

Minutes of the **MEETING** of **BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Wesley Room at the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014** at 6.00 p.m.

**Present:** Councillor Race (Mayor), and Councillors Anderson, Blackburn, Brownson, Fleming, Golightly, Lethbridge, Wilson,.

**Also Present:** John Brannan, Paul Brown (Wannasee) Clive Auld (Bishop Auckland Town Team), David Anderson (Town Clerk)

**TC.65/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

**TC.66/14 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No issues were raised under this item.

**TC.67/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Anderson declared an interest in Item no. 10 (5) 'Community Fund Application, South Church Lane Allotment Association' and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Brownson declared an interest in Item no. 12. 'Wannasee Festival 2015' and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

**TC.68/14 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 29<sup>th</sup> JULY 2014**

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

**Matters Arising**

In respect of Minute No TC.61/14 'Eleven Arches Project' Councillors Brownson and Blackburn gave feedback on their trip to Puy du Fou as representatives of the Town Council. Both Members reported that the experience had greatly surpassed their expectations. The facility and performances were truly awe-inspiring. The potential impact that such a facility would have in Bishop Auckland and surrounding areas, in terms of employment opportunities, local economy, and community benefit, was immense.

**TC.70/14 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

- a. Planning, 29<sup>th</sup> July 2014
- b. Finance Committee, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

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

There were no matters arising

**TC.71/14 REPORT OF TOWN MAYOR**

The Mayor reported that he had attended the following events since the last Council meeting including.

- 29<sup>th</sup> July 2014 Pizza Menu Launch, Marston's - March Hare
- 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2014 World War 1 Centenary, Bishop Auckland
- 6<sup>th</sup> August 2014 Velo-29 Cycle Race, Market Place, Bishop Auckland
- 14<sup>th</sup> August 2014 Coffee Morning Club, Kelly Ann's
- 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2014 Car Show 2014, Bishop Auckland Town Team
- 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2014 Mayor's Family Fun Day, Hartlepool Borough Council

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

- 24<sup>th</sup> August 2014 Great Aycliffe Show, Great Aycliffe Town Council
- 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2014 Launch of new Travel Hub and waiting facility, Bishop Auckland Railway Station
- 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2014 Bishop Auckland in Bloom Presentation Evening
- 8<sup>th</sup> August 2014 Children, Hidden Harm, Interventions and Recovery Project (CHIRP) Art & Photography Exhibition Auckland Castle

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

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

**TC.72/14 TOWN TEAM**

Clive Auld (BATT) updated Members on recent activities of the Town Team.

The Car Show was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2014. Six dealerships, a driving school, car valeting service and Jaguar Club had taken part. Good feedback had been received from those participating indicating that attendance had been beneficial and that they would return next year.

A number of Town Team members had volunteered to carry out surveys at the ‘Streets of’ festival on behalf of the County Council. A small fee was to be paid to the Town Team.

Arrangements were being made for Monster Saturday to be held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2014. Entertainment would include stilt walkers, zombie dancers and a witch story teller. A pumpkin parade was also being arranged. Spot prizes would be given to the scariest dressed.

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

**TC.73/14 THE BIG LOCAL – GAUNLESS GATEWAY**

Members were updated with regard to the Big Local project. Meetings were taking place with local community groups to appraise them of the project and outcomes.

A consultant had been engaged to draft an Action Plan.

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

**TC.74/14 DEMENTIA CHAMPIONS TRAINING**

Councillor Golightly and Sheila Horner had attended a Dementia Champions course on 1<sup>st</sup> September. The course had been enlightening and interesting. Information and contacts made would be useful in the Council’s quest to make Bishop Auckland a dementia friendly town.

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

**REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

**TC.75/14 OPENNESS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES REGULATIONS 2014**

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, which came into force on the 6<sup>th</sup> August 2014, amended the requirements of the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960 to the effect that

‘A person may not orally report or comment about a meeting as it takes place if he is present at the meeting of a Parish Council or its Committees but otherwise may:

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

- a. Film, photograph or make an audio recording of a meeting.
- b. Use any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear proceedings at a meeting as it takes place or later;
- c. Report or comment on the proceedings in writing during or after a meeting or orally report or comment after the meeting.

Members noted that Standing Order 3I would need to be amended to reflect the new regulations

Consideration was also given to the adoption of a policy that ensures the protection of children, the vulnerable and other members of the public who actively object to being filmed, without undermining the broader transparency of the meeting.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That Standing Order 3I be amended to reflect the new legislation
  2. That the Reporting at Meetings policy appended to the report be adopted.

