING EVENTS

(a) Data Protection Workshop Training

Councillor Anderson attended this event on 9th March which had mainly concentrated on larger authorities. However, he was assured that the Town Council was working in accordance with the correct practices. He was advised on how long documents were required to be kept and an indication was given regarding areas that may need to be revised, such as Allotments information.

RESOLVED: (i) That the report be noted.

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

(b) Town Centre Forum

Councillor Laurie advised that Jeanette Armin from DCC had confirmed that money had been identified for the completion of the Market Place. Work would halt during the Food Festival weekend. She also confirmed the clerking facility provided by DCC would probably cease in May. Also a lively debate had taken place regarding car parking as the DCC responsibility for car parks would cease in April, with a Civil company taking over.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(c) Bishop Auckland and Shildon Local Council's Committee

Councillor Anderson advised that the Agenda for the Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP had been considered.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK. The Town Clerk reported as follows:-

TC 197/10 COMMUNITY FUND APPLICATION – ST. PETER'S CHURCH, BISHOP AUCKLAND (L.G. Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976 – Section 19)

An application for an amount of £342.98 from the Community Fund had been received from St. Peter's Church. The money was for start-up costs for a new parent, Carer and Toddler Group to purchase children's tables, safety equipment, play equipment and materials.

Councillor Laurie queried why the application had not been reported to the Finance Committee. Councillor Anderson advised that it had been received after the meeting had been held, and due to expediency, he had approved the application being reported to the Town Council Meeting.

RESOLVED: That an amount of £345 be given to St. Peter's Church, subject to receipt of satisfactory paid invoices.

TC 198/10 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW OF AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIPS

In accordance with the County Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions and the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Work Programme, a working group had been established to undertake a Review of Durham County Council's Area Action Partnerships. The working Group had cross-party membership and at its first meeting on 4th March, it agreed the Terms of Reference for the Review process.

Signed:

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Town Mayor

As part of the Review process, the Working Group would be gathering evidence about AAPs generally and about each AAP individually using a variety of methods. This would include focus group meetings, questionnaires, desktop research, interviews with AAP Chairs and staff and field study visits to see AAPs in action. The County Council was also keen to collect evidence from Town and Parish Councils as a Corporate Body alongside the view of those Parish/Town Councillors who had been appointed to Area Action Partnership Boards.

Further details of the process would be received in due course.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

TC 199/10 ROYAL GARDEN PARTY – 12TH JULY 2011

County Durham Association of Local Councils had advised that 31 sets of nominations from throughout the County had been received for the Royal Garden Party.

The draw took place on 2nd March and a Councillor and guest from the undermentioned Councils had been chosen:

Belmont Parish Council
Brandon & Byshottles Parish Council

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

TC 200/10 COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP – AUCKLAND CASTLE

The Town Clerk reported that she had attended a Community Liaison Group meeting regarding the future of Auckland Castle on Friday, 11th March held in Old Bank Chambers, Bishop Auckland.

The purpose of the Group was:

To provide an impartial discussion forum for the landowner, statutory bodies, Local Authority and Community Representatives to share information and as a sounding board whilst the Statement of Significance & Options Appraisal for Auckland Castle were prepared.

Members at the meeting comprised:

- Neil Foster, Cabinet Member for Regeneration (Chair)
- Councillor Sam Zair, Local Ward Member
- Christ Myers, Sue Berresford, Chris Simmonds, DCC Officers
- Angeline Maddison, Bishop Auckland & Shildon AAP Co-ordinator
- Bob McManners, Bishop Auckland Civic Society Chair
- Helen Goodman, M.P.
- Greg Hudson, Church Commissioners
- Carol Pyrah, English Heritage

Role

The members of the Community Liaison Group should:

- act on behalf of their organisation, society or constituents at the Liaison Group;
- Where appropriate, they would need to provide feedback to their group; consult with them on emerging issues; and bring their thoughts back to the Liaison Group;
- Where relevant, to co-operate with other appropriate organisations and professional bodies to take account of their work;

DCC Officers to act as co-ordinator for this Group

Signed:

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Town Mayor

Principles

- Participants to act in a professional manner;
- Issues to be discussed in an open and non-confrontational manner;
- any press statements concerning the work of the Liaison Group should be provided or agreed by the Chair.

The Group discussed:

- how the Castle and associated buildings could be able to accommodate a future Bishop and maintain their privacy whilst allowing other activities to take place;
- involvement in the preparation of a Statement of Significance for Auckland Castle;
- the potential options that need to be considered through the Options Appraisal; and
- local information that that the Group may not have to help to consider its position on the Zurbaran paintings.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

TC 201/10 TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

(a) Andrew Brown, Church Commissioners to speak to April Council Meeting regarding Auckland Castle and The Zurbaran Paintings

Councillor Lesley Zair confirmed that Andrew Brown from the Church Commissioners would be attending the next meeting.

Signed:
Town Mayor