

Bishop Auckland Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of 7th March 2023

Held at 6pm in Town Council Offices, Kingsway Court, Bishop Auckland

In attendance: Cllr M Siddle (Mayor – Chair), Cllr Harker, Cllr A Legge, Cllr K Lawson, Cllr D Wilson, Cllr A Zair, Cllr L Zair and Cllr S Zair

Also In attendance: Mrs Sarah Harris, Town Clerk and Assistant Clerk Vicki Booth.

TC93/22 Apologies for absence - apologies were received and noted from Cllr K Eliot and Cllr Balmer Howieson both due to illness.

Resolved: That the Members noted and accepted their apologies.

TC 94/22 - Declaration of Interests – No declarations made

TC95/22 – Minutes the minutes of the meeting of the 21st February 2023 were presented.

Resolved: That the above Town Council Minutes have been received, and that the Town Council agreed to adopt all recommendations contained within them. Copies of the minutes will be available on the town council website.

TC96/22 Matters Arising - To from the above Minutes which are not included elsewhere on the agenda (for information only). The Clerk provided updates on:

- **Minute no TC89.6/22 Telephone and Broadband** – that the price given was the 3 year discount, but the contract term is 1 year.
Resolved: that Members noted the update and thanked the clerk for the savings made.
- **Minute no TC89.7/22 Bank** – An additional account was being opened at Unity at 2.1AER, Cllr Harker was being added to the Accounts.
Resolved: that the Members noted the updated and progress.
- **Minute no TC90.1/22 – Boundary Court Correspondence** – a response had been received from conveying dissatisfaction with the Town Council Response.
Resolved: that a final response be sent confirming that DCC are now acting upon their request and the Town Council can do no more.
- **Minute no TC92/22 Eviction of Allotment Tenant – Update** – That a quotation for clearance and removal of personal items and storage had been sought.
Resolved: That the members agreed another quote be sought for a comparisons. That another email be sent to the former tenant to confirm that the clearance costs could be in excess of £800. No storage fees to be imposed.
- **Minute no TC93/22 Co-opted member payment issue** – that CDALC would be raising with their executive and if it is an issue across the county would then be taken to NALC for debate.
Resolved: that Members noted that whilst it doesn't fix the issue that the best outcome and the progress would be monitored.

TC97/22 Public Participation -no members of the public were in attendance.

TC98/22 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 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.*

TC98/22 Car Park - Update on the Car Parking Procurement process (see report). 4 Quotes received, one discounted based upon not quoting for whole of works. Cllr Wilson and Clerk took part in the scoring process which they brought two options forward.

Resolved: That Members agreed with Quote 1 on the condition that they visit the site if not already done so before committing to the works required. Also a caveat over the possibility of an increase in price on the front door.

TC99/22 Coronation – a report (see file) was presented. Members debated the options presented.

Resolved: That Members unanimously agreed that option 2 was most fitting to stay within budget and to reach all areas of the communities.

TC100/22 Bus station Consolation – from DCC is available for comment. Members viewed the plans and proposals.

Resolved: That Members agreed with the overall plans to the bus station but had asked for comments on the security mechanisms in place to combat anti-social behaviour, provisions for the residents of Clayton Court while the work is underway and would like to see better provisions for the bike lock ups. These would be preferred to be properly secured bike stores so cycles cannot be interfered with, also there is no canopy over the cycle part and this would be advantageous to maintain the cycles and help the cyclists. The flower beds to be wild flowers would be preferable to shrubs that collect litter whereas wild flowers encourage bees and wildlife. The Clerk to formulate the comments into a response to DCC.