

Minutes of the **MEETING** of **BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Wesley Room at the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2016** at 6.00 p.m.

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

**Also Present:** David Anderson (Town Clerk)

**Public in Attendance:** A. Breeze and L Harris

**TC.124/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

All Members were present

**TC.125/15 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No issues were raised under this item.

**TC.126/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Blackburn declared an 'other non-registerable personal interest' in respect of Item No 11 (13) Town Council Accommodation' and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Brownson declared a 'disclosable personal interest' in respect of Item No 11 (5) 'Permit Parking and Waiting Restrictions Order re Eleven Arches Night Shows'. Councillor Brownson had left the meeting before this item was considered.

Councillor Golightly declared an 'other registerable interest' in respect of Item No 11 (13) Town Council Accommodation' and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

**TC.127/15 VELO 29**

Mike Richardson, Festival and Events Operations Officer, Durham County Council, was in attendance to give members feedback on the 2015 event and also to update members on arrangements for the 2016 event.

Members considered the results of a retailers survey. Although the response rate had been low there was continued support for the event being held again in 2016. A number of suggestions made by retailers including improved signage and additional information being provided to ensure that the potential economical benefit to the town was maximised would be auctioned.

A suggestion for the event to be held on a Sunday had been considered by the County Council, however this was unlikely to be auctioned as it would limit the potential economic benefit to the town.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the information be noted
  2. That the Town Council's support for the event be confirmed.

**TC.128/15 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2015**

An amendment was moved by Councillor Race and seconded by Councillor Wilson to include the following words at Minute No TC.111/15

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

“Councillor Race queried whether Councillor Golightly should have declared an interest in respect on an application relating to the Four Clocks Heritage Programme.”

On a vote being taken the amendment was defeated. (1 vote for; 3 votes against).

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

**TC.129/15 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

- a. Planning Committee, 19<sup>th</sup> December 2015
- b. Finance Committee, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016

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

**TC.130/15 MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising

**TC.131/15 REPORT OF TOWN MAYOR**

The Mayor reported that he had attended a number of events since the last Council meeting including.

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|------------------|--|
| 11 December 2015 | Presented certificates at Princes a Trust event  |
| 11 December 2015 | Attended Shildon Town Council's charity evening with the Deputy Mayor.                           |
| 13 December 2015 | Attended Shildon Town Council's Civic Carol Service  |
| 14 December 2015 | Attended Ferryhill Town Council's Civic Carol Service  |
| 15 December 2015 | Attended press opportunity with Durham County Council regarding newly installed wayfinding signs |
| 19 December 2015 | Gave a reading at Auckland Castle's Carol Service  |
| 20 December 2015 | Attended Great Aycliffe Town Council's Mayor's Civic Carol Service                               |
| 18 January 2016  | Attended Durham County Council's charity event at Durham City Town Hall                          |

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

**N.B.** Councillor Brownson left the meeting following the conclusion of this item to officiate at a prize giving evening at King James I Academy. Councillor Golightly (Deputy Mayor) took the chair.

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

**TC.132/15 TOWN TEAM**

Councillor Anderson updated Members on recent activities of the Town Team.

Christmas events had taken place on 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> December 2015. Events included various entertainment together with visits by Santa Claus with photo opportunities.

Small Business Saturday had also taken place on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016. 23 local shops took part, each offering a discount or promotion to encourage local people to shop local. Promotions had been advertised in Bishop Press.

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

Signed: .....  
Town Mayor

**TC.133/15 THE BIG LOCAL – GAUNLESS GATEWAY**

The chairman of the Big Local was unable to attend the meeting and therefore no report was given. It was envisaged that an update would be given at the next meeting.

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

**TC.134/15 RIVER GAUNLESS FOR PEOPLE PROJECT**

Councillor Fleming had attended a meeting arranged by the Wear Rivers Trust regarding a project to improve the River Gaunless for the benefit of wildlife and local people and updated Members accordingly.

A bid was to be made to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for a grant of £300,000 - £350,000 to fund a project that would focus on the conservation and restoration of the river's natural heritage to begin to return it to the best possible condition and utilise its natural and industrial heritage to tell the river's story, maximising public interest and participation.

It was noted that the Wear Rivers Trust had applied for funding for a similar scheme previously, however on that occasion the bid had been unsuccessful. The Trust had revised the project in accordance with feedback from HLF. It was hoped that the revised bid would be successful.

