

Minutes of a **MEETING** of **BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Wesley Room at the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY 26th MARCH 2013** at 6.00 p.m.

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

Also Present: David Anderson (Town Clerk) Clive Auld, Lee Brownson (Bishop Auckland Town Team),

TC 170/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Huntington, Lethbridge, L. Zair and S. Zair.

TC 171/12 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

TC 172/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Laurie and Lee declared an interest in respect of item No 7b 'Minutes of Committees, Finance Committee 19th March 2013'.

TC 173/12 TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION

Members noted that Jimmy Bennett, Streetscene Manager was unable to attend the meeting. The item was therefore deferred to a future meeting.

TC 174/12 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26th FEBRUARY 2013

RESOLVED: That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

TC 175/12 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

- a. Planning Committee 26th February 2013
- b. Finance Committee 19th March 2013
- c. Strategy Committee 19th March 2013

RESOLVED: That the Minutes be approved and adopted.

There were no matters arising

TC 176/12 REPORT OF TOWN MAYOR

The Mayor reported that he had attended a Sing for Life Evening organised by the Breathe Easy Group raise funds for the British Lung Foundation.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted

TC 177/12 UNITARY AUTHORITY UPDATE

Members noted that Durham County Council had recently met to approve its budget. A motion had also been put forward seeking a return to the committee system, however this had been defeated.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted

Signed:
Town Mayor

REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND TRAINING EVENTS

TC 178/12 TOWN TEAM

Clive Auld (Town Team) reported on recent activities associated with the Town Team. The draw had been made for the Christmas Street Lights raffle on 5th March 2013. The raffle had achieved £859. Arrangements were continuing to be made for forthcoming events including a fashion show which would be held on 15th June, a War on the Line event to be held on 7th July and a car show to be held in August.

A large teddy bear had been donated by Beales Department Store which would be used for a name the bear competition on 6th April.

It was noted that the Town Team was to have a stall at the Food Festival which was to be held on 20th and 21st April. Arrangements were being finalised for fundraising activities for the weekend.

Concerns had been raised at a recent Town Team meeting about regular traders not being allowed to trade on market day as usual due to the Food Festival being sited in the Market Place

These concerns had been raised with Visit County Durham (Durham County Council), organisers of the Food Festival who had indicated that four businesses that traded from the market place every Saturday had been accommodated, although they would not be able to have their usual pitch and would have to use a smaller stall provided by the organisers.

It was noted that not all traders had been offered pitches as the owner of a children's ride that had regularly attended the Saturday market for many years had not been accommodated. The owner of the ride had been a member of the organising committee when the Food Festival was in its infancy, which made this particularly frustrating for him now to be excluded.

Whilst the Town Council, and Town Team, were fully supportive of the Food Festival, Members were extremely concerned about the approach taken by the organisers as the original intention of the festival had been to support local traders and producers. It seemed that this principle had been abandoned as the event had grown. Members felt strongly that it was unfair to prevent regular traders from carrying out their usual business on festival days.

In addition Members had major concerns about the sustainability of the Saturday market when regular traders were being adversely affected on what had previously been one of their best trading days. This approach would not be helpful in the development of a vibrant and successful Saturday market.

It was suggested that the Council's and Town Team's concerns be raised at a high level with Durham County Council and, if necessary, a meeting be arranged with a view of resolving the issues.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the information be noted.
 2. That the Council's and Town Team's concerns be raised at a high level with Durham County Council and, if necessary, a meeting be arranged with a view of resolving the issues.

TC179/12 THE BIG LOCAL - 28th FEBRUARY 2013

Councillor Anderson reported that slow progress was being made with the initiative. The Big Local would have a presence at the Food Festival to increase awareness of its objectives.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

TC 180/12 AAP BOARD MEETING - 7TH MARCH 2013

Councillor Anderson reported that a presentation had been given on the Lindisfarne Gospels. Consideration had also been given to funding applications from Members Initiative and Community Budgets.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted

TC 181/12 GROUNDWORK TRUST - 20TH MARCH 2013

It was noted that a meeting had taken place with Groundwork Trust to discuss the service provision and funding of the Parks and Environmental Support Team.

Groundwork Trust confirmed that the current arrangement for the Town Council to contribute to the funding of a post to provide supervision and training for a small team of young people to provide parks and environmental work in order to assist them finding employment. Town Council funding would cover costs of the supervisor one day a week. Apprentices and trainees were funded via another funding stream and numbers would vary according to availability and demand for training.

In addition to the single day funded by the Town Council the team would work within Bishop Auckland for at least an additional day per week on projects funded in other ways. The team would also be able to provide additional environmental services for the Town Council on request at additional cost.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted

TC 182/12 TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

The following topics for future discussion were noted.

Jimmy Bennett, Street Scene Manager (South), Durham County Council was to be requested to attend the next Council meeting.

Sarah Robson, Head of Economic Development and Chris Myers, Regeneration Projects Manager, Durham County Council.

Inspector Martin Peace had indicated that he would attend Town Council meetings on a quarterly basis. He would provide a written report for the meetings which he was not in attendance. Insp Peace's report for March was circulated for information.