

Minutes of a **MEETING** of **BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Wesley Room at the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY, 28TH JUNE 2011**.

Present: Councillor Lethbridge (**in the Chair**) and Councillors Anderson, Golightly, Kay, Laurie, Lee, Wilson and Lesley Zair and Sam Zair.

Also Present: Linda Goldie (Town Clerk) and Lizzie Anderson (Wear Valley Mercury)

TC 38/11 INTRODUCTION OF SIMON DAY FROM THE PASSENGER TRANSPORT SECTION, DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

The Mayor introduced Simon Day, Section Manager (Network Planning, Information and Business Support), Passenger Transport, Regeneration and Economic Development, Durham County Council who had been invited to attend the meeting to address members concerns raised at the last Council Meeting relating to the level of bus service provision in Bishop Auckland.

Simon gave a short presentation before opening up the debate to questions from Members. He stated that the main reason for reduction in service was the fact that the County Council had to make substantial savings and bus subsidy was part of this exercise. He also stated that the bus companies were run on a strict commercial basis and if certain routes were not economically viable, then they were either reduced or withdrawn and the only power Durham County Council could exercise was on the routes where there was a Council subsidy.

Members then asked Simon various questions relating to specific routes, accountability and co-ordination and withdrawal of Sunday Services. Simon responded sympathetically that Durham County Council was looking at the whole situation and responding to customer surveys wherever possible but in the end, it was down to saving money and commercial viability. However, he did point out that the Link2 service was a new accessible dial-a-ride bus for people making journeys for which there was no suitable bus.

The Mayor thanked Simon for explaining the situation, after which he then left the meeting.

TC 39/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fleming and Sam Zair.

TC 40/11 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

TC 41/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

TC 42/11 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON 17TH MAY 2011

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 17th May 2011 be noted and approved.

TC 43/11 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 31ST MAY 2011

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 31st May 2011 be approved and adopted.

Signed:
Town Mayor

TC 44/11 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

**TC 45/11 MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 31ST MAY 2011**

RESOLVED: That, subject to the deletion of Councillor Laurie from the list of Members present, the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 31st May 2011 be approved and adopted.

TC 46/11 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

TC 47/11 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(a) Finance Committee - 21st June 2011

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 21st June 2011 be approved and adopted.

TC 48/11 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

(b) Planning Committee - 27th June 2011

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee (as circulated) held on 27th June 2011 be approved and adopted.

TC 49/11 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

TC 50/11 REPORT OF TOWN MAYOR

The Mayor reported that he had attended the following:-

- 11th June - Spennymoor Mayor at Home
- 15th June - Stockton Butterwick Hospice Open Day
- 19th June - Sunday Service & Parade, Stockton Parish Church

TC 51/11 UNITARY AUTHORITY UPDATE

Councillor Lee informed members that a new school was to be built at Spennymoor.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

TC 52/11 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND TRAINING EVENTS

(a) Bishop Auckland and Shildon Local Councils Committee

Councillor Anderson reported that Councillor Pauline Fenwick from West Auckland Parish Council had been appointed to represent the Bishop Auckland and Shildon Local Councils Committee on the A.A.P.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

Signed:
Town Mayor

(b) Music Festival – 1st, 2nd and 3rd July – Final Arrangements

Councillor Laurie reported that she, along with Councillors Lethbridge, Lesley Zair and the Town Clerk, had attended a meeting on 23rd June at the College to discuss the final arrangements for the Music Festival.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

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

TC 53/11 POLICING PRIORITIES FOR 2011 – 2012

The Police Authority had confirmed that the priorities for the forthcoming year were:

- Tackling anti-social behaviour;
- Reducing the impact caused by drug and alcohol abuse on people and communities;
- Protecting vulnerable people from harm.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

TC 54/11 TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITE

Councillors Anderson and Golightly together with the Town Clerk and Michael Armstrong, Office Admin Assistant, met with Linda Buchanan from the D.C.C. Website Team on Thursday, 16th June when the final arrangements were discussed prior to the website going live in approximately two weeks time. As soon as these final amendments/additions were made and a date agreed, members would be informed accordingly.

The Town Clerk asked if members had any objections to their name, address, telephone no. and photo being posted on the website. Members did not have any objections.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

TC 55/11 COUNTY DURHAM & CLEVELAND COUNTY TRAINING PARTNERSHIP –

(a) E is for Easy Learning: new Online Tools to help Councillors, Chairmen and Clerks

As previously notified to members by e-mail, the National Association of Local Councils had launched its first ever suite of e-learning courses aimed at helping and supporting around 80,000 local community leaders in grassroots local councils. This initiative should be of enormous benefit to all local councillors in County Durham and Cleveland and Darlington.

