

Minutes of a **MEETING** of **BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Wesley Room at the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY, 27TH MARCH 2012 at 6.00 p.m.**

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

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

**TC 192/12 INTRODUCTION OF ANGELINA MADDISON –
AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP CO-ORDINATOR**

The Mayor announced that Angelina Maddison, the A.A.P. Co-ordinator would not be attending the meeting. He pointed out that there had been a misunderstanding about her role in offering to come to the meeting and further questions could be asked at an informal meeting with interested parties.

TC 193/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

TC 194 /12 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

TC 195/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

**TC 196/12 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 28TH FEBRUARY 2012**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28th February 2012 be approved and adopted.

There were no matters arising.

TC 197/12 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES –

(a) Planning Committee – 28th February 2012

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 28th February 2012 be approved and adopted.

There were no matters arising.

(b) Finance Committee – 20th March 2012

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 20th March 2012 be approved and adopted.

There were no matters arising.

(c) Human Resources Committee – 21st March 2012

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Human Resources Committee held on 21st March 2012 be approved and adopted.

Signed:
Town Mayor

Councillor Anderson drew members' attention to the latest training courses to be provided by the County Durham and Cleveland County Training Partnership. The CTP believes it is **essential** that ALL Councils (including Clerks and Councillors) should attend these training sessions as employment procedures were one of the most important aspects of a Clerk's and Councillors duties.

The courses would be held in County Hall, Durham and would cover the following topics:-

- Employing \people (1st May)
- Framework for Sickness Absence (7th June)
- Grievance (3rd July)
- Managing performance, capability and discipline (3rd September)

RESOLVED: That details of the above courses be given to all members of the Human Resources Committee and anyone wishing to attend should inform the Town Clerk as soon as possible.

TC 198/12 MINUTES OF WORKING PARTIES –

(a) Town Team Working Party – 29th February 2012

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Town Team Working Party held on 29th February 2012 be approved and adopted.

(b) Town Team Working Party – 9th March 2012

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Youth Awards Working Party held on 9th March 2012 be approved and adopted.

(c) Town Team Working Party – 20th March 2012

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Town Team Working Party held on 20th March 2012 be approved and adopted.

There were no matters arising.

TC 199/12 REPORT OF TOWN MAYOR

The Mayor reported that he had attended the following:

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| 2 nd March | - | Breakfast at the Butterwick Hospice |
| 8 th March | - | St. Joseph's School, Coundon – Presentation of certificates |
| 10 th March | - | Presentation of Flowers to Norah Wright on her 100 th birthday –
Barrington Lodge |

The Mayor also reported that:

- while he was on holiday in France, news was received of the murders which had taken place in Toulouse and he had telephoned the Town Clerk to send a letter of sympathy to the Mayor and communities of Toulouse.
- He had attended a meeting at Auckland Castle with Councillor Laurie and the Town Clerk who had met with Rowena Hackwood, Chief Executive Officer of the Auckland Castle Trust to talk about a partnership with the Trust and the Town Team which would benefit the town. During discussion, Rowena pointed out that over 120,000 visitors were anticipated to visit the Castle. With this expected footfall, she queried why there was a possibility that Marks and Spencer would want to relocate out of town.

RESOLVED: That a letter be sent to Marks and Spencer's Head Office urging them to reconsider any decision they might have made to relocate in view of the increased footfall expected at the Castle and how important this store is to the town and its revitalisation.

Signed:

TC 200/12 UNITARY AUTHORITY UPDATE

- Bishop Auckland Food Festival in the Durham Dales was to be held on 21st April 2012 in the market place and Auckland Castle.

Concern was expressed that the demolition work at the Mothercare site was still not complete and that the scaffolding would still be in place during the Food Festival which could have a detrimental effect on the Event.

- Councillor Sam Zair reported that Durham County Council had been honoured in a prestigious national awards competition. The Council, which was established just three years ago, was highly commended in the County of the Year category at the Local Government Chronicle Awards 2012.
- The Unitary Authority was also named joint winner in the Management Team of the Year category, for Neighbourhood Services and was highly commended in the Low Carbon Council category, for work on carbon management and energy efficiency.

RESOLVED: That a letter be sent to Sarah Robson, (D.C.C. Head of Economic Development), with copies to George Garlick (Chief Executive), Simon Henig (Leader) and Neil Foster (Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration) expressing the Town Council's dismay at the length of time taken to get this matter sorted especially with the forthcoming Food Festival, Diamond Jubilee Celebrations and the Olympic Torch Relay through Newgate Street.

TC 201/12 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND TRAINING EVENTS

(a) Bishop Auckland and Shildon Local Councils Committee – 15th March 2012

Councillor Anderson reported that he and the Town Clerk had attended the Bishop Auckland and Shildon Local Councils Committee on 15th March 2012 when he reported the death of George Pennington who was a member of the Local Councils Committee and Chair of Eldon Parish Council.

