

Minutes of a **MEETING** of **BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Wesley Room at the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY, 25TH OCTOBER 2011 at 6.00 p.m.**

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

Also Present: Linda Goldie (Town Clerk).

TC 103/11 INTRODUCTION OF BERYL ANDERSON, DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL EVENTS TEAM – BISHOP AUCKLAND FOOD FESTIVAL IN THE DURHAM DALES 2011 - PRESENTATION

The Mayor introduced Beryl Anderson from Durham County Council Events Team who had asked to come along to the meeting to update members on the success of this year's Food Festival.

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.

Beryl pointed out that that there had been a huge increase in visitor numbers and excellent trading reports had been received from the stallholders and the town's retail outlets.

Beryl asked the Town Council to recognise the importance in continuing the event into 2012 and requested financial support for next year's Food Festival which was to be held on 21st April.

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

RESOLVED: That the request from the County Council for financial support towards the 2012 Food Festival be considered during the budget discussions.

TC 104/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Kay, Laurie and Wilson.

TC 105/11 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

TC 106/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

TC 107/11 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27TH SEPTEMBER 2011

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27th September 2011 be approved and adopted.

TC 108/11 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Meeting of Working Party to Discuss Park Warden Scheme – 23rd August (Minute No. TC 100/11 refers)

In accordance with the above Minute, Councillor Anderson reported that the Agreement between Groundwork North East and the Town Council in relation to the temporary employment of local placements from the Job Centre, had now been signed and he reminded members to complete the Work Request Forms which had been circulated at the meeting. The scheme was scheduled to commence on Tuesday, 1st November 2011.

Signed:
Town Mayor

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

TC 109/11 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(a) Finance Committee - 18th October 2011

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 18th October 2011 be approved and adopted.

TC 110/11 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

(b) Planning Committee - 24th October 2011

This meeting had not been held due to it again being inquorate.

TC 111/11 REPORT OF TOWN MAYOR

The Mayor reported that he had attended the following:

- 21st October - Halloween Dress Down Day at Evergreen Primary School in aid of his chosen charity the Butterwick Hospice
- 21st October - Halloween Dress Down Day at Bishop Barrington School in aid of his chosen charity the Butterwick Hospice
- 25th October - Japanese Culture Exchange on the Weardale Railway from Bishop Auckland to Stanhope organized by the A.A.P.
- 26th October - Hosted a Spooky Supper Quiz Night at the Park Head Hotel & Country Restaurant in aid of the Butterwick Hospice

TC 112/11 UNITARY AUTHORITY UPDATE

There were no outstanding matters.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

TC 113/11 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND EVENTS

(a) Bishop Auckland Music Festival 2012 – Meeting with Interested Parties – 6th October 2011

The Town Clerk reported that she had attended a meeting at The College with interested parties to discuss the format for next year's Music Festival. A suggestion was made that the Proms Event, which the Town Council sponsored, should be different for next year as the Mowbray Orchestra had performed for the last three years. The idea of a brass band and/or choir was mooted

The Chair of the Finance Committee reminded members that support for the Proms Event would be discussed later in the meeting when the Budget was up for discussion.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

Signed:
Town Mayor

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

TC 114 /11 2013 REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES IN ENGLAND

The Boundary Commission for England published on 13th September its initial proposals for new Parliamentary Constituencies in England and was consulting on the proposals until **5th December 2011**.

Anyone could find out about the proposals from the Boundary Commission's website at www.independent.gov.uk/boundarycommissionforengland or at one of the 'places of deposit' in each constituency, details of which could also be found on the website. In each place of deposit, in addition to copies of the initial proposals report, an A0 size map of all the new constituencies in the region and individual maps of all the constituencies in an A3 size book had been provided.

The Boundary Commission was looking to stimulate public interest and welcome written feedback as well as oral contributions at each of the 36 public hearings which were being conducted.

The website also provided information about the statutory 12-week consultation exercise and details about where and when public hearings were being held in each region.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

**TC 115/11 ANNUAL RETURN - YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2011 –
EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Copies of Sections 1 – 4 of the audited Annual Return was circulated for information from which it was noted that there were no matters which came to the External Auditor's attention which required the issuing of a separate additional issues arising report.

RESOLVED: That the audited Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2011 be approved and accepted.

TC 116/11 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE AND PARADE – 13TH NOVEMBER 2011

The Town Council, in partnership with the County Council and the Royal British Legion were inviting Councillors to take part in the Remembrance Sunday Service and Parade which would be held on Sunday, 13th November 2011. Those wishing to participate in the parade were requested to assemble at the War Memorial in the Market Place in time for proceedings to commence at 10.30am. Following the laying of wreaths, a Service of Remembrance would be held in St. Anne's Church in the Market Place.

Members were requested to inform the Town Clerk if it was their intention to lay a Wreath at the War Memorial.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

TC 117/11 TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

At the last meeting, Councillor Kay indicated they he would like an item on this agenda to discuss the Town Council focusing on links with Durham County Council Events Team in view of the possible demise of the Town Centre Forum.

Since then, Councillor Kay had realized he would be on holiday and requested that the item be discussed at the November Council Meeting

Signed:
Town Mayor

TC 118/11 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 119/11 BUDGET FOR 2012/2013 – SECOND DRAFT

Arising out of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 18th October, a SECOND DRAFT of a Budget for 2012/2013 had been circulated for consideration.

RESOLVED: (i) That an amount of £500 be included in the Capital Budget Heading by reducing the Members' Allowances Budget from £4,500 to £4,000.

(ii) That £500.00 surplus be vired from the Floral Displays/Environmental materials to the Capital Budget heading at the end of 2011/2012 financial year making the Capital Budget £1,000 in total.

(iii) That £6,000 remain in the Bishop Proms Budget and Bishop Auckland College be informed that the Town Council will support this event but would like an orchestra to perform the Proms programme.

(iv) That the Town Clerk be authorised to obtain three quotations from orchestras to perform the Proms programme.

(v) That a THIRD DRAFT of a Budget for 2012/2013 based on the amendments suggested be prepared and submitted for further consideration at the Finance Committee to be held on 15th November 2011.

Signed:
Town Mayor