

Minutes of the meeting of **BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Wesley Room at the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY 6TH AUGUST 2019** at 6.00 p.m.

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

Also Present: Clive Auld and Nigel Bryson (Bishop Auckland Town Team)
Janet Strong and Emma Wyndham (Durham County Council)
David Anderson (Town Clerk)

Public in Attendance: None

TC.51/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Blackburn, and Newton Woods

TC.52/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item No 10.4 Bishop Auckland HAZ Project: Public Realm Work to Gib Chare

Councillors J Allen and J Blackburn declared an 'other registerable interest' in respect of this item and did not take part in the voting thereon.

TC.53/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No public were in attendance

PRESENTATIONS

TC.54/19 TOWN HALL REFURBISHMENT

Janet Strong and Emma Wyndham, Durham County Council gave an overview of the refurbishment of Bishop Auckland Town Hall.

The aim of the refurbishment was to provide an enhanced offer to the community and visitors. The new design would increase accessibility and would include an open plan café and library space, gallery area and retail outlet. The cinema offer would be updated to a digital service.

During the refurbishments a temporary library facility would be available at No.42. In addition Woodhouse Close library would be operating extended opening hours until the works were completed. Group users had been relocated to other venues during the close down period.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

TC.55/19 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, Including the following: -

- **Kynren** - It had been reported that the current season had got off to a great start and had again received top feedback on TripAdvisor.

Signed:
Town Mayor

- **Heritage Action Zone** had completed its first year. A review of the 51 projects was being undertaken. A Heritage Festival would take place between 13th and 28th September 2019.
- **Free Public WiFi** - progress was being made on the installation of the Wi-Fi equipment, which would be installed and tested in the coming months, before being made available to the public. Members were reminded that DCC were leading the project and funding capital costs of the project. The Town Team and Town Council were helping to fund the revenue costs.

Events Team

Clive Auld, Chairman of the Events Team, gave an update with regard to recent activity of the Events Team.

A 'Busses through the Ages' event had been held on 28th July which had been very successful.

It was reported that the new car show would not take place this year. It was hoped that this would return in 2020.

Arrangements were being made for the Bishop Celebrates Together event which would be held on 28th September.

Members thanked the Town Team and volunteers for their continued hard work contributing to the events programme held in the town centre.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted

TC.56/19 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Town Council	25 th June 2019
Planning Committee	25 th June 2019
Finance Committee	30 th July 2019

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

There were no matters arising

TC.57/19 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.58/19 EVENTS AND PROJECTS OFFICER - SELECTION PROCESS

Consideration was given to a report proposing a process for the appointment of an Events and Projects Officer. (For copy see file of Minutes)

RESOLVED: 1. That the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Human Resources Committee prepare a longlist of candidates.

Signed:
Town Mayor

2. That the Human Resources Committee agree a shortlist of candidates for interview.
3. That a Panel be established by the Human Resources Committee to interview shortlisted candidates and make an appointment.

TC.59/19 TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

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

- Jill Wood, Bishop Auckland Food Festival 2019 (evaluation)
- WiFi Demonstration - informal sessions to be arranged

TC.60/19 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.61/19 OFFICE ACCOMMODATION

Consideration was given to a report updating members on the current situation regarding the purchase of office accommodation. (For copy see file of Minutes)

The report particularly dealt with the lease and licencing arrangements and tender documentation.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the leases and Licences be agreed.
 2. That Prodec be appointed as the consultants for data and electrical work.
 3. That the tender documentation be agreed.

TC.62/19 CODE OF CONDUCT - MONITORING OFFICER'S DECISION NOTICE

Members noted the Monitoring Officer's decision notice. (For copy see file of Minutes).

- RESOLVED:** That the information be noted.

Signed:
Town Mayor