Angelina Maddison, the A.A.P. Co-ordinator presented a draft of the report which was to be considered at the A.A.P. Board Meeting, which referred to the reduction in opening hours of the libraries.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(b) Music and Arts Festival Working Group Meeting - 26th March 2012

Councillors Laurie and Lethbridge together with the Town Clerk met with the Music and Arts Festival Working Group on 26th March to discuss progress on the organisation of this year's Festival.

Councillor Laurie reported that no definite decision had been made with regard to the price of tickets and no headliners had yet been signed up, although a few local bands had been signed up.

The College was wanting the Group to sign up to a Memorandum of Agreement but the idea seemed too onerous. This was to be the topic for discussion at a future meeting with Anne Isherwood, the College Principal.

The Deputy Mayor, who would become Mayor in May, had offered to be put in stocks over the weekend for people to throw wet sponges at him in aid of his chosen charity, the British Heart Foundation.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

Signed:
Town Mayor

(c) Friends of Bishop Auckland Station Meeting - March 2012

Councillor Golightly reported that she had attended a meeting of the Friends of Bishop Auckland Railway Station. The Group were in the process of setting up a bank account but, in the meantime, they were requesting the Town Council to pay invoices out of the £1,000 allocated in the Train Station Enhancement Budget.

RESOLVED: That the Station Group's request be referred to the next Finance Committee for consideration.

(d) Bishop Auckland and Shildon A.A.P. – 22nd March 2012

Councillor Anderson reported that he had attended a meeting of the Bishop Auckland and Shildon A.A.P. on 22nd March 2012 when a presentation was given on the reduced hours of the libraries.

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

TC 202/12 DRAFT COUNTY DURHAM CYCLING STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2012-2015 – CONSULTATION

The Draft Cycling Strategy was now available for consultation. This document was the third cycling strategy for County Durham. The strategy and action plan aimed to bring together key partners who could make changes for a better cycling County.

Their vision is – Cycling is a visible, normal, everyday activity. Cycling is part of Durham's culture and is a safe, affordable and enjoyable mode of transport as well as a fun, family-friendly, cheap and accessible and competitive leisure activity.

The County Council would like to hear views on this draft by Wednesday, 2nd May 2012.

Comments could be sent to prow@durham.gov.uk before the deadline.

Councillor Kay said that he was a keen cyclist and would like to take the opportunity to read the 19 page document and bring the matter back for discussion at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That the matter be referred to April's Council Meeting for further discussion.

TC 203/12 BUS STOP CLEARWAY MARKINGS – WEAR VALLEY

Due to the implementation of Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and proposed changes to the way parking was enforced, the County Council was now required to install a 'no stopping except local buses' clearway to all marked bus stops.

The County Council had identified a number of bus stops in the Town Council's area that did not currently have a clearway and therefore, it would be necessary to install a new clearway sign and to amend the existing yellow bus box marking. Assurance had been given that the County Council was not altering the location of the bus stop.

A consultation letter would be sent to residents directly affected by the changes.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

Signed:
Town Mayor

TC 204/12 BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN TEAM – LINK ON TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITE

A link had now been set up on the Town Council's website to the Town Team which would include regular updates as to how the Town Team was progressing.

Councillor Anderson stated that the Town Council had an excellent website and credit should be given to both the Town Clerk and her Admin Assistant for the work put into it.

The Mayor referred to the Town Team's bid for the Mary Portas Pilot money and thanked Councillors Golightly and Laurie for their work in helping to put the bid together.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

TC 205/12 LITTERFREE DURHAM'S BIG SPRING CLEAN – 16TH APRIL TO 11TH MAY 2012

LitterFree Durham was a voluntary group which worked with the County Durham Branch of Campaign to Protect Rural England. With the support of Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council they were organising a Big Spring Clean across both county and borough. It would run from 16th April to 11th May 2012 which were the four weeks at the end of the school Easter holidays.

They were asking Parish and Town Councils to help by organising a Litter Pick during the Big Spring Clean, or by making sure that someone in the area does so and they could be contacted by e-mail: litterfreedurham@durham.gov.uk or visit www.litterfreedurham.org.uk.

Councillor Anderson reminded members that the Town Council had its own Parks and Environmental Support Team which litter picks every week.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

TC 206/12 OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY ROUTE THROUGH BISHOP AUCKLAND

The Town Clerk reported that the Olympic Torch Relay Route would pass through Newgate Street to Cockton Hill traffic lights where it would turn left to go to Shildon.

This was a once in a lifetime occasion and an opportunity not to be missed, especially for the town's traders and the Town Team was hoping to put together some events to be held in the Market Place to keep the visitors in the town after the torch had gone through.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

TC 207/12 TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

- **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.