

Minutes of a **MEETING** of **BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Wesley Room at the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY, 28TH FEBRUARY 2012 at 6.00 p.m.**

Present: Councillor Lethbridge (**in the Chair**) and Councillors Anderson, Fleming, Golightly, Huntington, Kay, Laurie, Lee and Wilson,

Also Present: Linda Goldie (Town Clerk) and Dani Webb (Northern Echo).

**TC 172/12 PRESENTATION BY JIMMY BENNETT, STREET SCENE MANAGER (SOUTH)
DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Mayor introduced Jimmy Bennett, Street Scene Manager (South), Durham County Council who had been invited to the meeting to update the Town Council on the position regarding the toilets in the Bus Station.

Jimmy stated that the toilets were part of an ongoing regeneration scheme for the bus station by Ravenhill Developments. However, this could be at least 18 months to 2 years before any work could commence.

In the meantime, Durham County Council had confirmed that the toilets were structurally sound and, therefore, was prepared to carry out minor improvement works as soon as possible.

Members were pleased to hear that the Town Council's persistency on this problem was bringing some positive action.

Jimmy answered various questions as to what improvements would be made and the timescale involved.

The Mayor thanked Jimmy for his presentation and good news, after which he then left the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the County Council be informed that the Town Council welcomes the proposed improvements to the Bus Station toilets.

TC 173/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Lesley Zair and Sam Zair.

TC 174 /12 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

TC 175/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

**TC 176/12 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 31ST JANUARY 2012**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 31st January 2012 be approved and adopted.

Signed:
Town Mayor

TC 177/12 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Acceptance of Certificate of Appreciation Given by Durham Constabulary (Minute Nos. FIN 89/11 and TC 158/12 refer)

Councillor Anderson commented that John Raw, the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator had invited him and Councillors Lee and Lethbridge together with the Town Clerk to attend an event to be held in the Wesley Room at the Four Clocks Centre on Wednesday, 7th March at 3.00 p.m. at which the framed certificate would be presented to a representative of the Woodhouse Close and Tindale Allotments Watch Scheme.

TC 178/12 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES –

(a) Planning Committee – 31st January 2012

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 31st January 2012 be approved and adopted.

There were no matters arising.

(b) Finance Committee – 21st February 2012

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

There were no matters arising.

TC 179/12 MINUTES OF WORKING PARTIES –

(a) Town Team Working Party – 6th February 2012

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Town Team Working Party held on 6th February 2012 be approved and adopted.

(b) Youth Awards Working Party – 8th February 2012

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Youth Awards Working Party held on 8th February 2012 be approved and adopted.

(c) Town Team Working Party – 21st February 2012

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Town Team Working Party held on 21st February 2012 be approved and adopted.

There were no matters arising.

TC 180/12 TOWN TEAM WORKING PARTY – DELEGATED POWERS

Councillor Laurie referred to the Working Party's proposal to bid for up to £100,000 under the Portas Review Pilots Application and the urgency of submission before the closing date of 31st March 2012.

Any recommendations made by the Town Team Working Party would need to be ratified by full Council on 27th March which would be too late to submit the application. In the circumstances, therefore, Councillor Laurie requested Council to grant delegated powers to the Working Party to complete and submit the application for funding.

Signed:
Town Mayor

RESOLVED: That the Town Team Working Party be granted delegated powers to complete and submit the application for funding.

TC 181/12 REPORT OF TOWN MAYOR

The Mayor reported that he had attended the following:

9 th February	-	Shildon Town Council – Sid Chaplin Short Story Competition
17 th February	-	Great Aycliffe Town Council – Charity Civic Dinner
24 th February	-	Tindale W.M.C. – R.V.I .Children’s Cancer Fundraising Event

TC 182/12 UNITARY AUTHORITY UPDATE

- The Government had published the Localism Bill which shifts power from Central Government to communities
- The County Council had calculated that cuts over the next five years would be up to 30%

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

TC 183/12 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND TRAINING EVENTS

(a) Music and Arts Festival Working Group Meeting - 27th February 2012

Councillors Laurie, Jaqui Holloway (St. John’s R.C. School), Sue Snowdon, Mike Jinks and Kevin Burns (B.A. College) and the Town Clerk met to discuss progress on the organisation of this year’s Festival.

An update on health and safety was given by Mike and Kevin gave an update on funding and sponsorship. No headline performers had yet been agreed as it was considered that it was still too early to book this type of act.

With regard to the Proms event, Linda informed members that an Agreement had been drawn up between the Town Council and the Cobweb Orchestra and as soon as a definite programme was agreed, this would be signed by both parties.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

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

TC 184/12 DRAFT COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE – FOR APPROVAL

A draft copy of a Complaints Procedure had been circulated for consideration.

RESOLVED: That the Complaints Procedure as submitted be approved and adopted.

TC 185/12 OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY ROUTE – BISHOP AUCKLAND – SUNDAY, 17TH JUNE 2012 (Minute No. TC 167/12, 31st January 2012 refers)

In accordance with the above Minute, Councillor Anderson and the Town Clerk had attended a meeting at County Hall on Thursday, 2nd February with other Parish/Town Council representatives from those Councils whose villages the torch would be running through.

