

Minutes of the **MEETING of BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Wesley Room at the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY 27th JUNE 2017** at 6.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor A. Zair (Mayor), and Councillors Allen, Blackburn, Brownson, Chappell, Cullen, Tucker, Wilson, L. Zair and S. Zair

Also Present: David Anderson (Town Clerk)

Public in Attendance: None

TC52/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D.A. Fleming

TC.53/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
There were no declarations of interest.

TC.54/17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
There was no public participation.

PRESENTATIONS

TC.55/17 NEIGHBOURHOOD INSPECTOR ANDY REEVES
Neighbourhood Inspector Andy Reeves was present at the meeting to introduce himself to Members and to give an update on relevant police activity in the town.

Discussion was given to underage drinking in the town and ongoing initiatives including Operation Aries and Challenge 25 aimed at tackling the sale of alcohol to underage youngsters. It was however noted that adults and on occasions parents were purchasing alcohol for underage drinkers. The police were working with Durham County Council officers to deal with the issues.

A policing plan was in place to deal with the increased number of visitors in the town due to Kynren. A high level of security would be present on the site.

Discussion was also given to drug supply and use in the town and ongoing initiatives to tackle the issues.

It was noted that there had been an incident at The Aclet involving youths. It was advised that any such incidents should be reported to the police so that intelligence could be gathered.

Discussion also took place with regard to parking issues along Fore Bondgate, Market place and the north of Newgate Street. It was noted that the traffic order covering the area had been amended by Durham County Council to enable better enforcement. Parking enforcement officers would deal with illegal parking from 8.00 am until 6.00 pm. Police officers would take on responsibility to deal with obstructions on the highway after 6.00 pm. However the police would need to respond to traffic offences in line with competing priorities.

It was also noted that a number of wheelie bin fires had been reported recently.

Inspector reeves informed Members that he would be undertaking a secondment from 17th July 2017 to 1st September 2017, but would continue to be responsible for Bishop Auckland during that period.

Signed:
Town Mayor

TC.56/17 TOWN TEAM

Councillor Brownson updated members with regard to the Town Team.

It was noted that Nigel Bryson had been elected Chairman of the Town Team and Core Team at the AGM which had taken place on 14th May 2017

Liz Fisher had given an update on Auckland Castle Trust projects including the Mining Art Gallery, which would be opening in October 2017. Construction of the Welcome Building was also underway.

Steffa McManners had given an update on behalf of the Eleven Arches Trust covering preparations for Kynren including parking arrangements and visitors to the town. It was confirmed that the Kynren shuttle bus would be picking up in the Market Place.

Kathryn Watson had given an update of the activities being undertaken by Durham County Council to support the regeneration of the town.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

TC.57/17 TOWN (EVENTS) TEAM

Councillor Brownson updated member in relation to the activities of the Events Team.

Arrangements were being made for Buskers Days to be held on 15th July and 12th September 2017. It was confirmed that the buskers would not be paid.

Durham Markets Company had taken over management of the Thursday market, which was going well. They would take over management of the Saturday market from 8th July 2017. In addition street food markets would take place on Fridays 7th July, 11th August and 1st September 2017.

A meeting had taken place with Colin Wilkes, Durham Markets Company and the Events Team to discuss the possibility of co-ordinating entertainment in the Market Place on market days.

It was noted that Kynren was not taking over all the car parks in Bishop Auckland. A message would need to be given to local people that the town was open for business during the Kynren season.

The issue of parking permits to local residents was queried. Distribution of the permits was to be confirmed.

Arrangements were being made for the New Car Show which would be held on 25th August 2017.

A proposal for an advent window project to be held in the town was being explored.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

TC.58/17 MINUTES

Town Council	16 th May 2017
Accommodation Committee	2 nd June 2017
Town Council	6 th June 2017

Signed:
Town Mayor

Events Committee
Finance Committee
Events Committee

8th June 2017
20th June 2017
21st June 2017

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

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

TC.59/17 DISTRIBUTION OF AGENDAS

Consideration was given to a report relating to the distribution of agendas. (For copy see file of Minutes).

It was noted that regulations now allowed Members to be summonsed to meeting by email rather than a printed agenda being mailed to them. Electronic distribution of agendas had been considered previously, however at that time Members had preferred to continue to receive agendas in paper format.

Following local elections it was suggested that this be reconsidered to take into account the wishes of new Members.

It was suggested that Standing Orders be amended to allow members to be summonsed to meetings by email where that was their preference. This would however be restricted to non-exempt items only to minimise issues around data protection.

- RESOLVED:**
- 1 That Standing Order 15b.i. be amended to allow Members to be summonsed to a meeting by post or by email, depending on their individual preferences.
 2. That Members inform the Town Clerk in writing if they wish to be summonsed to meetings by email.
 3. That reports containing exempt information continue to be distributed to members in paper format to minimise potential data protection issues.

TC60/17 TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

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

- Chris Myers, Regeneration Projects Manager, Durham County Council
- John Brannan and Paul Watson, Wannasee
- Barbara Slasor, Gaunless Gateway Partnership
- John Wiseman, Auckland Youth and Community Centre
- Mick Irwin, Drug and Alcohol Reduction Unit

TC.61/17 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

Signed:
Town Mayor

reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted since publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

TC.62/17 SOUTH CHURCH ALLOTMENT SITE – RETAINING WALL

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk regarding the condition of the retaining wall at South Church Allotment site and attempts made to have the wall surveyed and necessary repairs carried out. (For copy see file of Minutes).

It was recommended that Durham County Council be requested to survey the wall, advise on a programme of works and to suggest a number of suitable contractors to undertake necessary works, or to quote to undertake the works themselves.

Members suggested that Dunelm Geotechnical & Environmental Ltd also be approached for a quote to provide professional services in respect of the wall.

RESOLVED: 1. That Durham County Council and Dunelm Geotechnical & Environmental Ltd be approached to provide professional services as detailed in the report.

TC.63/17 DETERMINATION OF TENANCY

The Town Clerk updated Members with respect of a determination of an allotment tenancy at Mill Race, Bishop Auckland.

Members noted that undertakings drawn up by the Council's solicitor had been signed by the tenants. However the tenants claim not to be able to fulfil their obligations within the undertakings as there were protected birds nesting in the structures.

A survey of the site was to be undertaken to identify if protected birds were nesting. A timescale for the safe demolition of the structures was to be established.

Further action would be agreed on the basis of legal advice.

RESOLVED: 1. That the information be noted.

TC.64/17 OFFICE ACCOMMODATION

The Town Clerk gave an update of action taken following the decision by the Council taken at its meeting held on 6th June 2017 to pursue the purchase of property No 1. (Minute TC.51/17 refers).

Members noted that the Chairman of Finance Committee and the Town Clerk had met with the owner of property No 1. Both parties had confirmed their intention to purchase / sell the property. A structural survey and valuation was to be undertaken as the basis of negotiating agreeing a purchase price for the property.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted and actions taken be endorsed.

Signed:
Town Mayor