

BILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 24TH JANUARY 2023 AT 6.30PM

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

Present: Councillors Gamble (Chairman)
 Atkinson
 Leckonby
 McCall
 McCoy
 Peebles
 Sandbach
 Scollen
 Shotton
 Stoker
 Wallace
 Bendelow

Apologies: Councillor Lacey (Personal)

Officials: Miss Dee Smith - Town Clerk/RFO
 Ms Tracy Reece – Business Support Officer

Four members of the public were also in attendance.

Before the meeting commenced, a minute's silence was held in respect of Councillor Mark Bellerby.

The meeting commenced at 6.34pm.

241/22 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed everyone present and announced the following:

- Housekeeping;
- Donations in respect of Cllr Bellerby can be made to The Brain Cancer Research Charity. A donation of £50 will be made from the Chairmans's Allowance.

242/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Gamble declared a personal interest in agenda item 11 – Update Reports from Representatives to External Bodies – Employee of Catalyst Stockton on Tees.



28/03/23

243/22

COOPTION FOR VACANCY OF COUNCILLOR IN BILLINGHAM SOUTH WARD

One application was received and circulated to members before the meeting. Mr Mark Besford gave a short presentation and there were no questions.

RESOLVED

Members unanimously agreed to co-opt Mr Marc Besford to the vacancy of Councillor for Billingham South Ward. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed.

244/22

POLICE UPDATE

There was no police present on this occasion.

Councillor Gamble advised members that figures have increased for reported crime in Billingham however, there has been successes in relation to drug warrants and antisocial behaviour.

Councillor McCoy advised members that there is a new District Commander in place who has recently visited Billingham.

RESOLVED

- a. Information duly noted.
- b. To invite the new District Commander to a meeting of Full Council.

245/22

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME

- (i) A member of the public present reported issues with speeding traffic on Wolviston Road and disability access for wheelchair users.
- (ii) A member of the public present expressed his concerns over lack of investment in Billingham, including the recent failed bid for the Government's Levelling up fund.

RESOLVED

- a. Information duly noted. Councillors Stoker and McCoy have previously investigated these matters.
- b. Councillor Gamble advised that £18m has been earmarked by Stockton on Tees Borough Council for investment across the whole of the town. To write to Michael Gove MP to express our disappointment on the current failed bid and submit a Freedom of Information request to find out what the selection process is.

246/22

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 29TH
NOVEMBER 2022**

Members were asked to approve the draft minutes from the Full Council meeting held on 29th November 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:

Councillor Shotton left the meeting at 6.58pm

247/22

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

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

- To approve the draft budget for 2023/24 and to formulate a resolution to levy a precept on Stockton on Tees Borough Council for the financial year 2023/24.

RESOLVED

Members unanimously approved the draft budget for 2023/24 and to formulate a resolution to levy a precept on Stockton on Tees Borough Council for the financial year 2023/24 for £331720.00, representing a 4.1% increase.

248/22

ELECTIONS 2023

Members were advised residents will need to show photographic ID to vote at a polling station during the 2023 elections. This is being advertised via our social media streams and website.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

Councillor Gamble left the meeting at 7.03pm, returning at 7.08pm. In her absence, Councillor Stoker assumed the chair.

249/22

EVENT 2023

The Town Clerk advised members of the events planned for 2023.

- Coronation - Sunday 7th and Monday 8th May 2023;
- Carnival – 9th & 10th September 2023;
- Festival of Thrift – September 2023;

- Remembrance Sunday Parade – 12th November 2023;
- Christmas Lights Switch On – Saturday 25th November 2023;
- Christmas Fair – Saturday 2nd December 2023.

Members were also advised that Holidays are Fun events will also take place throughout the year.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

250/22

UPDATE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FOLLOWING EXTERNAL BODIES

- **Cleveland Local Councils Association** – Cllr Gamble & Town Clerk – no report
- **Billingham Environment Link Programme** – Councillor Scollen – no report
- **Billingham Legacy Foundation** – Councillor Peebles – no report
- **Low Grange & Cowpen Residents Association** – Councillor Bendelow – no report
- **Billingham Community Partnership** – The Town Clerk advised that a meeting is due to take place on Thursday 26th January. A Clarence Partnership group has also been established working with other organisations in the area.
- **Billingham International Folklore Festival of World Dance** – Councillor Shotton – no report
- **Catalyst Health & Wellbeing Committee** – Councillor Gamble advised that a presentation was given on the Cancer Care Network and also the Mental Health and Wellbeing Hub.
- **Port Clarence in Bloom** – The Town Clerk advised members that this will take place this year.
- **Stockton Volunteers** – Councillor Scollen – Councillor Gamble reported that a new website has been set up along with a volunteer strategy
- **The Voice Forum** – Councillor Scollen reported on the 'Wheelieboats' project. The presentation and minutes from the last meeting will be circulated to all members.
- **Stockton Housing, Neighbourhoods & Affordable Warmth Partnership** – Councillor Scollen – no report
- **CCIN** – Councillor Gamble advised that she has recently been successfully re-elected to the Executive Oversight Committee and will be speaking at the Coop Regional Party Conference about CCIN.
- **Catalyst Funders Forum** – Town Clerk – no meeting.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

Councillor Gamble declared a personal interest in this matter.

The meeting concluded at 7.19pm with Cllrs Atkinson, Bendelow, Besford, Gamble, Leckonby, McCall, McCoy, Peebles, Sandbach, Scollen, Stoker and Wallace present.