

Bishop Auckland Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 9th November 2021 at 6.00pm in BATC Offices. Kingsway Court, 42 Kingsway, Bishop Auckland.

Present: - Cllr. K. Eliot - Chairman, Cllrs J Blackburn, D Wilson, M. Siddle, A. Zair, S. Zair, L. Zair, L. Chappell, L. Brownson and T. Tucker.

In attendance: Mrs S Harris Clerk
Ms J Wood Durham County Council
Ms G , Durham County Council
Temp. Inspector Lonsdale – Durham Constabulary

1 member of the public present

TC 72.0/2021 Agree Notice of Motion to call the meeting to be held on 9th November 2021. Due to a postal issue only the agenda had only been received electronically and not in hard copy format. Members agreed to hold the meeting and just defer the Minutes of previous meetings and correspondence.

TC 73.0/21 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Balmer-Howison, as he was delayed with work.

TC 74.0/21 Declarations of Interest – No Declarations were received.

TC 75.0/21 Minutes & Matters Arising - this item was deferred due to the issue with the Meeting Papers not arriving.

TC 76.0/21 – Public Participation. There was one Member of the Public but they didn't wish to speak on any matter at this time.

TC 77.0/21 – Reports

TC 77.1/21 – Jill Wood from DCC provided feedback on the recent Bishop Auckland Food Festival which had been held at the beginning of October after being delayed from earlier in the year due to Covid. The Town Council had supported this event. There were 21k visitors over the weekend. Layouts were changed to accommodate COVID changes, they will be keeping the new model for 2022. The new cultural elements of street theatre etc. were successful and will be continued in the future. Apologies were given regarding some issues with Coms for the BATC inputs on the weekend, these have been flagged and agreement was given to work closely together for 2022 to ensure that these issues don't happen again.

TC 77.2/21 – Acting Inspector Peter Lonsdale introduced himself to the meeting and explained that he had been in the role of Acting Inspector for Bishop Auckland since late 2020, however had he had previous experience working in the town as Beat cop in Woodhouse Close. He provided an overall summary of what is going on in the area from a policing perspective, and confirmed the awareness that ASB is a town wide issue which they are working to tackle but it takes a partnership approach. PACT meeting were being reinstated in areas where they worked successfully and alternative online engagement is being looked at **for others. Members offered to help circulate meeting dates etc.**

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Questions were answered from members relating to

- **Off Road Bikes** – Confirmed that it is an issue of ASB its hard to target due to lack of information and willingness to supply information but Operation Endurance is addressing this and there are pre Christmas Campaigns to address this.
- **Puppy Farms** – it was theft of pets, the market has reduced following lock down for theft and puppy farms, DCC are the lead agency on puppy farms, but again intelligence is always needed and penalties are relatively low so unfortunately doesn't put people off.
- **Drugs** – yes concerns of the Cannabis farms and Class A use/ dealing. There have been several successful raids, on Kingsway, St Peters Church Princes street etc. always need as much intelligence as possible and they are working constantly on things behind the scenes.
- ASB – tackling it as a holistic issue, making parents aware and making whole families take responsibility for those causing the problems. Working with DCC and other partners to tackle the causes and put in stronger and wider sanctions.
- Kynren Fireworks – issues with parking – Acknowledged that there were lots of cars in town and lots parked badly, but it was for a couple of hours and as long as they weren't causing a dangerous situation they would be left. Bollards would be used on dangerous spots in the future and would be encouraging the organizer to work with the police and liaise with them earlier to ensure that support is available and alternatives are available for parking.

TC 77.3/21 Local Heritage List – Georgia Cundick, Heritage Listings Outreach Officer from Durham County Council explained what the project as about and whilst a national scheme Bishop Auckland had been selected to be a pilot area. The list seeks to detail all of the assets which don't fall within Grade, 1,2 listed status but still form key parts of the history of the area.

Resolved: that the list members have pulled together be submitted and feedback will follow.

