

Minutes of the meeting of **BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Wesley Room at the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2018** at 6.00 p.m.

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

**Also Present:** Jill Wood (Durham County Council)  
Rev Eileen Harrop (Diocese of Durham)  
C.S. Auld and N Bryson (Bishop Auckland Town Team)  
David Anderson (Town Clerk)

**Public in Attendance:** A. Anderson

#### **TC.105/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were submitted by Councillor S. Zair.

#### **TC.106/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

##### **Item No 10.2 Council Forward Plan**

Councillors Blackburn declared a 'disclosable pecuniary interest' in respect of Aim CYP2 Action 16 and withdrew from the meeting for the duration of the discussion on that proposed action.

#### **TC.107/18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No questions were raised by members of the public

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

#### **TC.108/18 BISHOP AUCKLAND FOOD FESTIVAL**

Jill Wood, Events Officer, Durham County Council was present at the meeting to update members on arrangements for the 2019 Food Festival.

Members noted details of the proposed footprint for the event together with details of the planned activities, workshops, live music schools outreach and celebrity chef's.

Members thanked Jill for her attendance at the meeting and for the hard work in putting together an impressive programme for the event.

**RESOLVED:** That the information be noted

#### **TC.109/18 BISHOP AUCKLAND CELEBRATING TOGETHER PAINTING COMMISSION**

Rev Eileen Harrop, Entrepreneurial Priest, was present at the meeting to discuss a proposal for the Town Council to become the custodian of a painting that had been commissioned from Jayne Parker Johnson, a local artist, to represent various individuals, groups and organisations working together to create something special in the town.

Rev Eileen explained that hidden within the depths of the painting's layers, were metaphors to link the past and present of Bishop Auckland's Heritage. The painting was about capturing a moment in Bishop Auckland's history. Some areas were defined and detailed, where as other parts of the painting were impressionistic and expressive marks. Just as in at this moment in Bishop Auckland's journey not all paths are well defined they are still developing.

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

The initial intention was for the painting to be sold with any surplus funds, after expenses had been deducted, being donated to the Mayors Charity. Rev Harrop reported that the painting had been sold and a donation would be made to the Mayor's charity in due course.

The painting had been purchased by a local person who had requested it to be hung in the Town Council's new premises as this represented Bishop Auckland past and aspirations for the future.

Members thought the painting, together with its interpretation, captured the essence of Bishop Auckland working together to create a positive future. They thought it was truly inspirational and that the new Council offices, as the place where the wellbeing of the town and its people is foremost, would be the ideal place for the painting to be on display.

The Council agreed unanimously to accept your kind offer to become the custodian of the painting.

The painting would need to be framed, at the Council's expense. Certain formalities would need to be agreed with regard to the responsibilities and expectations of the Councils being custodian of the painting.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the Council graciously accept the offer to become the custodian of the painting.
  2. That necessary formalities regarding responsibilities and expectations of the Councils being custodian of the painting be discussed via Rev Harrop.

## **TC.110/18 BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN TEAM**

### **Core Team**

Nigel Bryson, Chairman of the Town Team, gave an overview of the activities of the Town Team and its partner members during the previous twelve months.

It was noted that in particular the Town Team were working to improve communications with businesses so that they had the opportunity to support initiatives in the town and also to maximise opportunities presented by regeneration projects.

The Heritage Action Zone and much awaited Masterplan for the regeneration of the town centre would have a key influence in the future of the town.

### **Events Team**

Clive Auld, Chairman of the Events Team, gave an overview of recent activities of the Events Team.

It was noted that Bishop Celebrates Together had taken place on 29<sup>th</sup> September, which coincided with the Town Council's Horticultural Show and a preview of Auckland Tower. The event had been very successful. Turnout had been magnificent.

Monster Saturday had taken place in the Newgate Centre on 27<sup>th</sup> October.

Advent Window project was being organised to run from 1<sup>st</sup> December through to 24<sup>th</sup> December. It was noted that there had been a great deal of interest from retailers

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

wishing to be involved in the project. With only 24 days available the project was oversubscribed. There were new shops involved although around 90% had also supported the project the previous year.

An evaluation had been undertaken of Town Team events which showed 90% of businesses surveyed had increased takings on days that events were held.

**RESOLVED:** That the information be noted

#### **TC.111/18 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Town Council	30 <sup>th</sup> October 2018
Planning Committee	30 <sup>th</sup> October 2018
Finance Committee	4 <sup>th</sup> December 2018

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

There were no further matters arising

#### **TC.112/18 REPORT OF 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.

#### **REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

#### **TC.113/18 ROYAL GARDEN PARTY**

Consideration was given to making a nomination to CDALC for a representative to attend the Royal Garden Party 2019.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Chappell be nominated to attend the Royal Garden Party 2019.

