

Minutes of the **MEETING** of **BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Wesley Room at the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY 28<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2014** at 6.00 p.m.

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

**Also Present:** Clive Auld (Bishop Auckland Town Team), Insp. Martin Peace (Police), Barrie Alderson (Durham County Council), Lizzie Willows (Wear Rivers Trust), Sheila Horner (Assistant Town Clerk) and David Anderson (Town Clerk)

**TC.83/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Golightly.

**TC.84/14 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No issues were raised under this item.

**TC.85/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Blackburn, Brownson, Golightly and S. Zair declared an interest in respect of Item no. 7 b. Minutes of Committees, Finance Committee, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2014 and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Blackburn, Brownson, Golightly and S. Zair declared an interest in respect of Item no. 7 c. Minutes of Committees, Allotments & Environmental Committee, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2014 and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Councillors Blackburn and S Zair declared an interest in Item no. 13 (2) 'Application to Sell Produce from an Allotment' and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

**TC.86/14 RIVER GAUNLESS FOR THE PEOPLE WILDLIFE PROJECT**

Lizzie Willows, Wear Rivers Trust, gave an update on the proposed river project.

Lizzie explained that the project aimed to re-connect local people, communities, landowners and businesses with their river environment. The five year project would restore the River Gaunless to the best possible ecological condition and deliver real benefits, inspiring people to become directly involved in specifying, planning and delivering improvement works.

The first stage application for Heritage Lottery Funding was complete. It was expected that the outcome of the application would be known in December. It was anticipated that the scheme would be delivered from Winter 2016 for a five year period.

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

**TC.87/14 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014**

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

**TC.88/14 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

- a. Planning, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2014
- b. Finance Committee, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2014
- c. Allotments & Environment Committee, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2014

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

There were no matters arising

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

**TC.89/14 REPORT OF TOWN MAYOR**

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

- 18 September 2014 Attended tea party to honour exceptional service of the Aycliffe Angels during WWII, St. John's School & Sixth Form College
- 21 September 2014 Presented trophies at Bishop Auckland Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society annual show
- 26 September 2014 Held Mayor and Captain of the Golf Club Autumn Evening, Bishop Auckland Town Council
- 3 October 2014 Judging of A3 drawings / paintings of the First World War Memorial inside The Four Clocks Centre
- 17 October 2014 Presentation of Trophy to Etherley Lane Primary School A3 Drawing Competition

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

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

**TC.90/14 TOWN TEAM**

Clive Auld and Lee Brownson updated members on recent activities of the Town Team, including giving feedback on Monster Saturday (19<sup>th</sup> October), which had been very well attended, and preparations for Christmas events to be held on the last three Saturdays before Christmas.

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

**TC.91/14 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 potential outcomes. A presentation had been given to the Rotary Club, which had received a positive response.

15 applications had been received for the Big Local Grant scheme, which were currently being evaluated.

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

**TC.92/14 STAYSAFE OPERATION**

Members received feedback on the Staysafe operation held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2014. Inspector Peace gave details of the numbers of young people involved and the amount of alcohol seized. Underage drinkers had been taken to the Four Clocks, which had been used as a safe location, so that their parents could be informed and requested to collect their children.

Barrie Alderson, leisure Services, Durham County Council, gave details of the possible options to attempt to control the situation.

It was agreed that the problem required a whole community solution which involved all agencies and parents working together to resolve the situation. The operation would continue to monitor the situation and work with various agencies.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the information be noted

#### **REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

#### **TC.93/14 DEMENTIA FRIENDLY BISHOP AUCKLAND**

Further to the Town Council giving its commitment to work towards making Bishop Auckland a Dementia Friendly Town (TC.39/14 refers) consideration was given to a report setting out a plan to achieve this ambition.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the Plan be approved
  2. That Councillor Golightly be appointed to the Bishop Auckland Dementia Alliance.

#### **TC.94/14 TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION**

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

- Beryl Anderson, Food Festival 2015, (9<sup>th</sup> December 2014)
- Jean Clark, Woodhouse Food Bank

#### **TC.95/14 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.96/14 APPLICATION TO SELL PRODUCE FROM AN ALLOTMENT**

Consideration was given to a report detailing a request from a Cultivate 4 Life to sell produce from their allotment.

It was noted that the Allotment Act 1922 (Section 22(1)) prohibited the use of an allotment for trade or business and therefore Members could not approve the request.

Given the charitable status of the organisation Members were in favour of offering their current allotment (4-5 Woodhouse Close) at a peppercorn rent from 2015/16.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the request be refused
  2. That Cultivate 4 Life be offered their current allotment (4-5 Woodhouse Close) at a peppercorn rent (£1.00) from 2015/16.

#### **TC.97/14 STAYSAFE OPERATION**

Members note that the Mayor and the Chairman of Finance had agreed to fund the cost of the Four Clocks being used as a safe location for the Staysafe Operation.

**RESOLVED:.** That the action of the Mayor and Chairman of Finance be endorsed.

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