TC 77.4/21 Mayors Report - Mayor had held the Mayor at Home event – afternoon Tea at Fifties Tea room with 16 other mayors present Mayor had attended the Food Festival in Bishop Auckland. Mayor Had also attended the Bridge Creative Halloween Disco for service users. Details of Mayors Fundraising would be reported to the Finance Committee on a regular basis.

TC 77.5/21 Durham County Council by Cllr Zair advised that the 2025 Culture bid was now live. The weekly updates were circulated to Member, and that the new administration continued to question previous decisions. Wifi Data on footfall was shared however it is known that not all of the receptors are working accurately so the data is not seen as correct at present.

- i. AS part of the update Durham County Council Joanne Howey had submitted a proposal to the Council regarding revitalisation of the Town Rec. Herself and Cllr Hunt, were looking to submit the proposal to the AAP Town and villages revitalisation fund

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and were looking to see if BATC would be the lead partner. Members considered the proposal

Resolved: Members agreed whilst they aren't opposed to redevelopment and revitalisation of the Town Rec, but further consideration needs to be given to some of the proposals with wider partner engagement and some proposals could cause issues for neighbouring residents etc and given the staff shortages the council were not currently in the position to take the lead for this project at the moment.

- b. **TC 77.6/21** Updates from bodies where Town Council has representation – no meetings of the Stronger Towns or Brighter Bishop Board had been held.

TC78.0/21 Report of the Town Clerk

TC76.01/21 Committees – Due to the changes to the political make up of the Council Member allocations needed to be re-considered. The majority Party – Labour had met with the lead opposition and proposed the committee make up, and Chair persons as follows:

Committee	No of Seats	Chair	Vice Chair				
Accommodation	4	Sam Zair	David Wilson	Leanda Chappell	Katie Eliot		
Allotments	6	Jamie Blackburn	Sam Zair	Harley Balmer-Howieson	Katie Eliot	Adam Zair	-
Disciplinary	3	Adam Zair	David Wilson	Jamie Blackburn			
Events	6	Lesley Zair	Michael Siddle	Jamie Blackburn	Leanda Chappell	Katie Eliot	Sam Zair
Finance	6	David Wilson	Jamie Blackburn	Leanda Chappell	Katie Eliot	Adam Zair	Sam Zair
Human Resources (HR)	5	Michael Siddle	Lesley Zair	Harley Balmer-Howieson	Katie Eliot	Sam Zair	
Planning	6	Leanda Chappell	Harley Balmer-Howieson	Michael Siddle	David Wilson	Adam Zair	Lesley Zair
Policy	5	Katie Eliot	Leanda Chappell	Harley Balmer-Howieson	Michael Siddle	Sam Zair	
Youth Council	5	Harley Balmer-Howieson	Adam Zair	Katie Eliot	Michael Siddle	Lesley Zair	

Resolved: The above structure was agreed after being proposed by Cllr Blackburn and Seconded by Cllr S Zair. A vote was also taken, 8 were in favour, 1 was opposed, and one member abstained from voting.

Outside bodies - member Allocations

There were still the following vacancies on outside bodies

Town and Villages Revitalisation - Cllr S Zair and Cllr Tucker put themselves forward for a place.

Resolved: Cllr Zair was appointed after a vote of 7 for Cllr Zair and 1 for Cllr Tucker

Bishop Auckland and Shildon Local Councils Committee - had one vacancy.

Resolved: Cllr Tucker was appointed to this Committee and would join Cllr Balmer Howison as the BATC reps. This committee would be looking to meet to establish a potential AAP rep in the future.

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TC 78.02/21 Events update

That the Christmas Event would be taking place the weekend of 26,27 and 28 November 2021. The Council were partnering with Bridge Creative and Bacanalia (both local organisations) to deliver the event. With the likes of the Auckland Project also involved. The BATC event contribution would be covering Security Fencing and Lighting, Roaming entertainment across the weekend, reindeer and reindeer in training, security and stewards including first aid, and contribution to insurance costs.

Cllr S Zair advised that Bishop Auckland would be getting new Xmas lights next year, and to link with DCC to see if BATC could further enhance the offer.