#### **TC.114/18 COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN**

Consideration was given to a report regarding the formation of a Forward Plan in response to the parish planning exercise. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Detailed consideration was given to a schedule proposing aims and actions for each of the Councils aspirations. The schedule included activities currently being undertaken by the Council together with proposed new actions which would enhance what the Council was currently doing to achieve the aspirations.

Members considered whether the current actions should be continued and whether proposed new actions should be prioritised low, medium or high. With the exception of the provision of free dog bags (ref G1 - 39) all current activities were to continue. Members were of the view that the provision of free dog bags did not contribute encouraging owners to clean up after their dogs. Actions 36, 37 and 38 were to be pursued instead.

The schedule attached to the minutes at Appendix 1 details the agreed action plan, which would inform the Council's budget setting which would take place in January 2019.

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

Councillor Chappell wished it to be noted that she did not support the following actions: -

- W1, Action 6 to consider the introduction of Town Cryer
- CYP2, Action 18 to Investigate options for the creation of a fund aimed at alleviating child poverty in the town. (Possible winter/warm clothing, school uniform fund).

**RESOLVED:** That the Action Plan attached to the Minutes at Appendix 1 be agreed.

**TC.115/18 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, The Auckland Project ((15<sup>th</sup> January 2018)
- Bishop Auckland Masterplan (special meeting January / February 2019)
- Debbie Connell, Feedback on Summertime Activities
- WiFi Demonstration - informal sessions to be arranged

**TC.116/18 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.117/18 OFFICE ACCOMMODATION**

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk updating members on progress made in relation to the purchase of office accommodation.

**RESOLVED:** 1. That the information be noted and the action taken be endorsed.

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

## ASPIRATIONS FOR BISHOP AUCKLAND

### A WEALTHIER BISHOP AUCKLAND

- a vibrant and thriving town that provides opportunities for businesses, training, and employment. A place where people realise and maximise their potential.

Aim	Actions	Resources Required (pa)	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
W1. Regeneration of the Town Centre	1. Continue to work within established partnerships, e.g. Brighter Bishop Auckland, Heritage Action Zone, Bishop Auckland Town Team and with Durham County Council, Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP, The Auckland Project and Kynren, and will seek new partners wherever appropriate and practical to positively influence regeneration of the town centre.	⌚⌚⌚ £	✓	✓	✓	✓
	2. Continue to deliver current events that increase footfall in the town centre. (Horticulture and Produce Show, Christmas event)	⌚⌚⌚ ££	✓	✓	✓	✓
	3. Continue to help fund events provided by partner organisations that increase footfall in the town centre. (Food Festival, Summertime Activities, 1940's event)	⌚ ££	✓	✓	✓	✓
	4. Deliver and / or contribute where possible and practical to new events and initiatives to increase footfall in the town centre	⌚⌚⌚ £	Medium Priority			
	5. Administer Community Toilet Scheme	⌚	✓	✓	✓	✓
	6. Consider introduction of Town Cryer	⌚ £	Low Priority			
	7. Introduction of community WiFi in the town Centre	⌚ £	High Priority			
W2. To promote the availability and accessibility of apprenticeships and training for local people	8. Use membership of the Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP's Employment, Enterprise and Training Task Group to positively influence outcomes for Bishop Auckland.	⌚	✓	✓	✓	✓

Signed: .....  
Town Mayor

Aim	Actions	Resources Required (pa)	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
W3. To influence development within Bishop Auckland	9 Respond to consultations that develop planning policies, eg Durham County Plan, Sustainable Transport Plan.	⌚	✓	✓	✓	✓
	10. Consider each planning application affecting the town on its merits and make appropriate comments to Durham County Council (the Planning Authority) that seeks to achieve maximum benefit to Bishop Auckland and its residents, businesses and visitors.	⌚	✓	✓	✓	✓
	11. Highlight relevant consultations, including planning applications, affecting the town on the Town Council's website.	⌚	✓	✓	✓	✓
W4. To influence decisions over transport and parking	12. Comment appropriately on issues during the development of Bishop Auckland Masterplan, and further town centre plans, so that decisions affecting transport and parking have maximum benefit to Bishop Auckland and its residents, businesses and visitors.	⌚	✓	✓	✓	✓
	13. Lobby for free parking within the Town Centre.	⌚	High Priority			

Signed: .....  
Town Mayor

## A BETTER FOR BISHOP AUCKLAND CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- A place where children and young people realise and maximise their potential, make healthy choices and have the best start in life.

