

BILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 28TH MARCH 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
 Stoker
 Wallace
 Bendelow
 Besford

Apologies: Councillor Sandbach - Personal
 Councillor Jennifer Shotton - Illness

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

319/22 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed everyone present and announced the following:

- Housekeeping.

320/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor McCoy declared an interest in agenda item 10 – Planning Application 23/0364/FUL – Personal Interest: resides next to the address of the site.

**321/22 COOPTION FOR VACANCY OF COUNCILLOR IN BILLINGHAM
WEST WARD**

One application was received and circulated to members before the meeting.

RESOLVED



Members unanimously agreed to not co-opt anyone on to the Town Council as this time, due to being so close to the local elections.

322/22 POLICE UPDATE

There was no police present on this occasion.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

323/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME

Members of the public present raised the following issues:

1. Cars parked on double yellow lines on the road behind the Halifax and TSB banks next to the zebra crossing.
2. The condition of the car park behind the Boots shop.
3. Access issues between Roseberry Road and the Catholic Club.
4. Access issues at the bus stop at the bottom of Mill Lane due to equipment and wagons parked there.
5. Why is the market located in the windiest corner of the Town Centre?
6. What are the plans/new design for the Town Centre?

RESOLVED

- a. To refer items 1-5 above to the Town Centre Manager and enforcement at Stockton Borough Council.
- b. In relation to item 6 above, the member of the public was informed that the plans for the Town Centre are being reconsidered and redesigned, but this will not be done until after the elections in May 2023.

324/22 MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24TH JANUARY 2023

Members were asked to approve the draft minutes from the Full Council meeting held on 24th January 2023 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

Members were asked to consider the following from the Community Wellbeing committee

- A review of the Sunday Lunch Service.

A detailed discussion took place regarding the cost and eligibility of the above service. Concerns were also raised regarding funding for the Food Pantry. Councillor Stoker proposed that the Sunday Lunch service is cancelled. This was seconded by Councillor Bendelow. A vote was taken:

6 For, 6 Against, 0 Abstentions. The Chairman of the Council had the casting vote and voted against the proposal.

Councillor Gamble proposed that a Task and Finish Group is established to review the whole Sunday Lunch Service and eligibility, the terms of reference to be agreed at the Annual Meeting in May 2023. Also, the £5000 in the Community Lunch earmarked reserve be transferred to the food pantry. Councillor Pebbles seconded this proposal. A vote was taken:

10 For, 2 against, 0 Abstentions.

RESOLVED

- a. To set up a Task & Finish group to review the Sunday Lunch Service and eligibility. Terms of reference to be decided at the Annual Meeting in May 2023.
- b. To transfer £5000 from the Community Lunch earmarked reserve to the Food pantry.

CORONATION EVENT

The Town Clerk advised members that the Coronation event, 'A Right Royal Do' will take place on Sunday 7th May 2023, 11am to 3pm at the Café in the Park.

There will be entertainment, arts and crafts provided by the Town Council and Billingham Community Partnership and face painting. Food will also be available from the café.

The Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Durham, Mr Mark White OBE will also be in attendance.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

327/22

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

Members were asked to consider planning application 23/0364/FUL – Erection of 2no two storey apartment buildings to create 10no dwellings – Land East of 232 Cotswold Crescent, Billingham.

A discussion took place regarding concerns raised in regards to access and over development on the site.

RESOLVED

It was proposed to object to the above planning application on the grounds of overdevelopment.

A vote was taken: 7 For, 0 Against, 3 Abstentions.

Whilst the vote took place, Councillors McCoy and Stoker left the room at 19.16, returning at 19.18pm.

328/22

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 meeting
- **Billingham Legacy Foundation** – Councillor Peebles – no meeting
- **Low Grange & Cowpen Residents Association** – Councillor Bendelow – no meeting
- **Billingham Community Partnership** – The Town Clerk advised that a meeting is due to take place in April 2023.
- **Billingham International Folklore Festival of World Dance** – Councillor Shotton – no report
- **Catalyst Health & Wellbeing Committee** – no report.
- **Port Clarence in Bloom** – no meeting however, members were informed that this would not be taking place this year.
- **Stockton Volunteers** – Councillor Scollen – no report
- **The Voice Forum** – Councillor Scollen that Mike Green, CEO of Stockton Borough Council attended.
- **Stockton Housing, Neighbourhoods & Affordable Warmth Partnership** – Councillor Scollen – no meeting
- **CCIN** – Councillor Gamble advised a meeting had taken place to review funding applications and that she had recently attended the Regional Conference.
- **Catalyst Funders Forum** – Town Clerk – A meeting has taken place and funding opportunities and success stories were shared.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

329/22

POLICIES – YEAR END PROCEDURES

Members were asked to consider and approve the following policies as part of the year end procedures:

- Internal Audit Policy;
- Review of Effectiveness of Internal Audit;
- Annual Financial Risk Assessment;
- Banking & Cash Handling Procedures.

RESOLVED

Members unanimously approved the above policies.

330/22 POLICIES

Members were asked to consider and approve the following policies:

- Standing Orders;
- Financial Regulations;
- Draft Menopause Policy;
- Draft Chairman's Allowance Policy.

RESOLVED

Members unanimously approved the above policies.

331/22 REVIEW OF THE CAFÉ

A brief discussion took place regarding the Café in the Park.

At this point on the agenda, members were asked to consider passing the following resolution:

"That under Section 00A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the disclosure of the following item on the agenda as it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of schedule 12A in the 1972 Act as indicated below".

Staffing Matters.

332/22 EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

A detailed discussion took place regarding the future of the Café in the Park.

RESOLVED

Members unanimously agreed the following:

- a. The café to continue to run as normal from Easter to the end of September.
- b. From October to the following Easter, the café/community hub/Annexe to remain open but be used as a community space to

deliver more community services, host different groups and provide other activities to the local community.

- c. Staffing implications to be referred to the Staffing sub Committee for consideration.

The meeting concluded at 7.58pm with Cllrs Atkinson, Bendelow, Besford, Gamble, Leckonby, McCall, McCoy, Peebles, Sandbach, Scollen, Stoker and Wallace present.