The County Training Partnership encourages **all** parish councillors to participate in this training in the comfort of their own homes.

The new e-learning courses were available at www.ntselearning.co.uk where Councillors could now complete a range of basic modules in only a matter of several minutes. Councillors would need to contact support@learningpool.com for a first time log in password. After that, the password could be changed to one that was more personal.

This e-learning facility included 5 short modules on key aspects of local council work, law and procedure. It would also offer much needed simple advice to help councillors navigate their way to effective community leadership; providing a voice for local people; and making decisions for effective local service delivery.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

Signed:
Town Mayor

(b) 3 C's Event – Councillors, Chairmen & Clerks

These events would probably be delivered in the Shildon Civic Hall in September/October 2011, further details of which would be confirmed later. In the meantime the undermentioned was a taste of what was hoped to be provided:-

- 9.30 - Welcome, refreshments and networking
- 10.00 - Overview of day
- 10.10 - The relationship between Chairman, Councillor and Clerk – then

CHAIRMEN	COUNCILLORS	CLERKS
	11.10 Comfort break and networking	
11.30 Chairing/challenging meetings	11.30 Powers and Duties	11.30 Agendas, minutes, the law and best practice
	12.30 Lunch and networking	
13.30 Professional Conduct	13.30 Management and Meetings	13.30 Annual Returns
	14.30 Comfort break and networking	
14.50 The press and the media	14.50 Budgets and Precepts	14.50 Risk Management or Village Greens
15.50 Feedback and close	15.50 Feedback and close	15.50 Feedback and close

Training would be provided by a number of experienced trainers giving delegates the opportunity to learn much more about their respective roles.

The cost per delegate would be £30.

RESOLVED: That members inform the Town Clerk if they were interested in attending the course.

TC 56/11 NOMINATIONS FOR CDALC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND MOTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AT A.G.M.

The following positions were again subject to annual election at this year's A.G.M.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Current Position Holder</u>
• President	Helen Goodman MP
• Three Vice-Presidents	Councillor W. Waters (Chairman), Spennymoor T.C. Councillor T. Batson (Vice-Chairman), Tow Law T.C. Councillor John Robinson, Sedgefield T.C.
• Honorary Auditor	Councillor D. Waters, Sedgefield T.C.
• Honorary Treasurer	Andrew Bailey, Great Aycliffe T.C.

Two options were available to the Council as follows:-

- OPTION 1 The Council can choose to nominate existing post holders for another year in office or
- OPTION 2 The Council can choose to submit its own (alternative) nomination for these positions

Nominations were to be received by **31st August 2011.**

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

Signed:
Town Mayor

TC 57/11 BEREAVEMENT SERVICE: DRAFT CEMETERY POLICIES

At the last Council Meeting reference was made to the County Council's consultation concerning the provision/maintenance/management of County Council run cemeteries/closed churchyards etc. The views requested related to cemetery capacity, unsafe headstones, kerb surrounds, adornments, municipal funerals, family searches and woodland burials.

Whilst the Town Council's comments related to actual ongoing maintenance of the Town Cemetery, the County Council would like to receive individual comments to their survey and in view of the Town Cemetery almost reaching capacity with no plans to purchase extra land, it was important that the views of the Town Council were expressed.

RESOLVED: That interested members would complete the survey on line via the County Council website **by 25th July 2011.**

TC 58/11 BISHOP AUCKLAND IN BLOOM COMPETITION 2011

In view of the disappointing number of entries received to date, the closing date for the Competition had been extended to Monday, 4th July 2011. The Press had been informed accordingly.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

TC 59/11 ELECTORAL REVIEW OF COUNTY DURHAM: FURTHER DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

Further draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Durham County Council had been received from the Local Government Boundary Commission.

The electoral arrangements for the Town Council would change as a result of these recommendations and a copy of the report could be viewed at www.lgbcd.org.uk. Members had already been e-mailed with this document.

The Commission had not finalised its conclusions and, in light of further evidence, may put forward final recommendations which differ from those set out in the further draft recommendations. It was important that all those who had a view should write to the Boundary Commission regardless of whether or not they agree with their further draft recommendations. It was also important that those who oppose the further draft recommendations should suggest alternatives which were supported by evidence. All representations received during the consultation period would be taken into account and the Commission would then consider whether or not to amend its further draft recommendations.

Comments were requested **by 1st August 2011.**

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

TC 60/11 TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

- **To consider the re-location of the Town Council office**

Signed:
Town Mayor