

A meeting of Bishop Auckland Town Council was held in the Wesley Room at the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on Tuesday, 3rd March 2020 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Allen (Mayor) and Councillors Brownson, Blackburn, Cullen, Fleming and Wilson.

Also Present: Alan Anderson and Nigel Bryson (Bishop Auckland Town Team), David Anderson (Town Clerk) and Sheila Horner (Assistant Town Clerk).

Public in Attendance: None.

TC.126/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Chappell, A Zair, L. Zair and S Zair

TC.127/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item No 8.1 Bishop Auckland Town Team - Request to Draw Down Funds

Councillors Allen, Blackburn and Brownson declared an 'other registerable interest' in respect of this item and indicated that they would take no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Item No 8.2 Bishop Auckland Town Team - Request Funding

Councillors Allen, Blackburn and Brownson declared an 'other registerable interest' in respect of this item and indicated that they would take no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

N.B. The meeting was inquorate for the above items and would therefore be deferred to the next Council meeting.

Item No 8.3 Community Fund Application, Bishop Auckland Rugby Union Football Club

Councillor Fleming declared an 'other registerable interest' in respect of this item and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

TC.128/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

PRESENTATIONS

TC.129/19 BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN TEAM

Core Team

Nigel Bryson, Chairman of the Town Team, gave an overview of various regeneration activities within the town centre, which were being undertaken by partner organisations.

Members noted that progress was being made on the Community Wi-Fi. A press release would be issued by Durham County Council (project lead) when the system was fully operational.

Fore Bondgate traders group was now operational.

Signed:
Town Mayor

Reference was made to the funding requests which were included on the agenda for consideration. It was noted that Town Council funding enabled the Town Team to deliver a number of significant events in the town

Events Team

Alan Anderson gave an update with regard to recent activity of the Events Team.

It was noted that an events booklet had been produced with would be distributed to schools and around the town in due course.

Arrangements were being made for the banners to be installed prior to the Bishop Auckland Food Festival.

Arrangements were being made for this year's Easter Eggs-travaganza

RESOLVED: That the information be noted

TC.130/19 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Town Council	21 st January 2020
Planning Committee	21 st January 2020
Human Resources Committee	11 th February 2020
Town Council	18 th February 2020
Finance Committee	25 th February 2020

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

There were no matters arising

TC.131/19 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.132/19 BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN TEAM, REQUEST TO DRAW DOWN FUNDS

The meeting was inquorate for this item owing to declarations of interest made. (Minute TC.127/19 refers).

The item was therefore deferred to the next Council meeting.

TC.133/19 BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN TEAM, REQUEST FOR FUNDING

The meeting was inquorate for this item owing to declarations of interest made. (Minute TC.127/19 refers).

The item was therefore deferred to the next Council meeting.

TC.134/19 COMMUNITY FUND APPLICATION, BISHOP AUCKLAND RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

Consideration was given to a community fund application received from Bishop Auckland Rugby Union Football Club. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Signed:
Town Mayor

RESOLVED: That a grant of £250 be awarded to Bishop Auckland Rugby Union Football Club

All grants and donations are made under the Localism Act 2011 (Power of Competence).

TC.135/19 STRONGER TOWNS BOARD, APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE

Consideration was given to a request to appoint a representative to the Stronger Towns Board. (For copy see file of Minutes).

RESOLVED: 1. That the Mayor be appointed to represent the Town Council on the Stronger Town Board.

TC.136/19 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.137/19 RISK MANAGEMENT

Consideration was given to a report regarding Risk Management. (For copy see file of Minutes)

Members noted that the Council was required to assess its risks and put in place controls to mitigate any significant risk. Failure to manage risk effectively could be expensive in terms of litigation, reputation and the ability to achieve desired targets.

Consideration was given to a Risk Assessment. Potential risks had been reviewed against a risk matrix to measure the level of risk taking into account the likelihood of an event and its consequences. Controls had been identified to reduce the likelihood or consequence of the event.

RESOLVED: That the Risk Assessment be approved.

TC.138/19 AUDIT PLANNING DIARY 2020/21

Consideration was given to a report setting out an audit planning diary and plan for the 2020/21 financial year. (For copy see file of Minutes).

RESOLVED: That the Audit Planning Diary 2020/21 be approved.

TC.139/19 THE REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNAL AUDIT

Consideration was given to a report regarding a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal audit. (For copy see file of Minutes).

RESOLVED: That the Review of the Effectiveness of the System of Internal Audit be noted and approved.

TC.140/19 TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

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

Signed:
Town Mayor

- Samantha Townsend, Co-operative member pioneer

TC.141/19 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.142/19 OFFICE ACCOMMODATION

Consideration was given to a report, together with an addendum, updating members of the latest position with regard to the purchase of property for office accommodation. (For copies see file of Minutes).

Following detailed consideration taking into account all relevant information, Members agreed a final figure of £177,800 for the purchase of the premises.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the Council agree a figure of £177,800 for the purchase of the premises.
 2. That the remainder of the recommendations contained in the report be adopted.

Signed:
Town Mayor