Resolved: that there would be event feedback at the December meeting from the Christmas Event.

That the Town Clerk engages with DCC regarding Christmas light proposals for 2022.

TC 78.03/21 Allotments – An update was provided to advised that a successful meeting had been held with the Norther Counties Allotment Association.

Resolved; Further details of the works needed and costings would be brought to members via the Allotment and Environment Committee and then to Council.

TC 78.04/21 Accommodation Update – update was provided that the authorisation for the design work had been sent.

Resolved; That design proposals for inclusion in the tender would be brought back to Members via Accommodation Committee and then to Council.

TC 79.0/21 Finance - Monthly Statement of Payments was agreed as per appendix 1.

TC 80.0/21 Correspondence – was deferred due to the issue with meeting papers.

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Appendix 1 – list of payments agreed under TC 77.0/21 - Monthly Payments and Payments for authorisation
14.10.2021 - 09.11.2021

Payment Type/ No	Payee	Detail	Amount £	Authorised By	Notes
DD	O2 (Telefonica Ltd.)	Mobile Phones 30/09/21-23/11/21	£65.77	By Council for Financial Regulation No 5.6	
DD	British Gas	Electricity: Skate Park 22/09/21-22/10/21	£9.42		
EP	Salaries, Superannuation	October 2021	£3,451.28		
EP	HMRC - Tax and NI, Salaries	October 2021	£1,087.82		
EP	D.C.C. Pension Scheme	October 2021	£1,092.85		
EP	Members Allowances	October 2021	£411.04		
EP	HMRC - Tax and NI, Members Allowance	October 2021	£29.00		
EP	Vinovium Associates Ltd.	Kingsway: Keyholding Services - October 2021	£111.60		
EP	Twinkle Cleaning Services	Kingsway: 23 Hours Cleaning - October 2021	£276.00		
2128	Tom Wood	Deposit for Entertainment - Mayor's Civic Ball 2022	£100.00	Town Council	
2129	Mr. J. Lumsden	Edge Hill Allotment Lease: 09/09/21- 08/03/22	£387.50	Town Council	
2130	M. Spence Surfacing Ltd.	Repair works to Car Park area at Woodhouse Close Allotment and Repair works to private road at Tindale Crescent Allotment	£1,932.00	Town Council	
2131	Anderson & Co. Accountancy & Taxation	Payroll Services: July - September 2021	£420.00	Town Council	
2132	Fire Parts	Fire Safety Signage for Kingsway	£200.00	Town Council	
2133	Corona Energy Retail 2 Limited	Kingsway: Gas September - October 2021	£71.12	Town Council	
2134	Durham County Council	Contribution towards Bishop Auckland Community Wi-Fi 2020-21 (Year 1 of 3)	£1,533.00	Town Council	
EP	Wave Utilities	Water: West Mills 09/07/21-08/10/21	£218.71	Town Council	

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EP	John Wade Group	8 Cubic Yard Skip - Pollards Allotment	£284.00	Town Council	
DC	Post Office	11x Large 1st Class Postage - Councillor Packs	£14.19	Town Council	
DC	Aldi Stores Ltd.	Kingsway: 20L Microwave	£69.99	Town Council	
2135	The Royal British Legion	Poppy Wreath - Type C	£18.50	Town Council	
2136	Total Business Group	Printing Costs: October 2021	£41.13	Town Council	
2137	Evolve Group Ltd.	Kingsway: Telephone Call Charges - April - August 2021	£75.41	Town Council	Individual invoices for 2 FTTC Broadband Lines, Telephone Calls and Annual Service Charge. Sarah requested a copy of the contract.
2137	Evolve Group Ltd.	Kingsway: Telephone & Broadband - October 2021	£218.29	Town Council	
2137	Evolve Group Ltd.	Kingsway: Telephone & Broadband - November 2021	£218.29	Town Council	
2137	Evolve Group Ltd.	3CX Telephone System, Professional Licence Renewal - 1 Year	£702.00	Town Council	
Total:			£13,038.91		

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