

BILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 22ND MARCH 2022 AT 6.30PM
HELD IN MEETING ROOM C, BILLINGHAM LIBRARY & CUSTOMER
SERVICE CENTRE

Present: Councillors Gamble
 Atkinson
 Lacey
 Leckonby
 McCall
 McCoy
 Peebles
 Sandbach
 Scollen
 Shotton
 Stoker
 Wallace

Apologies: Councillor Bendelow (Personal)
 Councillor Pollard (Personal)
 Councillor Wrathmall (Illness)

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

The meeting commenced at 6.33pm.

339/21 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced the following:

- Housekeeping;
- A productive meeting regarding the Café in the Park was held on Thursday 17th March 2022. The café will reopen Monday to Friday from 4th April 2022 and a new reduced menu will be offered.

340/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

341/21

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME

There were no questions on this occasion.

342/21

MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26TH JANUARY 2022

Members were asked to approve the draft minutes from the Full Council meeting held on 26th January 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.

343/21

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

Members were asked to consider the following from the Finance & General Purposes Committee:

1. Internal Audit Policy;
2. Review of Effectiveness of Internal Audit;
3. Annual Financial Risk Assessment;
4. Banking & Cash Handling Procedures;
5. Standing Orders;
6. Financial Regulations.

RESOLVED

Members approved the above policies and procedures.

344/21

EARMARKED RESERVES

Members were provided, for information, with Earmarked Reserves up to 28th February 2022.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

345/21

OFFICE & CAFÉ LEASES

The Town Clerk advised members that the office lease is now ready for completion. There is a 12 month landlord and tenant break clause in the lease. Once the lease is signed, the Clerk will arrange for the outstanding rent to be paid via BACS.

A meeting has taken place to with Stockton Borough Council (SBC) to discuss a lease for the café. There is already an existing lease in place for the Annexe, however, the Clerk has asked if this can be voided, and one lease be put in place for the Annexe and Café. We are still waiting for SBC to provide us with heads of terms.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

346/21

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 update;
- North Billingham Residents Association – Cllr Leckonby advised that the association are getting ready for the AGM;
- Billingham Community Partnership – The Town Clerk advised that a meeting took place in January and a representative from SBC attended and gave a presentation on a new project called Trees in Stockton. Four fruit trees have been planted in the Community Garden. Updates were also given on Christmas activities and events, Beat the Street and the Jubilee. The Big Community Partnership meeting took place last week. It was a really productive meeting with representatives from different organisations giving presentations;
- Billingham International Folklore Festival of World Dance – no meeting;
- Catalyst Health & Wellbeing Committee – no update received;
- Port Clarence in Bloom – Councillor Lacey advised that a meeting had taken place it has been agreed, due to timescales, that the Clarences will not be participating in Northumbria in Bloom this year. Residents will be encouraged to support the Town Council's Gardening Competition. A family fun day at the Clarences is to be arranged on 21st May 2022 with stalls and activities for the children;
- Stockton Volunteers – no update received;
- The Voice Forum – no update received. The Clerk advised that a representative is still required for this body;
- Stockton Housing, Neighbourhoods & Affordable Warmth Partnership – no update given.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

Cllr Shotton left the meeting at 6.44pm, returning at 6.45pm.

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 3/5/22

347/21

SOUP & SANDWICH PROJECT

Members were advised that this project is to be launched from the Café in the Park, one day a week, to help tackle social isolation, financial exclusion and mental health issues. Clients will be referred into the service (not means tested) and issued with a onetime use card.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.
- (ii) To provide Billingham Team Parish with the costings for 20 meals.

348/21

HM THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

The Town Clerk advised that two productive meetings had taken place. The event on the 2nd June 2022 will be held in John Whitehead Park and will commence at 4pm, finishing at approximately 10.30pm, after the beacon lighting. SBC are providing a beacon and gas free of charge. The Café will be open throughout the event providing refreshments and themed food. There will be children's activities from 4pm, silver band, choirs and music and entertainment from Mike McGrother. The Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Durham, Mark White OBE will be in attendance.

The Town Council has been successful in obtaining £4000 of funding towards the event. A flier, advertising the event, will be sent out to all households in Billingham next month. The next meeting takes place on 6th April 2022, at 10am in St Aidan's Church Hall.

Councillor Leckonby also advised members of the Get Along Afternoon Tea at St Aidan's Church Hall on 28th May 2022 at 2pm. This event is open to all.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

349/21

BILLINGHAM SHOW

The Town Clerk advised members that preparations are now been made for the Billingham Show which will take place on the 10th and 11th September 2022 in John Whitehead Park.

This year there will be the addition of a Civic Marquee at the show which will include local schools and colleges displaying projects produced by the pupils to celebrate the Jubilee. The marquee will also include the craft show and help raise awareness of the Billingham

Legacy Foundation. There will also be a strongman and strongwoman competition.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

350/21

TOWN CRIER

Members were asked to consider an appointment of a Town Crier for Billingham. The Town Council has been approached by a local resident who would like to carry out this role. The Town Clerk advised that this is a ceremonial role and is usually in place where there is a Town Mayor, however, this does not stop the Council from appointing one.

RESOLVED

- (i) To advertise for the appointment of a Town Crier. This will be a voluntary role with expenses paid.
- (ii) To allocate £500 from General Reserves for the livery and to approach local Art & Design Colleges to produce the costume.
- (iii) To consider in 2023/24 the appointment of a Youth Town Crier.

The meeting concluded at 7.25pm with Cllrs Gamble, Atkinson, Lacey, Leckonby, McCall, McCoy, Peebles, Sandbach, Scollen, Shotton, Stoker and Wallace present.



315/22.

CMG 05/03/22.