

Minutes of the **MEETING** of **BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Wesley Room at the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY 26th JULY 2016** at 6.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Golightly (Mayor), and Councillors Anderson, Blackburn, Brownson and Wilson

Also Present: Dennis Coates, Durham Local Council Awards Scheme), Nigel Bryson and Julie Costello (Item No 11 only, Cultivate 4 Life) and David Anderson (Town Clerk)

Public in Attendance: None

TC.60/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

TC.61/16 LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME – FOUNDATION STATUS

Dennis Coates, Chairman of the Durham Local Council Award Scheme formally awarded the Town Council with Foundation Status and presented a certificate.

Mr Coates congratulated the Council on achieving the award, which was the first town council in County Durham to do so.

TC.62/16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no public in attendance.

TC.63/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Blackburn and Golightly declared an 'other registerable interest' in respect of Item Nos 9.2 'Community Fund Application' and 11, 'Cultivate 4 Life'. As a result of the declarations of interest and the absence of members the meeting became inquorate for these items.

In view of Ms Costello's and Mr Bryson's attendance at the meeting, and due to the urgency to deal with their request, it was agreed that they make a presentation in respect of their proposal. (See Minute No TC.74/16). Councillor Golightly vacated the Chair during discussion of this item.

TC.64/16 MINUTES

Town Council	28 th June 2016
Planning Committee	28 th June 2016
Finance Committee	19 th July 2016

RESOLVED: That the Minutes be approved as a correct record and recommendations contained therein be adopted.

TC.65/16 MATTERS ARISING

It was noted that the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 19th July 2016 became inquorate and could not consider an application for community funding. The Mayor again respectfully requested Members to make every attempt to attend meetings of Committees which they were Members to enable the business of the Council to be conducted.

Signed:
Town Mayor

TC.66/16 REPORT OF THE MAYOR

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

- 29th June Hartlepool Borough Council’s Community Dinner
- 15th July Great Aycliffe Town Council’s Mayor at home
- 16th July Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council’s Mayor at home

It was also noted that the Deputy Mayor had attended the following event on the Mayor’s behalf.

- 8th July Official opening of Greater Willington Town Council’s new offices.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND TRAINING EVENTS

TC.67/16 CORE TEAM

Councillor Anderson, Chair of the Core Team, updated members with regard to the meeting of the Core Team held on 13th July 2016.

Roadworks Market Place

Dave Wafer, DCC Strategic Traffic Manager, had attended the Core Team meeting to explain the phasing of the roadworks in the Market Place in the context of Kynren events.

Works were necessary to realign the road to accommodate Auckland Castle’s Welcome Building. Traffic calming measures and a pedestrian crossing would be incorporated into the design. He explained that there were four phases of works which would result in limited access to Market Place from July to December 2016. Disruption would be kept to a minimum with various parts of the Market Place being reopened to traffic as the works allowed. Final traffic routes would be in place from the beginning of December 2016 when bus movements would be back to their original routes and bus stops reinstated in Market Place. Disabled bays and waiting bays would also be reinstated.

Final paving works were planned to be undertaken in June 2017 when the Welcome Building was complete.

General update on Kynren.

Kynren had opened on 2nd July and had received excellent reviews, both locally and nationally. There had been no issues with traffic congestion

Suggested arrival times were to be relaxed, which would result in visitors potentially having more time to spend in the town centre.

Entertainment/food stalls in Market Place opening day (2nd July)

South Durham Enterprise Agency had arranged entertainment and food stalls in the Market Place to welcome visitors on the opening day (2nd July). However at the request of Eleven Arches, this had not been promoted due to concerns about adding to the potential for traffic congestion.

The Core Team may revisit providing an event in the Market Place to attract visitors to the town centre.

Signed:
Town Mayor

Business Booklet

A booklet had been distributed to all businesses in town centre. A leaflet was enclosed to encourage sign up to a free entry in Visit County Durham’s website.

World Host Training

World Host Training was ongoing and had been offered to businesses in the town. It was hoped that sufficient businesses would participate to be able to promote Bishop Auckland as a World Host destination town.

Community Toilet Scheme

Work was continuing to develop the community toilet scheme.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

TC.68/16 TOWN TEAM – EVENTS TEAM

Clive Auld updated Members with regard to the activities of the Events Team.

Arrangements were continuing for ‘Busking Day’ to be held on Saturday 6th August 2016. The event was being organised in conjunction with Bishop FM who would be broadcasting from the Market Place on the day.