Aim	Proposed Actions	Resources Required (pa)	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
CYP1. Support development of young people	14. Consider the creation of a fund to provide each secondary school with a grant of £2,000 to support a student led project that supports the development of young people. (Menu of suitable projects / topics may be developed)	⌚⌚ £	High Priority			
	15. Create a Youth Forum to engage with young people about the issues that are important to young people.	⌚ £	Low Priority			
CYP2. Tackle child poverty and disadvantage	16. Contribute financial support to Citizens Advice Durham (Bishop Auckland)	£	✓	✓	✓	✓
	17. Tackle child poverty and disadvantage in areas of deprivation by working with established organisations	⌚ £	High Priority			
	18. Investigate options for the creation of a fund aimed at alleviating child poverty in the town. (Possible winter/warm clothing, school uniform fund).	⌚ £	High Priority			
	19. Consider establishing a policy so that at least a proportion of the funds raised by the Mayor during his/her term of office contributes to a fund set up to tackle disadvantage within the town (possible link to 17 above)	⌚	Mayor's charity to continue to be nominated at the Mayor discretion			

Signed: .....  
Town Mayor

## A HEALTHIER BISHOP AUCKLAND

- A place where people make healthy choices, live long and happy lives.

Aim	Proposed Actions	Resources Required (pa)	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
H1 Support and promote healthy lifestyles, healthy eating and exercise	20. Continue to provide and manage allotments	⌚⌚⌚ ££	✓	✓	✓	✓
	21. Continue to provide a Community Fund to support groups providing benefit to local residents	⌚⌚⌚ £	✓	✓	✓	✓
	22. Continue to provide lighting for town rec skatepark	⌚ £	✓	✓	✓	✓
	23. Support operation Aries to tackle underage drinking, drugs and substance abuse	⌚	High Priority			
	24. Contribute to initiatives that promote healthy eating, such as 'Little Chef, Big Chef'.	⌚ £	Medium Priority			
H2. Improve social wellbeing, sense of belonging and social inclusion	25. Continue to deliver current events that increase footfall in the town centre. (Horticulture and Produce Show, Christmas event). (See 2 above)	⌚⌚⌚ ££	✓	✓	✓	✓
	26. Continue to help fund events provided by partner organisations that increase footfall in the town centre. (Food Festival, Summertime Activities, 1940's event). (See 3 above)	⌚ ££	✓	✓	✓	✓
	27. Deliver and / or contribute where possible and practical to new events and initiatives to increase footfall in the town centre. (See 4 above)	⌚⌚⌚ £	Medium Priority			
	28. Highlight relevant consultations, including planning applications, affecting the town on the Town Council's website.	⌚	✓	✓	✓	✓
H3. Improve health provision	29. Actively engage in consultations regarding reviews of health provision that affects Bishop Auckland	⌚	✓	✓	✓	✓

Signed: .....  
Town Mayor

## A SAFER BISHOP AUCKLAND

- A safe place to live, work and visit.

Aim	Proposed Actions	Resources Required (pa)	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
S1 Support social inclusion and diversity	30. Celebrate social inclusion and identity	⌚ £	High Priority			
	31. Engage with Young People's Forum to identify and debate issues that are important to young people. (see 14 above)	⌚ £	Low Priority			
S2. Support Neighbourhood Policing	32. Consider contribution to purchase of Neighbourhood Police Car for use within the Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP area	⌚ £	Low Priority			
S3. Reduce crime / anti-social behaviour	33. Consider contribution to youth crime prevention initiatives such as 'Prison Me! No Way!' (possible link to 13/14 above)	⌚ £	Medium Priority			
	34. Promote Selective Licensing Scheme	⌚	High Priority			
S4. ??	35. Leaflet of helpful services / contacts??	⌚ £	Low Priority			
S5. Transport	36. Engage with Durham County Council (Highways) regarding the operation of traffic lights in the town centre.	⌚	Delete from Plan			

Signed: .....  
Town Mayor

## GREENER

A clean and attractive place to live, work and visit. A place that makes the most of its natural environment and built heritage.

Aim	Proposed Actions	Resources Required (pa)	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
G1. Tackle issues of littering, dog fouling and fly tipping	37. Work with agencies such as Durham County Council to help tackle environmental issues. (e.g. funding of enhanced Neighbourhood Warden provision)	⌚⌚ £££	High Priority			
	38. Support Civic Pride initiatives	⌚ £	Medium Priority			
	39. Seek innovative solutions to tackle littering and dog fouling.	⌚ £	High Priority			
	40. Provision of free dog bags	⌚ £	✓	Discontinue		
G2. Protect green areas in the town	41. Consider each planning application affecting the town on its merits and make appropriate comments to Durham County Council (the Planning Authority) where necessary to protect green spaces from development.	⌚ £	High Priority			
G3. Enhance environment, green spaces, flowerbeds etc	42. Work with Durham County Council (Clean and Green) and other established organisations wherever possible and practical to enhance our green spaces	⌚ £	✓	✓	✓	✓
	43. Continue to provide hanging baskets in town centre.	£	✓	✓	✓	✓
G4. Protect the environment from damage to air quality caused by traffic congestion	44. Promote sustainable transport initiatives	⌚	High Priority			

## OVERARCHING

Aim	Proposed Actions	Resources Required (pa)	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
O1. Enhance democratic representation	45. Seek boundary changes so that Etherley Moor and Etherley Dene are included in BATC area	⌚	High Priority			

Signed: .....  
Town Mayor