

BILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 6TH JUNE 2023 AT 6.30PM

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

Present: Councillors Gamble (Chairman)
 Atkinson
 Leckonby
 McCall
 Besford
 Hedley
 Snead
 Scollen
 Stoker
 Bendelow

Apologies: Councillor Lacey (Personal)
 Councilor McCoy (Personal)

Officials: Miss Dee Smith - Town Clerk/RFO
 Mrs Kate Minza – Administration Officer

Sgt Gary Cookland (Cleveland Police), Stockton Borough Councillors Paul Weston, Katie Weston, Marcus Vickers and David Reynard and twenty four members of the public were also in attendance.

19/23 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed everyone present and announced the following:

- Housekeeping;
- The Chairman's Charity for 2023/24 is Billingham Environmental Link Programme.

20/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations on this occasion.

**21/23 COOPTION FOR VACANCIES OF COUNCILLOR IN BILLINGHAM
EAST WARD (ONE VACANCY) & SOUTH WARD (TWO
VACANCIES)**

Five applications were received (two for East ward and 3 for South ward). and circulated to members before the meeting. All applicants



26/09/23.

present gave a short presentation and answered questions from members. A vote was then taken.

RESOLVED

Daniel Forrest was coopted on to the East ward. Adam Gilburt and Michael Shotton were coopted on to the South Ward.

Acceptance of Office forms were duly signed.

22/23

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

Members were asked to consider additional membership on the following committees:

- Finance & General Purposes Committee – 2 vacancies;
- Service & Engagement Committee – 1 vacancy.

RESOLVED

The following membership was agreed:

Councillors Forrest and Gilburt – Finance & General Purposes Committee

Councillor Shotton – Services & Engagement Committee

23/23

REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Members are asked to consider representation on the following outside bodies for 2023/24:

| ORGANISATION | COUNCILLOR |
|--|-------------------|
| Catalyst Health & Wellbeing Committee | Cllr Shotton |
| The Voice Forum | Cllr McCall |
| Stockton Housing, Neighbourhoods & Affordable Warmth Partnership | Cllr Bendelow |

24/23

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public raised the following issues and concerns:

1. Potholes;
2. Business rent in the Town Centre;
3. Antisocial behaviour;

4. Next meeting date not on the agenda;
5. Lack of police presence in John Whitehead Park;
6. Speeding on Wolviston Road;
7. Large trees causing damage to paths, roads & drains.

Standing Orders were suspended at 7.30pm for fifteen minutes to allow more time for public participation.

25/23

STOCKON BOROUGH COUNCIL WARD COUNCILLOR UPDATES

The following updates were given:

Billingham North

- Mandatory training has taken place;
- Next ward surgery taking place on 6th July 2023;
- Developing a Tree Management Plan;
- Sorting potholes at Casson Way, High Grange Shops and High Grange Avenue. Chasing up progress on others on Marsh House Avenue;
- Working with other organisations to install CCTV on the corner of Casson way;
- Installed a Speed Indicator Device at Ash Trees.

Billingham Central

There was no update on this occasion.

Billingham East

- A new councillor Facebook Page has been set up;
- Next ward surgery is 9th June 2023 at the New Life Centre;
- A clean up has taken place at Low Grange shops;
- Looking at potholes on Quenby Road and Newbury Way;
- A walkabout is taking place next week with Thirteen and the Neighbourhood Manager to look at issues in the ward.

Billingham South

- Looking at issues with horses in fields and fly tipping;
- Wrote to Tees Valley Mayor regarding the lack of bus services to and from Port Clarence and started strategic discussions about transport issues;
- Looking at potholes in the area;
- Lots of casework from door knocking.

Billingham West

- Thanks were given to previous ward councillor, Cllr Helen Atkinson;
- Setting up a community speedwatch;
- Looking at potholes in the area;
- Looking at tree maintenance and strategic planting;
- Issues around antisocial behaviour at Northfield and fly tipping at Wolviston.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

26/23

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 17TH MAY 2023

Members were asked to approve the draft minutes from the Annual Council meeting held on 17th May 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.

27/23

JOHN WHITEHEAD PARK – ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Members discussed the recent antisocial behaviour in John Whitehead Park. The Town Clerk advised of the recent fire damage to the café bins and Community Garden.

Sergeant Cookland advised that the police can only deal with what is happening at the time and need to be intelligence led. All crime should be reported. The figures for the central ward are the same as last year.

A question was raised regarding the current CCTV provision in the park.

RESOLVED

- a. Information duly noted.
- b. To speak to Councillors McCoy and Woodhouse regarding CCTV in John Whitehead Park.

Councillor Gamble left the meeting at 7.50pm, returning at 7.53pm. During this time, Cllr Atkinson assumed the chair.

28/23

SUNDAY LUNCH SERVICE

The Chairman of the Council gave an update on the recent Task & Finish Group meeting that took place Monday 5th June 2023.

The following recommendations from the group were discussed:

- A survey will be created for existing recipients of the service, to establish who still requires a meal;
- Eligibility criteria will be set for new people to be added to the service;
- Members will visit the residents on their wards who receive meals to help complete the survey.

RESOLVED

The above recommendations were approved.

29/23

GENERAL RESERVES & EARMARKED RESERVES

Members were provided with the current Earmarked Reserves up to 31st March 2023 and were asked to allocate funds from General Reserves which are currently £100914.00.

RESOLVED

To allocate £25,000 from General Reserves to the Food Pantry Earmarked Reserve.

30/23

EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

Members were asked to pass the following resolution:

"That under Section 100A (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"

RESOLVED

- a. Members agreed to pass the above resolution.
- b. To submit no comment to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order.

The meeting concluded at 9.02pm with Cllrs Atkinson, Bendelow, Besford, Forrest, Gamble, Gilbert, Hedley Leckonby, McCall, Scollen, Snead and Snead present.