

Minutes of the **MEETING of BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Wesley Room at the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2017** at 6.00 p.m.

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

Also Present: Nigel Bryson (Chairman, Bishop Auckland Town Team) and David Anderson (Town Clerk)

Public in Attendance: None present

TC.84/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brownson and Fleming

TC.85/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
There were no declarations of interest.

TC.86/17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
There were no public in attendance.

PRESENTATIONS

TC.87/17 WANNASEE
John Brennan and Paul Watson, organisers of Wannasee, were present at the meeting to give an update on the 2017 Festival and future of the event.

It was reported that the 2017 Wannasee Festival had gone very well, although attendee numbers had not increased greatly from the previous year.

Discussion was given to various suggestions and possible options to attract more people to the event, particularly local people.

Wannasee would be considering options available to them to further improve the Festival over the next few months and would give feedback to the Council as soon as practical.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

TC.88/17 TOWN (CORE) TEAM
Nigel Bryson (Chairman of the Town Team) updated members with regard to the meeting of the Core Team held on 9th August 2017.

The proposal for guest WiFi in the town centre had been considered. The Core Team supported the proposal and had committed the Portas grant to help fund the project.

The Core Team was in the process of reviewing its constitution and workstreams to ensure it was focussed on working in partnership to regenerate of the town. The outcome of the consultation and masterplan overseen by the Brighter Bishop Auckland partnership would inform the priorities of the Core Team.

Updates had been received from the leads of the ongoing workstreams.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

Signed:
Town Mayor

TC.89/17 TOWN (EVENTS) TEAM

Nigel Bryson updated member in relation to the activities of the Events Team.

The Events Team were planning a programme of events to be held during the next 12 months to assist with planning and also to give businesses advance notice.

The New Car Show had been held on 25th August 2017 had been very successful with 6 dealers attending, together with other attractions including the Jaguar Club and Kynren Rolls Royce. The show raised funds for the Events Team to provide future events aimed at increasing footfall in the town. From the dealers point of view it provided an opportunity for their dealerships to have a presence in the town. One dealership had reported that it had sold 3 cars the following day due to leads obtained at the Car Show.

Consideration was being given to holding a Classic Car Show in the Market Place at a future date.

Arrangements were being made for Monster Saturday to be held on 28th October.

Funding had been obtained from County Durham Community Foundation for the Advent Window project to go ahead. It was noted that Mr & Mrs Pott, who had organised the event previously in another town, would engage with local retailers and schools to work together to create advent displays in shop windows.

Events were also being considered for 2018 to commemorate the end of the First World War.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

TC.90/17 MINUTES

Town Council	25 th July 2017
Planning Committee	25 th July 2017
Finance Committee	5 th September 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.91/17 REPORT OF THE MAYOR

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

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

TC.92/17 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND TRAINING COURSES

No reports were given

Signed:
Town Mayor

REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

TC.93/17 STREET LIGHTING ENERGY REDUCTION PROGRAMME – GREEN LANE FOOTPATH, ST HELENS AUCKLAND

Consideration was given to a request received from Durham County Council to remove street lighting from Green Lane Footpath, St Helens. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Members expressed concerns relating to public safety and potential risk to users of the footpath should the lights be removed, particularly during hours of darkness.

It was noted that the street lighting policy confirmed that no street lights would be removed in residential areas. However the footpath in question was a main pedestrian route which linked a residential area to the A688 when travelling in a westerly direction towards Tindale retail area.

The policy also stated that street lighting would only be removed where it was considered safe to do so based on a risk assessment of fear of crime and road safety. The risk assessment which had been undertaken was however heavily focused on road safety and was therefore largely irrelevant as the footpath was not adjacent to a road. The removal of lighting on the footpath would inevitably result in an increase in the number of pedestrians using the alternative footpath adjacent to the A688 during hours of darkness. Implications of this had not been considered.

Members queried whether there were plans to review or remove street lighting on the A688 in the area of the alternative footpath.

Members also queried how the fear of crime had been assessed as no public consultation was being undertaken in respect of the proposal.

In view of their concerns Members requested that the street lights at Green Lane footpath remain in operation.

RECOMMENDED: That member's concerns be submitted to Durham County Council for consideration.

TC.94/17 PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO 90 - SIGNAGE

Consideration was given to an email has been received from the Access and Rights of Way Officer Durham County Council regarding signage to public footpath no 90. (For copy see file of Minutes).

RESOLVED: That an appropriate indicator be provided where Footpath No. 90 leaves North Bondgate.

TC.95/17 TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

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

- Citizens Advice Durham
- 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

Signed:
Town Mayor

TC.96/17 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 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.97/17 SKATEPARK LIGHTING - UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report updating Members in respect of the installation of lighting to the Skatepark in the Town Rec. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Members noted that dimmers were to be installed as initially requested. A timescale for the installation of the dimmers had not yet been received from the Programme Manager, but it was hoped that the lights would be operable in the very near future.

Members expressed their disappointment with Groundwork Trust, who was managing the project.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

TC.98/17 GUEST WIFI IN BISHOP AUCKLAND

Consideration was given to a report setting out a proposal to work in partnership with Durham Country Council and Bishop Auckland Town Team to provide guest WiFi in the town centre. (For copy see file of Minutes).

The report set out an indicative cost for such a system together with a breakdown of funding options.

It was noted that Durham County Council would lead the open competitive procurement process.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the Town Council support the provision of guest WiFi in the town centre.
 2. That the level of financial contribution be considered when actual costs were known.

TC.99/17 SOUTH CHURCH ALLOTMENT SITE – RETAINING WALL

Consideration was given to a report updating members with regard to action taken since the previous meeting in relation to the retaining wall at South Church Road Allotment site. A schedule of quotations received to carry out necessary repair the wall was also considered. (For copy see file of Minutes).

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the information be noted and actions taken endorsed.
 2. That the quotation received from contractor no 1, as detailed in the schedule, be accepted.

TC.100/17 DETERMINATION OF TENANCY

Consideration was given to a report updated Members with respect of a determination of an allotment tenancy at Mill Race, Bishop Auckland. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Signed:
Town Mayor

Members noted costs to date together with an estimate of likely court costs.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the information be noted.
 2. That the Town Council confirm its intention to proceed with court action to regain possession of the allotment plots.
 3. That the Council's solicitor be instructed to seek to regain possession of the plots via court action.

TC.101/17 OFFICE ACCOMMODATION

Consideration was given to a report detailing action taken since the previous meeting in relation to the Council obtaining office accommodation. In particular the results of recent survey and valuation undertaken on a property located within the town was considered. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Following detailed consideration it was agreed to offer the amount identified at D on the schedule appended to the report.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the information be noted and action taken be endorsed.
 2. That the Council offer the amount scheduled at D on the schedule appended to the report.

Signed:
Town Mayor