Nigel Dodds, Strategic Manager for Outdoor Sport and Leisure and was the County Council’s lead on this event, gave a presentation and answered questions about:

Signed:
Town Mayor

- The route the torch would be taking by a torch bearer
- Information on times
- Dressing the route
- Encouraging the community to line the route
- Security
- Parking arrangements etc.

Nigel referred to the fact that LOGOC (London Olympic Games Organising Committee) had put stringent restrictions in place around the dressing of the route with regards to branding. In order to try to simplify this, the County Council had produced some guidance to give organisations more information with clear links to appropriate websites for information. This included the Olympic branding agreed with DCC corporate communications including information about planting colour schemes.

Further information would be released in due course.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

**TC 186/12 AUCKLAND CASTLE LIAISON GROUP MEETING –
9TH FEBRUARY 2012**

The Mayor together with the Town Clerk attended a meeting of the Auckland Castle Liaison Group in the Castle on Thursday, 9th February 2012.

Malcolm Reading Consultants, together with a team of sub-consultants from the worlds of architectural heritage, landscape architecture, exhibition design, cost consultancy and cultural and heritage sectors business management attended the meeting as they had been commissioned by the Auckland Castle Trust to ensure a sustainable future for the Castle, its contents and the Estate.

Other representatives from various organisations were also in attendance – the Civic Society, A.A.P., the College, and Councillors and Officers from Durham County Council who all shared their knowledge of the town and what they believed were the key issues involved and received guidance on what they were looking for from the project. The main concern was to ensure the sustainability of the Castle as a tourist attraction.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

**TC 187/12 PROMS AT THE COLLEGE – SUNDAY, 1ST JULY 2012 -
MEETING OF THE PROMS GROUP– 14TH FEBRUARY 2012
(Minute No. TC 162/12, 31st January 2012 refers)**

Councillors Anderson, Lethbridge, Lesley Zair, Kathleen Hammerton (Bishop Barrington School), Sue Snowdon, Kevin Burns (Bishop Auckland College) and the Town Clerk met with Andy Jackson of the Cobweb Orchestra on 14th February to further discuss the programme for the Sunday Proms event.

Further amendments and additions to the programme had been put forward and Andy was to prepare another draft programme in the light of these amendments.

Andy then left the meeting.

The Working Party then looked at a circulated draft of the Agreement between the Town Council and the Cobweb Orchestra when various amendments had been suggested.

RESOLVED: That, subject to the amendments being made, the Agreement be approved.

Signed:
Town Mayor

TC 188/12 DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL AND BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL – WINTER MAINTENANCE OUTLINE AGREEMENT

A copy of the signed Winter Maintenance Outline Agreement between Durham County Council and the Town Council had been circulated.

RESOLVED: That the Agreement be noted.

TC 189/12 LIBRARY STRATEGY – CONSULTATION

A copy of the forthcoming Library Strategy Consultation had been e-mailed to all members on 7th February.

As stated in the e-mail, the County Council's Cabinet was to look at the Library Strategy Document on 8th February. In order to meet the needs described in the document and ensure that action could be taken to meet the strategy in accordance with a reduced budget for the library service, the County Council's strategy (subject to consultation) would be:-

- To keep open all library buildings, but reduce their opening hours
- To retain the mobile library service but revise the criteria for the communities that are served by it;
- to co-locate libraries wherever possible with other services and to invest to improve their appearance and facilities;
- to drive down support and management costs; and
- to move library services into a not-for-profit Trust.

The outcome of the whole document was that there would be a restricted Mobile Library Service as set out in the document together with reduced hours in most places with proposed future opening hours in Town Centre Libraries of 36 hours per week (Town Hall Library) and Community Libraries 20 hours per week (Woodhouse Close).

The Cabinet was recommended to agree:

- the proposed vision and outcomes for the Library Service
- to undertake public consultation from 10th February to 4th May on the proposals in the report, i.e.:
 - the overall strategy for library services in County Durham;
 - to revise the criteria for the settlements that mobile libraries will visit;
 - to retain a networking of 12 town centre and 27 community libraries; and
 - to reduce opening hours in town centre libraries to 36 hours per week, and in community libraries to 20 per week.
- To receive a further report in July 2012 for a decision on the future of the library service following public consultation.

The closing date was 29th April.

RESOLVED: That the County Council be congratulated on their efforts in reducing the service rather than closing libraries down.

TC 190/12 TYNE TEES DIGITAL SWITCHOVER – LATEST NEWS

The digital switchover campaign would start in earnest on 1st March with actual switchover starting on 12th September and two weeks later all analogue channels would disappear to be replaced by digital channels only.

There was only one help mobile unit/advice point in County Durham and this was on 14th March in Barnard Castle Market Place and, at the moment, the only open doors session was in Darlington on 19th April.

Signed:
Town Mayor

Further information could be obtained from Jaime Flinn on 98456 505050 or e-mail TyneTees:digitaluk.co.uk.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

TC 191/12 TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

- **Area Action Partnership** – Angelina Maddison, A.A.P. Co-ordinator to attend the March meeting to discuss the work of the A.A.P, and gather views for the 2012/13 work programme
- **The Travelling Community** – Scott McNally, Travellers’ Liaison Officer, Durham County Council be requested to attend a future meeting regarding the travelling community.
- **The Bishop of Durham** – The Rt. Revd. Justin Welby be requested to attend a future meeting.

Signed:
Town Mayor