

Bishop Auckland Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 8 February 2022 at 6.00pm in No.42 Market Place, Bishop Auckland

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

Also in attendance: - Mrs S Harris Clerk
14 members of the public present

TC 86.0/2021 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr H Balmer-Howison who was delayed at work.

TC 87.0/2021 Declarations of Interest – no Declarations of Interest were made.

TC 88.0/2021 Minutes & Matters Arising - The Minutes of the following meetings were agreed.

Resolved: That the Minutes of Town Council 11 January 2022 were approved subject to:
the venue and date being corrected.
That the Minutes of Planning Committee 11 January 2022 were approved as correct.
That the Finance Committee 25 January 2022 were approved as correct.
That the Events Committee 02 February 2022 were approved as correct.

TC 88.1/2021 - Matters arising from the Minutes of Town Council 11 January 2022 in relation to TC.85.01a/2021 – Finance - Precept.

Cllr L Zair raised that she was not happy with comments made by Cllr Wilson at the time in relation to inferred corruption by Cllr Zair that she discussed confidential council business with customers in her business, in exchange for free bacon sandwiches. Cllr Wilson stated that he never stated that the sandwiches were free, but he had been informed that council business was discussed in Cllr Zair's Café. Upon intervention and further discussion with the Chair, it was agreed to look at mediation between the Councillors.

Resolved: that Mediation options been looked at to enable Councillors to work together better and that recording equipment be sourced to enable Town Council meetings to be recorded and broadcast to the electorate to enable better transparency.

TC 88.2/2021 - Matters arising from the minutes of the Events Committee 02 February 2022 **EC15.1/21** Queens Platinum Jubilee June 2022 – an amended jubilee plan with costings and funding options was presented.

Resolved: That the principles of the weekend programme are fine in principle, but the Events Committee to convene early next week (W/c 14 Feb) to agree the full final programme, and funding and that the Clerk is to make an application to the Awards for All grant to support the programme.

Signed Chair of Meeting
22 March 2022

TC 89.0/2021 – Public Participation. There were 14 Members of the Public in attendance but they didn't wish to speak on any matter at this time.

TC 90.0/2021 – Reports

TC 90.0/2021 - Brighter Bishop Board (future Hight Streets Fund) & Stronger Towns Board– David Land, Chair of Stronger Towns Board and Geoff Paul, Head of Development and Housing, Durham County Council. – this item was deferred due to the high level of community interest in this item. Registrations have taken the meeting over the maximum capacity allowed for Health and Safety. The Town Council do not want to turn people away if the room is full, as it is not fair. Therefore these updates have been postponed from the agenda tonight.

In response to the high level of local concerns and clear demand for updates from Brighter Bishop Board and the Stronger Towns Board regarding the planned investments in the town from the Future Hight Streets Fund and the Stronger Towns Fund, equating to just over 50 Million Pounds investment in the town, therefore the Council have called for a full public meeting.

Resolved: that the **Public Meeting** will take place on **Friday 18th February 2022** at 6pm at Bishop Auckland Town Hall and that all Stronger Towns Board Members be invited to attend.

TC 90.2/2021 County Council Report – Cllr S Zair - updated members that there are several businesses in the Town who have benefitted from shop front and internal works grants, which several more with expressions of interest. The new joint administration is working well, and they hope to announce their budget plans shortly, where they are hoping to achieve a fair budget for all and fairer council tax for all.

Resolved: that the report was noted.

TC 90.3/2021 Mayors Report – Cllr Eliot reported that she had attended a very enjoyable evening at the Bishop Auckland Theatre Society's annual Panto. She also announced that herself and the Deputy Mayor are hosting a fundraising Quizz night at the Manor in Henknowle on 26 March to raise funds for the Mayors Charity (NHS Trust Co Durham – Funds to BA Hospital Dementia Ward) and instead of a Civic Ball she is hosting a formal Dinner at BA College, where students will get to showcase their culinary, hospitality, art and entertainment talents whilst gaining valuable work experience.

Resolved: that the report was noted

TC.91.0/2021 Finance – Monthly Statement of Payments - The list of payments were presented.

Resolved: That the payments be authorized and payment issued. Please see appendix 1 for the list.

TC.92.0/2021 Delegated Powers due to coronavirus - A verbal update was given that work plans for each main work area are being developed and will be presented to their associated committees. The overall Town Council Plan is out of date and not reflective of lots of the other projects in the town. Therefore an update needs to be developed, which will need to have residents voice at the heart.

Resolved: That the work plans go to each associated committee and that the overall update of the Council plan be tasked to the Policy committee to cross reference other plans and policies affecting the town, to identify gaps and where the Council can provide support. This update would include consideration of residents views and needs.

Signed Chair of Meeting
22 March 2022

TC.93.0/2021 Correspondence – the council had receive information about the closure of a footpath and the creation of a new one near the railway, near the Sidings and the Grand. The Clerk also advised that correspondence relating to the adoption of a new national code of conduct had been received. DCC had adopted it and Town and Parishes are asked to follow suit.

Resolved: that the footpath changes be noted and a full paper seeking adoption of the new Code of Conduct be brought to the next meeting.

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 do now exclude the press and public for the remaining item on the agenda by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted since publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

TC. 94.0/2021 - Current Staff Vacancy Recruitment Update

An update was given to advise the process undertaken so far and that the interviews for candidates was taking place later that week.

Resolved: that the update be noted and a new Ass Clerk should be in post soon.