The New Car Show would take place Friday 26th August 2016 in Bishop Auckland Market Place. Six dealerships had signed up for the event so far. Additional attractions were also being arranged.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

TC.69/16 THE BIG LOCAL – GAUNLESS GATEWAY

Clive Auld updated Members on the Gaunless Gateway project.

It was noted that South Durham Enterprise Agency had been appointed to deliver the project. Discussions were continuing with SDEA to make arrangement to start the project.

Another round of the small grants scheme would begin in September. Organisations / groups would need to be based in or support projects in the Big Local areas.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

TC.70/16 DECLARATION SUPPORTING DIVERSITY IN BISHOP AUCKLAND

Further to consideration at its meeting held on 28th June 2016 (Minute No TC.44/16 refers) when the Council agreed to make a public statement embracing diversity, the Town Clerk gave an update of associated activity which had taken place locally.

It was noted that both Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council had agreed diversity statements. In addition it had been discovered that Amnesty International was encouraging councils nationally to agree a statement in support of equity and diversity.

Following debate of the various statements that had been made recently it was agreed that the Council should base its statement on the one issued by Amnesty International,

Signed:
Town Mayor

but to include reference to homophobia and religious intolerance and also to include reference to working with the Police & Crime Commissioner.

It was also noted that the issue would be discussed at the CDALC Larger Councils Committee meeting to be held on 29th July 2016.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the information be noted
 2. That the Council agree the following Diversity Statement.

“We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Racism, xenophobia, homophobia, religious intolerance and hate crimes have no place in our town.

Bishop Auckland Town Council condemns all such intolerance and hate crimes unequivocally.

We will not allow hate to become acceptable and will work with the Police & Crime Commissioner and others to fight prejudice and hate crimes.

We reassure all people living in the area that they are valued members of our community.”
 3. That a Working Group be established to consider options to promote equity, diversity and social cohesion.

TC.71/16 COMMUNITY FUND APPLICATION

As a result of declarations of interest and the absence of Members the meeting became inquorate for this item.

The application would therefore be referred back to the Finance Committee.

TC.72/16 PROPOSED REMOVAL OF SECTIONS OF STREET LIGHTING ON A689 AND A688

Consideration was given to a proposal by Durham County Council to remove sections of street lighting on the A689 and A688. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Members expressed concerns in general about the removal of street lighting on Class A roads which also lit adjacent footpaths. In particular concerns were expressed in regard to the removal of lighting columns 5083 to 5071 (Report 140 & 141 Plan 2). The footpath was well used and was a route regularly used by pupils of King James School to Bracks Farm area and Auckland Park. Bracks Farm was undergoing further development which was likely to increase the use of the footpath.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That Durham County Council be requested to reconsider the policy regarding the removal of streetlights on Class A roads which may have an adverse effect on pedestrians using adjacent footpaths.
 2. Furthermore Durham County Council be requested to reconsider the removal of lighting columns 5083 to 5071 as the footpath was well used and was a route regularly used by pupils of King James School to Bracks Farm area and Auckland Park. Bracks Farm was undergoing further development which was likely to increase the use of the footpath.

Signed:
Town Mayor

TC.73/16 TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

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

- Liz Fisher, Auckland Castle Trust

TC.74/16 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.

TC.75/16 CULTIVATE 4 LIFE

As a result of the declarations of interest and the absence of members the meeting became inquorate for this item.

In view of Ms Costello's and Mr Bryson's attendance, and due to the urgency to deal with their request, it was agreed that they make a presentation in respect of their proposal.

As Councillor Golightly had declared an interest in this item, and with the absence of the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Brownson took the Chair for the duration of this item.

Julie Costello and Nigel Bryson outlined their proposal to expand operations at Woodhouse Close Allotments. A note had been circulated prior to the meeting requesting additional plots. (For copy see file of Minutes).

As the meeting was inquorate a decision could not be made on the proposal. Due to the urgency of the matter it was suggested that the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Deputy Mayor and Chairman of the Allotments Committee, made a decision on the proposal taking into account the discussion that had taken place. The decision would be reported to the next Council meeting.

REPORT OF TOWN CLERK (CONTINUED)

TC.76/16 DETERMINATION OF TENANCY

Consideration was given to a report in relation to a determination of a tenancy at Mill Race Allotments. (For copy see File of Minutes).

RESOLVED: That Solicitors acting on behalf of the Council be requested to issue a Notice to Quit.

Signed:
Town Mayor