Wear Rivers Trust had requested a letter of support for the project from the Town Council and also financial support. As the Council had submitted a letter of support for the previous scheme, which sought very similar outcomes, a letter of support should again be sent.

Members however requested further information before considering a financial donation to the project.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That a letter of support for the project be submitted to Wear Rivers Trust
  2. The rivers Trust be invited to a future meeting to present information about the project to enable consideration of a financial contribution.

**REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

**TC.135/15 FOOD FESTIVAL WORKING GROUP**

Appointments were sought for three Members to represent the Town Council at meeting with Durham County Council regarding Bishop Auckland Food Festival.

**RESOLVED:** That the following members be appointed to represent the Town Council in relation to Bishop Auckland Food Festival.

Councillor A. Anderson, (Chairman).  
Councillor D.A. Fleming  
Councillor S. Zair

**TC.136/14 ROYAL GARDEN PARTY**

Consideration was given to making a nomination to CDALC for a representative to attend the Royal Garden Party on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

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

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

**TC.137/15 SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

Consideration was given to a draft Social Media Policy regarding the management of the Council's Facebook page and general policy guidance on the use of social media. (For copy see file of Minutes).

**RESOLVED:** That the Social Media Policy be adopted

**TC.138/15 NOMINATION TO REGISTER THE ACLET HOTEL AS AN ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE - CONSULTATION**

Members noted that correspondence had been received from Durham County Council advising that the nomination had been withdrawn by the applicant. The nomination was therefore not considered.

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

**N.B.** Councillor Race left the meeting following the conclusion of this item

**TC.139/15 PERMIT PARKING AND WAITING RESTRICTIONS ORDER RE ELEVEN ARCHES NIGHT SHOWS – CONSULTATION**

Consideration was given to a consultation being undertaken by Durham County Council relating to a proposed permit parking and waiting restrictions order to assist the management of vehicles in connection with the Eleven Arches Night Shows. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Members supported the proposals and suggested that Durham County Council consult directly with residents of The Dell, The Willows and Finkle Street with a view to include those streets in the permit parking scheme as they had suffered from inappropriate parking in the past.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the proposals be supported
  2. That Durham County Council be requested to consult direct with residents of The Dell, The Willows and Finchale Street with a view to include those streets in the permit parking scheme.

**TC.140/15 DURHAM TOURIST MANAGEMENT PLAN 2016-2020 - CONSULTATION**

Consideration was given to a draft response to the Durham Tourist Management Plan 2016 – 2020. (For copy see file of Minutes)

**RESOLVED:** That the draft response be approved.

**TC.141/15 COUNTY DURHAM POVERTY ACTION PLAN - CONSULTATION**

Consideration was given to a consultation being undertaken by Durham County Council with regard to their County Durham Poverty Actions Plan. (For copy see file of Minutes)

**RESOLVED:** That the County Durham Poverty Action Plan be supported.

**TC.142/15 TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION**

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

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

- Wear Rivers Trust – regarding the River Gaunless For People Project
- John Wiseman, Woodhouse Church

**TC.143/15 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 excluded the press and public for the remaining items on the agenda by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted since publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

**REPORT OF TOWN CLERK (CONTINUED)**

**TC.144/15 PROPOSED SALE OF LAND BY DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

Consideration was given to a report detailing the proposed sale of land by Durham County Council. (For copy see file of Minutes)

The Town Council had been given the opportunity to submit its views on the sale.

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council has no objections to the proposed sale.

**TC.145/15 SOUTH CHURCH ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION, RENEWAL OF LEASE**

Consideration was given to a report regarding the renewal of a lease to South Church Allotments Association to enable it to continue with self management arrangements. (For copy see file of Minutes)

**RESOLVED:** That the recommendations contained in the report be adopted.

**TC.146/15 TOWN COUNCIL ACCOMMODATION**

Consideration was given to a report updating members on the current position with regard to the proposed purchase of accommodation for use as the Council's offices. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Members expressed their appreciation for the work done by the Accommodation Working Group and staff in securing accommodation for the Town Council and requested that this be noted.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That a special meeting be arranged to appoint architects for the renovation of the property.
  2. That the remainder of the recommendations contained in the report be adopted.

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