

BILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 21ST JUNE 2022 AT 6.30PM

**HELD IN MEETING ROOM C, BILLINGHAM LIBRARY & CUSTOMER
SERVICE CENTRE**

Present: Councillors Gamble
 Atkinson
 Lacey
 McCall
 McCoy
 Peebles
 Sandbach
 Shotton
 Stoker
 Wrathmall
 Bendelow

Apologies: Councillor Scollen (Personal)
 Councillor Wallace (Personal)
 Councillor Leckonby (No apologies received)

Officials: Miss Dee Smith - Town Clerk/RFO
 One member of the public was also in attendance

77/22 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced the following:

- Housekeeping;
- The Chairman's Charity for 22-23 is Billingham Juniors Football Club.

78/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Gamble: Agenda item 10 – Sponsorship – Trustee of Billingham Ice Hockey Supporters Club – Personal Interest;

Cllr Bendelow: Agenda item 10 – Sponsorship – Member of Billingham Ice Hockey Supporters Club – Personal Interest.

79/22 CO OPTION FOR VACANCY OF COUNCILLOR IN BILLINGHAM WEST WARD

Two applications were received (Mr Mark Bellerby and Mr James Brockbank). Both applicants were unable to attend the meeting.

Members considered both applications and a vote was taken. Mr Bellerby received 7 votes and Mr Brockbank received 4 votes.

RESOLVED

To co-opt Mr Mark Bellerby to the vacancy of Councillor for Billingham west Ward.

80/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME

There were no questions on this occasion.

81/22 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3RD MAY 2022

Members were asked to approve the draft minutes from the Annual Council meeting held on 3rd May 2022 as a true and accurate record.

RESOLVED

That the above minutes, a copy which has previously been circulated to each member, be approved, and signed as a correct record by the Chairman with the following amendment:

To correct Cllr Peebles name on page 4, min 06/22.

82/22 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) 2021/2022

Members were asked to scrutinise and approve the following documents in relation to the AGAR 2021-22:

1. Annual Internal Audit Report;
2. Draft Accounts 2021-22;
3. Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement;
4. Section 2 – Annual Accounting Statement & Explanation of Variances.

RESOLVED

Members unanimously approved the above documents.

83/22

CAFÉ/THE ANNEXE LEASE

- (i) Members were advised that Stockton Borough Council (SBC) are not willing to provide Security of Tenure on the above building however, they are willing to extend the lease term to 10 years to give added security in regards to the lease. Members were asked to consider a 10 year lease on the above building.
- (ii) Members were advised that we are still waiting to hear back from SBC regarding what perils are included in the insurance they would provide.

RESOLVED

- a. To be minded to accept a 10 year lease and employ services of a solicitor.
- b. Information duly noted.

84/22

EARMARKED AND GENERAL RESERVES

Members were provided with the current Earmarked Reserves. The Town Clerk advised members that there is currently £116,000 in general reserves and a large proportion of this should be allocated, leaving some for unplanned occurrences and emergencies.

RESOLVED

To allocate the following from general reserves:

- £10,000 – Sponsorship;
- £20,000 – Christmas lights;
- £20,000 – Café upgrades;
- £10,000 – Holiday enrichment;
- £2,000 – Volunteer expenses;
- £2,000 – Soapbox Derby project;
- £2,000 – Solicitors fee for the Café/Annexe lease.

85/22

SPONSORSHIP APPLICATIONS

Members considered a sponsorship application from Billingham Ice Hockey Club for £10,000.

At this point in the meeting, Standing Orders were suspended to allow a representative from the ice Hockey Club to make a presentation.

RESOLVED

To approve sponsorship of £10,000.

Cllrs Gamble & Bendelow declared a personal interest in this matter.

86/22

COMMUNICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

- (i) Members were asked to approve the disbandment of the above sub-committee and any communication matter, including the newsletter, be delegated to the Town Clerk, as the Town Council's Press Officer.
- (ii) Members were asked to approve the draft Communications sub-committee minutes, held on 5th April 2022.

RESOLVED

- a. Members approved the disbandment of the Communications sub-committee and that all communication matters be delegated to the Town Clerk.
- b. Members approved the draft Communications sub-committee minutes of 5th April 2022.
- c. To approve and include in the draft Communications Strategy that only current Town Councillors can submit articles to the newsletter. The draft Communications Strategy to be brought to Full Council in September 2022.

A vote was taken: 10 for, 0 Against, 1 Abstention (Cllr Shotton)

87/22

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

Members were asked to consider additional representation on all Town Council committees where there are vacancies.

RESOLVED

- (i) Councillor Lacey to be appointed on all three committees and, Councillor Shotton to be appointed on Finance & General Purposes Committee from September 2022.
- (ii) Cllr Stoker to be a substitute member on all committees if required.

88/22

COUUNCILLOR DISPENSATION

Members were asked to approve a dispensation for Councilllor McCall.

RESOLVED

Dispensation not required as Councillor McCall attended the meeting.

89/22

UPDATE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FOLLOWING EXTERNAL BODIES:

- Cleveland Local Councils Association – no meeting;
- Billingham Environmental Link Programme – no meeting;
- Low Grange & Cowpen Residents Association – no meeting;

- North Billingham Residents Association – no update;
- Billingham Community Partnership – The Town Clerk advised that a meeting took place in June and the partnership are looking to organize a sporting event in John Whitehead Park in the summer;
- Billingham International Folklore Festival of World Dance – no meeting;
- Catalyst Health & Wellbeing Committee – no meeting;
- Port Clarence in Bloom –no meeting as not taking place this year;
- Clarences Community Partnership – no meeting;
- Stockton Volunteers – no update received;
- The Voice Forum – no update received;
- Stockton Housing, Neighbourhoods & Affordable Warmth Partnership – no update received;
- Billingham Show – The Town Clerk advised that plans are well underway for the Show in September. The Town Council will be providing the insurance and also all the promotional material and advertising;
- Catalyst Funders Forum – no meeting.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

90/22

H M THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE EVENT

The Town Clerk advised members that the event which took place on 2nd June was well attended and lots of positive feedback has been received. Thanks were given to all those who supported and attended the event.

Councillor McCoy proposed that a honorarium be made to the Town Council office staff for all their hard work. This was seconded by Councillor Atkinson.

At this point, the Town Clerk left the meeting.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.
- (ii) To pay a honorarium of £70.00 to each of the office staff.
- (iii) Thank you letters to be sent to all those involved.

The meeting concluded at 8.25pm with Cllrs Gamble, Atkinson, Bendelow, Lacey, McCall, McCoy, Peebles, Sandbach, Shotton, Stoker and Wrathmall present.