

Minutes of the **MEETING** of **BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Wesley Room at the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY 24TH JUNE 2014** at 6.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Brownson (Deputy Mayor in the Chair), and Councillors Blackburn, Fleming, Golightly, Lethbridge, and Wilson.

Also Present: Clive Auld (Bishop Auckland Town Team), David Anderson (Town Clerk), Sheila Horner (Assistant Town Clerk). Claire Airey (Alzheimer's Society)

TC.36/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anderson, Race, A. Zair, L. Zair and S. Zair.

TC.37/14 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No issues were raised under this item.

TC.38/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were submitted.

TC.39/14 DEMENTIA FRIENDS

In connection with the Mayor's chosen charity, the Alzheimer's Society, Claire Airey, an Alzheimer's Society volunteer, was in attendance to give a presentation to raise awareness of Dementia Friends and benefits from participating in the scheme.

Alzheimer's Society research revealed that 800,000 people in the UK have a form of dementia, of which more than half had Alzheimer's disease. It had been estimated that in less than ten years there would be a million people will be living with dementia and this would increase to .7m people by 2051

It was possible for anyone to become a Dementia Friend, which involved learning a little about dementia and turning that understanding into action. It was not necessarily about volunteering or fundraising, but having a greater understanding of the challenges people living with dementia faced, which would create a safer and more welcoming community.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the members and staff sign up to become Dementia Friends with a view to the Town Council becoming a Dementia Friendly organisation.
 2. That individuals, business and groups in Bishop Auckland be encouraged to become dementia friends with a view to the town becoming dementia friendly.

TC.40/14 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27TH MAY 2014

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

Matters arising

TC.41/14 MEMBER TRAINING (Minute TC.43/14 refers)

Members noted that the County Council's Monitoring Officer had offered training on the code of conduct on either 16th or 23rd July, or 10th or 17th September. A number of Members were unavailable for the July dates and it was therefore agreed to offer the

Signed:
Town Mayor

September dates to all Members with arrangements being made for training to be held on the date that the majority could attend.

RESOLVED: That arrangements be made for Code of Conduct training to be held on 10th or 17th September 2014.

TC.42/14 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

a. Finance Committee, 24^h June 2014

RESOLVED: That the Minutes be approved and adopted.

There were no matters arising

TC.43/14 REPORT OF TOWN MAYOR

In the absence of the Mayor this item was deferred to the next meeting.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND TRAINING EVENTS

TC.44/14 TOWN TEAM

Clive Auld reported on recent activities associated with the Town Team.

Additional work had been carried out to improve the installation of the banners in Newgate Street.

Arrangements were underway for the Car Show which would be held on 22nd August.

A meeting of the Town Team Events Group would be held in the near future to plan a range of activities for the forthcoming year.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

TC.45/14 THE BIG LOCAL – GAUNLESS GATEWAY

It was noted that a project which would operate within the grounds of the walled garden in Auckland Castle had been chosen as the preferred project for Big Local funding.

The project would offer training, apprenticeship and employment opportunities for people from the Big Local designated area. The project would be sustainable over the long term and would also have fund raising opportunities to invest in the designated areas.

Meetings had been held with the Big Local national representatives to explain the project and seek formal approval.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

TC.46/14 DRAFT CHARACTER APPRAISAL, BISHOP AUCKLAND CONSERVATION AREA

Consideration was given to a draft character appraisal for Bishop Auckland Conservation Area prepared by Durham County Council. The document included minor changes to the conservation area boundary and some outline management proposals.

RESOLVED: That the draft character appraisal be supported.

Signed:
Town Mayor

**TC.47/14 COUNTY DURHAM ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS
APPOINTMENT OF VICE PRESIDENTS**

Members noted that Cllr Waters (CDALC Chairman) had sadly passed away in March. This had created a Vice President and Chairman vacancy on the Executive Committee, which had been advertised to member councils. The following five nominations had been received.

Since this vacancy was advertised Cllr P Fitchett had resigned from his council which had created a further Vice President vacancy on the Executive Committee. This position has not yet been advertised.

The Executive Committee, at its meeting held on 4 June, agreed that as there was only one further meeting of the Executive Committee before the AGM the vacant positions would remain vacant until elections at the AGM. All nominations received would be carried forward to the AGM elections. Further nominations would be sought prior to the distribution of the AGM papers.

It was noted that Councillor David Bell, the current Vice Chairman, had been elected as Chairman of CDALC until the next AGM.

Councillor Lethbridge paid tribute to Councillor Waters who had been a prominent Councillor in the region for many years and had worked tirelessly with CDALC supporting local councils in the County.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the information be noted.
 2. That Councillor Fleming be nominated for a vacancy on the CDALC Executive.

**TC.48/14 COUNTY DURHAM ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS
CDALC SECRETARIAT- UPDATE**

Members were reminded that Durham County Council would no longer support CDALC secretariat after March 2016. A Working Party had been established to consider the options available and had made the following recommendations, which had been supported by CDALC Executive:-

- From 1 April 2016 a new post directly employed by CDALC be created
- The new post be initially one of 30 hours per week based on the salary of the existing Executive Officer
- Subscription fees be frozen at 10p per elector for 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18.
- Any shortfall between subscription income and annual revenue costs for 2016/17 and 2017/18 be funded from reserves.
- The Executive Committee to determine whether to advertise the new post or to simply offer the post to the current Executive Officer.
- A long term plan for the sustainable provision of support services to member councils at an affordable cost be developed for consideration at the Annual General Meeting in October 2017.

The proposals would be presented to Annual General Meeting, to be held on Saturday, 8th November 2014 to seek the approval of the full membership of the Association.

- RESOLVED:** That the information be noted

Signed:
Town Mayor

TC.49/14 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME – EMPLOYER DISCRETIONS

Under the regulations that govern the Local Government Pension Scheme from 1 April 2014, scheme employers were required to prepare and publish a written policy in relation to five specific choices or discretions.

The Town Clerk had attended a meeting with the County Payroll and Pensions Manager who had explained the discretions and had also detailed the County Council's adopted policy choices, which was circulated at the meeting. It was suggested that the Town Council adopt the County Council's policy.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council adopt the County Councils policies on the LGPS employee discretions.

TC.50/14 TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

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

- Ron Hogg, Police and Crime Commissioner (29th July 2014)
- Peter Nailon, Wear Rivers Trust – to give an update on the proposed River Gaunless project (28th October 2014)
- Jean Clark, Woodhouse Food Bank
- Councillor Neil Foster, Portfolio Holder: Economic Regeneration, together with appropriate senior officers in respect of the economic regeneration of Bishop Auckland Town Centre.

Signed:
Town Mayor