

Minutes of the **MEETING** of **BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Wesley Room at the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2013** at 6.00 p.m.

**Present:** Councillor Fleming (Mayor), and Councillors Anderson, Blackburn, Brownson, Golightly, Lethbridge, Wilson, A. Zair, L. Zair and S. Zair.

**Also Present:** Clive Auld (Bishop Auckland Town Team) and David Anderson (Town Clerk).

**TC.105/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Race.

**TC.106/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were submitted

**TC.107/13 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No issues were raised under this item.

**TC.108/13 FOOD FESTIVAL 2014**

Beryl Anderson and John Thurlbeck, Durham County Council Events Team, were in attendance to discuss preparations for the 2014 Food Festival.

It was noted that the Durham County Events Team would be organising and delivering the 2014, which would be held in April. A final decision had not yet been made whether the Festival would be held on a single day or over two days. Whilst producers would be invited from other regions the Festival would focus on local and regional talent. A Michelin star chef from the North East had been approached to do a food demonstration.

It was hoped that the footprint for the Festival could be extended and discussions were being held with Auckland Castle Trust in that regard. Although discussions were at an early stage the Trust was keen to be involved.

The Events Team were confident that the Festival would not result in the same level of deficit as the previous year and had put in arrangements to ensure that costs were closely monitored.

Members were reminded that the Town Council, as the key sponsor of the event, would be included in the decision making process.

The Town Council were keen to support the event and would be considering its financial support in more detail when setting its budget for the forthcoming financial year.

**RESOLVED:** That the information be noted

**TC.109/13 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 29<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2013**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes be approved as a correct record subject to the following amendment

There were no matters arising.

**Signed:** .....  
**Town Mayor**

## **TC.110/12 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

- a. Planning Committee, 29<sup>th</sup> October 2013
- b. Allotments & Environment Committee, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2013
- c. Policy & Strategy Committee, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2013
- d. Finance Committee, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013
- e. Human Resources, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2013

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes be approved and adopted.

There were no matters arising

## **TC.111/13 REPORT OF TOWN MAYOR**

The Mayor reported on the events he had attended since the last Council meeting, including:-

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| 6 <sup>th</sup> November  | Bishop FM, 4th Anniversary - Open Day at the Studio  |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> November  | The Mayor held a Curry and Quiz Night at Bishop Golf Club  |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> November  | Xtreme Dance Fuzion to present certificates  |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> November | Butterwick Hospice - Antique evaluation and auction with David Harper  |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> November | Bishop Auckland Town Council's Christmas Lights Switch On and Service. The Mayor thanked Durham County Council's Events Team for their support in organising the event and also Adam Zair, who accompanied the soloist on the organ. |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> November | Ferryhill Town Council Mayor's Christmas Band Concert  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> December  | Santa Run in aid of Butterwick Hospice, the Mayor's chosen charity. The Mayor thanked the Town Council's Admin Assistant and Town Clerk who also took part and raised funds for the Butterwick Hospice.                              |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> December  | Spennymoor Town Council Mayor's Civic Dinner   |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> December  | Shildon Town Council's Civic Carol Service   |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> December  | Ferryhill Town Council's Civic Carol Service   |

**RESOLVED:** That the information be noted.

## **REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND TRAINING EVENTS**

### **TC.112/13 TOWN TEAM**

Clive Auld, Bishop Auckland Town Team, reported that since the last meeting the new Christmas lights had been installed in Newgate Street, Fore Bondgate and the Town Hall. Clive thanked everyone that had helped to fund the lights and Durham County Council who had agreed to continue to install, dismantle, store the lights and pay for the electricity.

A full Christmas program had been developed for events to be held in the Town Centre on 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> December. 1,500 programs had been distributed to primary schools in Bishop Auckland to encourage children to have their photo taken with Santa and take part in the Spot Rudolf competition.

It was also noted that 21 shops had taken part in the window display competition, which would be shortlisted on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December, with the finalists judged by Jonathan Ruffer on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December.

**RESOLVED:** That the information be noted.

**Signed:** .....  
**Town Mayor**

**TC.113/13 THE BIG LOCAL**

Councillor Brownson advised that the next meeting of the Big Local was to be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December. Steady progress was being made.

**RESOLVED:** That the information be noted.

**REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

**TC.114/13 ROYAL GARDEN PARTY**

Consideration was given to making a nomination to CDALC for a representative to attend the Royal Garden Party in 2014.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor L. Zair be nominated to attend the Royal Garden Party in 2014.

**TC.115/13 S106 APPLICATION – COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE COACH**

Consideration was given to a request Durham County Council for comments on an application made by South Durham Enterprise Agency for S106 monies relating to Tindale Crescent phase 2, to provide 1 full-time and 1 part-time Community Enterprise Coach to work across business communities.

**RESOLVED:** That the application be supported.

**TC.116/13 TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION**

The following would be invited to attend an appropriately timed meeting to update the Town Council on their activities:

- Rowena Hackwood – Auckland Castle Trust
- Ron Hogg, Police and Crime Commissioner
- Relevant senior officers of Durham County Council and County Councillors be invited to discuss:-
  - a. the decline of Bishop Auckland Town Centre
  - b. the possible adverse implications of the next stage of development of the Tindale Crescent out of town retail park
  - c. Durham County Council’s plans for the economic regeneration of Bishop Auckland Town Centre.

Councillor L. Zair advised that she had posted a petition on Facebook calling for free parking to be provided in the run up towards Christmas and in January and February. It was noted that an article had also appeared in the Northern Echo in relation to car parking charges. It was commented that the Town Council and Town Team were trying to promote a positive image of the town, however the article was negative and only discourages people from visiting the town centre.

It was suggested that appropriate officers from Durham County Council be requested to attend the next Council meeting to discuss the issue.

**RESOLVED:** That appropriate officers from Durham County Council be requested to attend the next Council meeting to discuss car parking issues.

**Signed:** .....  
**Town Mayor**