

Minutes of the **MEETING** of **BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Wesley Room at the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY, 11TH APRIL 2017** at 6.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Golightly (Mayor), and Councillors Anderson, Brownson, Fleming, Lethbridge, a Zair and S Zair

Also Present: Clive Auld (Bishop Auckland Town Team), David Anderson (Town Clerk) and Sheila Horner (Assistant Town Clerk)

Public in Attendance: Michael Siddell

TC.178/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Blackburn, Race, Wilson and L Zair

TC.179/16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

TC.180/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were submitted.

TC.181/16 TOWN (CORE) TEAM

Councillor Anderson, Chair of the Core Team, updated members with regard to a meeting of the Full Town Team held on 8th March 2017

Chris Myers had given an update on Durham County Council regeneration projects, including a new toilet scheme for Bishop Auckland. Seven businesses had signed up to the scheme. A new Bishop Auckland business booklet was being put together.

Liz Fisher, Auckland Castle Trust (ACT), had given an update on the Castle's projects and events. Included were updates about the Mining Gallery where building work was still in progress. Events such as Christmas and a flower festival were under way.

World Host training had continued with more to take place in order to achieve World Host status for Bishop Auckland.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

TC.182/16 TOWN (EVENTS) TEAM

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

Members noted that an Easter Eggstravaganza would take place Saturday 15th April inside the Newgate Centre.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

TC.183/16 THE BIG LOCAL – GAUNLESS GATEWAY

Clive Auld updated Members on the Gaunless Gateway project.

Members noted that the project's aim to seek charity status was ongoing. A 'Play bus' project was being worked on.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

Signed:
Town Mayor

TC.184/16 MINUTES

Town Council	7 th March 2017
Planning Committee	7 th March 2017
Town Council (Special Meeting)	28 th March 2017
Finance Committee	4 th April 2017

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

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

TC.185/16 REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Members noted a report of the Mayor detailing the events attended since the previous meeting. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Members thanked the Councillor Golightly for her hard work and dedication in promoting the town during her year as Mayor.

The Mayor thanked her fellow members and Council staff for their support during her term of office.

It was noted that a number of members would not be seeking re-election in May. Discussion was given to a suitable way to recognise and commemorate service given by past members. It was suggested that a report be submitted to the next Council meeting to consider how best to achieve this.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

TC.186/16 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND TRAINING

There were no reports

REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

TC.187/16 ASSET REGISTER

Consideration was given to the annual Asset Register as at 31st March 2017

RESOLVED: That the Asset Register be agreed.

TC.188/16 PAYMENT OF CONTINUING CONTRACTS AND OBLIGATIONS

Consideration was given to the authorisation of regular payments by the Town Clerk for continuing contracts and obligations (for copy see file of minutes).

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the list of continuing contracts and obligations be approved.
 2. That a dispensation be given to the Mayor and Chairman of the Finance Committee to countersign the payments schedule relating to the electronic payment of Members Allowances.

TC.189/16 DURHAM COUNTY PENSION FUND

Consideration was given to the Durham County pension Fund valuation report as at 31 March 2016 (for copy see file of minutes).

Signed:
Town Mayor

It was noted that the employers pension contribution rate for the three year period from 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2010 would increase from 18.9% to 19.1%

RESOLVED: That the information be noted and the increase in employers pension contribution be agreed.

TC.190/16 TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

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

- Inspector Andy Reeves, Neighbourhood Policing
- Chris Myers, Regeneration Projects Manager, Durham County Council

TC.191/16 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 next item 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.192/16 DETERMINATION OF TENANCY

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk updating members with regard to an ongoing determination of tenancy at Mill Race Allotments. (For copy see file of Minutes).

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

TC.193/16 COUNCIL ACCOMMODATION

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk with regard options for potential accommodation for the Council offices, together with an addendum giving further details on option 2. (For copy see file of minutes).

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the purchase of option 2 detailed in the report be pursued.
 2. That the lease of option 1 detailed in the report be held in reserve.
 3. That an Accommodation Committee be established comprising three members with delegated authority to negotiate the purchase of option 2, subject to survey and ratification by Council.
 4. That Councillors Anderson, Fleming and Zair be appointed to the Accommodation Committee.
 4. That the outcome of negotiations be reported to the next Council meeting.

Signed:
Town Mayor