**TC.76/14 SKATEPARK LIGHTING**

The Town Council had previously made a commitment to contribute up to £7,500 match funding to install lighting at the Skate Park in the Town Rec and to enter into a 25 year agreement with Durham County Council to contribute up to £500 per annum for lighting bills. (Minute TC.125/10 refers).

Groundwork Trust, who had been leading on this project, had identified Section 106 funding which would finance the reaming amount.

The original intention was for Durham County Council to take on responsibility for the lighting columns including maintenance and any electricity costs above £500 (if necessary). However due to financial constraints the County Council was reviewing its outdoor play provision and had indicated that it would not be able to take on responsibility for the lighting. If the project was to be undertaken the Town Council would therefore have to take on responsibility for all future maintenance and all electricity costs.

It had been estimated that electricity costs would be in the region of £250 per annum. The manufacturer’s literature stated that “an achievable planned maintenance programme for the lighting could involve eight or less column visits over a twenty-five year service life”. Costs were being ascertained for a maintenance programme.

An additional factor to consider was unplanned maintenance caused by accidental damage or vandalism. Stella lighting has been installed in multi use games areas at North Park and Redhall Estate, Darlington for two years. There had been no incidents which required unplanned maintenance.

Members are asked to consider its commitment to the project bearing in mind the need to accept sole responsibility for the lighting should the project go ahead. Responsibility for the skate park itself would remain with Durham County Council.

- RESOLVED** That the Town Council take on responsibility for the Skatepark Lights subject to:-

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

1. Confirmation that the lights will be controlled by a light sensor to turn them on at dusk and a timer to turn them off at 9.00 p.m.
2. Confirmation of the warranty period and cover
3. A planned maintenance programme being agreed for a 25 year period stated as being available in the Stella brochure

**TC.77/14 SMOKE FREE PARKS**

Consideration was given to a proposal by Durham County Council to introduce a voluntary code encouraging people not to smoke in play parks in support of the Smoke-free County Durham Tobacco Control Alliance’s vision:

*“That a child born now in any part of County Durham will reach adulthood breathing smoke-free air, being free from tobacco addiction and living in a community where to smoke is unusual. We owe it to our children to make this happen”*

Although it will not be legally enforceable, the County Council was seeking to create an environment in play parks where smoking was no longer acceptable.

The County Council was consulting with park users, stakeholders and the general public to obtain their views. If supported, the code would be introduced later in the year.

Following detailed consideration Members were not in favour of the introduction of the smoke free play parks policy on the basis that it would be impractical as the policy was voluntary and not enforceable. It was felt that if play park users tried to self enforce the policy it could put them in potentially intimidating and aggressive situations.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council do not support the voluntary code.

**TC.78/14 PROPOSED STOPPING UP OF HIGHWAYS**

Consideration was given to a request from Durham County Council to stop up sections of the unclassified roads/footpaths under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 as follows

- Farm Close, Woodhouse Close. Bishop Auckland
- Aclet Close, Woodhouse Close, Bishop Auckland
- Ford Way, Woodhouse Close, Bishop Auckland
- Dere Avenue, Bishop Auckland

It was understood that the road and footpaths being stopped up were no longer in existence on the ground. Durham County Council was merely conducting a cleaning up process to get the formal adopted highway records to match up with what is actually on the ground.

Under the Highways Act 1980 the County Council must receive confirmation that the Town Council do not object to the formal stopping up of the road and footpaths.

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council has no objections to the proposed stopping up orders.

Signed: .....  
Town Mayor

**TC.79/14 COMMUNITY FUND APPLICATION, SOUTH CHURCH LANE ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION**

Consideration was given to a request from South Church Lane Allotment Association, to assist with the cost of children's activities at their annual open day.

**RESOLVED:** That a donation of £185.79 be made to South Church Allotments Association to cover the costs of children's activities at their annual open day. (Local Government Act 1972, Section 145)

**TC.80/14 TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION**

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

- Peter Nailon, Wear Rivers Trust – to give an update on the proposed River Gaunless project (28<sup>th</sup> 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.

**TC.81/14 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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.82/14 WANNASEE FESTIVAL 2015**

Consideration was given to the Town Council making a financial contribution to the Wannasee Festival 2015. John Brannan and Paul Brown of Wannasee were in attendance at the meeting.

Proposals were discussed for the Wannasee Festival 2015 being extended to the Friday night, which could feature local bands, the winners of a battle of the bands competition and possibly a headline band. The additional night would take the place of the Music Festival at the College, which was no longer feasible.

Wannasee was considering a charitable outcome for the event and would be willing to support the Mayor's chosen charity on an ongoing basis.

Wannasee representatives withdrew from the meeting to allow member to consider support for the event.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the Council agree in principle to support the Wannasee Festival by making a financial contribution.
  2. That consideration of the financial contribution be referred to the next meeting of the Finance Committee.

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