

A meeting of Bishop Auckland Town Council was held in the Wesley Room at the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on Tuesday, 3rd December 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); Jill Wood (Festival & Events Team Manager, Durham County Council), Audrey Christie (CDALC) and David Anderson (Town Clerk).

Public in Attendance: A. Anderson.

TC.97/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Blackburn and Newton Woods.

TC.98/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were submitted.

TC.99/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

PRESENTATIONS

TC.100/19 BISHOP AUCKLAND FOOD FESTIVAL

Jill Wood, Festival & Events Team Manager, Durham County Council), gave a presentation detailing the proposed programme for Bishop Auckland Food Festival which would be held on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th April 2020. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Jill began by thanking the Town Council for its continued financial support for the Food Festival, without which the event would not be possible.

Members noted arrangements for the Festival including the footprint for the event and park and ride arrangements, celebrity chefs that had been booked to attend, workshops, engagement with schools and marketing. Demand for stalls for 2020 had again been higher than the actual number of stalls possible for the event. The possibility of holding an event on the evening of Friday, 17th April was being investigated.

It was noted that it was not possible to extend the footprint of the event to include the car park at the west of Fore Bondgate.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted

TC.101/19 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: -

Signed:
Town Mayor

- **Kynren:** The 'pyromusical' fireworks display held on 2nd November 2019 had been a great success. The town had been very busy following the display with many town centre businesses benefiting from the additional footfall.
- **Auckland Castle** officially opening on 2nd November 2019. Attendance had been fantastic with sales of season tickets being greater than anticipated. The election coverage by the BBC, which had been based in Auckland Castle, had also helped to raise the profile of the Castle and Bishop Auckland nationally.
- **Community WiFi** equipment was now installed. The Wi-Fi was accessible, however a few technical issues were to be resolved to enable footfall monitoring to commence. An announcement of the scheme would be made after the purdah period.
- **Heritage Action Zone** projects were continuing
- **Future High Street Fund** bid was being developed by Durham County Council.
- **MyTown funding** had been suspended until after the general election

Events Team

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

- An **Electric Vehicle Roadshow** had been held in the market place and Auckland Tower on 4th November 2019.
- **Advent Windows** has started on Friday 29th November 2019.
- **Small Business Saturday** would be held on 7th December, with the local 'Indie-cember' promotion of local businesses continuing throughout December.
- **Santa Claus** would be making a visit to the town on the three Saturdays prior to Christmas.

A booklet of events to take place in 2020 was being developed.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted

TC.102/19 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Town Council	29 th October 2019
Planning Committee	29 th October 2019
Finance Committee	26 th November 2019

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

There were no matters arising

TC.103/19 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.103/19 ROYAL GARDEN PARTY 2020

Consideration was given to making a nomination to CDALC for a representative to attend the Royal Garden Party 2020.

RESOLVED: That Councillor A Zair be nominated to attend the Royal Garden Party 2020.

Signed:
Town Mayor

TC.104/19 TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

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

- Sue Jacques, Chief Executive, County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, regarding proposed changes to services at Bishop Auckland Hospital. Noted that consultation had been suspended due to purdah.

TC.105/19 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.106/19 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)

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

Signed:
Town Mayor