

Minutes of a **MEETING** of **BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Wesley Room at the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY, 22ND MAY 2012 at 6.45 p.m.**

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

Also Present: Linda Goldie (Town Clerk), Danni Webb (Northern Echo), James Burrage (Bishop F.M.)

TC 13/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fleming, Huntington and Lee.

TC 14 /12 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

TC 15/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

**TC 16/12 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 24TH APRIL 2012**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24th April 2012 be approved and adopted.

TC 17/12 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

TC 18/12 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES –

(a) Planning Committee – 24th April 2012

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 24th April 2012 be approved and adopted.

There were no matters arising.

(b) Finance Committee – 15th May 2012

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 15th May 2012 be approved and adopted.

There were no matters arising.

TC 19/12 REPORT OF TOWN MAYOR

That as the new Mayor had just been elected, there was no report to give.

TC 20/12 UNITARY AUTHORITY UPDATE

- Councillor Sam Zair said that the County Wide Markets Review would be going to Cabinet next Wednesday.
- The scaffolding outside Mothercare was expected to be removed by 6th June.

Signed:
Town Mayor

TC 21/12 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND TRAINING EVENTS

- Councillor Anderson reported that he and Councillor Laurie had attended a Training Course on 1st May on Employment of Staff from hiring to firing. They both found the course very informative.
- Councillor Anderson reported that he had attended the Bishop Auckland and Shildon Local Council's Committee A.G.M. on 17th May when he was re-elected as Chair. He was disappointed with the poor attendance with no representative from the A.A.P.
- Councillor Sam Zair reported that he had attended a High Impact Locality Meeting (H.I.L.) on 16th May when the focus was on crime, disorder and anti-social behavior.

RESOLVED: That a representative of the H.I.L.s Group be requested to attend a future Council Meeting to provide updates and look into the possibility of partnership working.

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

TC 22/12 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

An updated copy of the Financial Regulations had been circulated.

RESOLVED: That the updated copy of the Financial Regulations be approved and adopted.

TC 23/12 CODE OF CONDUCT – AMENDMENTS/ADDITIONS

The County Council had advised that the existing Code of Conduct remained in force until the end of June 2012. Legislation currently required Parish Councils to have in place a code from the beginning of July which meets the requirements of the Localism Act. The new code would need to replace the current rules on personal and prejudicial interests with provisions consistent with Regulations yet to be made by Parliament covering Discloseable Pecuniary Interests.

The Local Government Association had produced a Code. However, the National Association of Local Councils has expressed reservations about the Code.

In view of the uncertainty the County Council had approved as a default option, the adoption of the current Code of Conduct with necessary amendments to cover Discloseable Pecuniary Interests until more work could be done to produce a Code that all bodies were happy with.

In the circumstances, therefore, a copy of the amendments to the Code had been circulated.

RESOLVED: That the Council's current Code of Conduct be adopted with the necessary amendments to cover Discloseable Pecuniary Interests until more progress has been made.

TC 24/12 MINUTES OF THE BISHOP AUCKLAND IN BLOOM WORKING PARTY – MEETING HELD ON 17TH MAY 2012

(a) Bishop Auckland in Bloom 2012

The Bishop Auckland in Bloom Competition Working Party met on 17th May and agreed the format of this year's competition.

RESOLVED: (i) That the category for 'hanging baskets' be deleted and an additional category of 'novelty planters' be included.

Signed:
Town Mayor

(ii) That the prize money remain the same as last year, i.e. the Overall Winner to get £100 and 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize in each category to get £50, £25 and £15 respectively.

(iii) That Mr. Mike Whatmore be requested to carry out the judging at the same fee as last year (£150.00).

(b) Children's Christmas Painting Competition 2012

Arising out of the Bishop Auckland in Bloom Competition last year, the Children's Christmas Painting Competition proved very successful.

RESOLVED: (i=) That a Children's Painting Competition be held with a Christmas Theme of 'Pantomime in 2D or 3D creations' to coincide with the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on 30th November and that the paintings be displayed in the Town Hall when the winners would be announced.

(ii) That the age groupings remain the same as last year, i.e.

Years 1 & 2

Years 3 & 4

Years 5 & 6

(iii) That prizes in the form of vouchers remain the same as last year, i.e. 1st prize - £15.00, 2nd prize - £10.00 and 3rd prize - £5.00 in each age group. The Overall Winner would be a school with prize money of £50.00

TC 25/12 MINUTES OF THE YOUTH AWARDS COMPETITION WORKING PARTY HELD ON 17TH MAY 2012

The Youth Awards Competition Working Party met on 17th May and considered 10 applications which had been received. Three winners were chosen and will be announced at the presentation evening to be held on Wednesday 30th May in the Town Hall to which all members of the Council are invited to attend.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

TC 26/12 DIAMOND JUBILEE AND OLYMPIC TORCH CELEBRATIONS

Councillor Anderson reported that the Events Working Party was having weekly meetings to pull together a programme of events to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Torch relay. He went on to give details of the various acts and events booked for those days.

Various members congratulated the Events Working Party on their enthusiasm and drive in organising these events in such a short space of time.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

TC 27/12 TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

- **Civil Parking Enforcement** – Dave Lewin,(Strategic Traffic Management, Regeneration & Economic Development) to attend the June Meeting to discuss the Bishop Auckland Parking Report 2011 (copy recently e-mailed to Members).

Signed:

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Town Mayor

- **Bishop Auckland Food Festival in the Durham Dales** – Kate James, Festivals and Events Manager, Visit County Durham, Sarah Robson (Head of Economic Development), Nick Miller (Miller Research) and Rowena Hackwood (Auckland Castle Trust) to attend the July meeting to update members on the success of the Food Festival.
- **The Travelling Community** – Scott McNally, Travellers' Liaison Officer, Durham County Council be requested to attend the September meeting regarding the travelling community.
- **Auckland Castle Trust** – Jonathan Ruffer be requested to attend a meeting October/November regarding an update on the Auckland Castle Trusts future plans.
- **The Bishop of Durham** – The Rt. Revd. Justin Welby be requested to attend a future meeting.

TC 28/12 IN PRIVATE

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 do now exclude 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 29/12 ANNUAL AUDIT 2011/2012 - ANNUAL RETURN

Copies of Section 1 (Accounting Statements) and Section 2 (Annual Governance Statement) of the Annual Return had been circulated for approval.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council approves Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return for the purpose of submission to the Auditors.

TC 30/12 ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2011/2012 – REPORT BY INTERNAL AUDITOR

A copy of the Report by the Internal Auditor for 2010/2011 had been circulated for consideration. All items relating to his initial findings were being addressed.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town Council approves and accepts the Report by the Internal Auditor for 2011/2012.

Signed:
Town Mayor