

BILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 23RD JANUARY 2024 AT 7PM

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

Present: Councillors Gamble (Chairman)
 Atkinson
 Bendelow
 Besford
 Forrest
 Gilbert
 Hedley
 Lacey
 McCall
 Snead
 Stoker

Apologies: Councillor Scollen (Illness)
 Councillor Leckonby (Personal)
 Councillor Shotton (No apologies received)

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

Stockton on Tees Borough Council (SBC) Councillors David Reynard, Katie Weston and Barry Woodhouse, 2 members of Cleveland Police and 6 members of the public were also present.

The meeting commenced at 7.02pm.

165/23 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed everyone present and announced the following:

- Housekeeping.

166/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Bendelow & Stoker declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item Planning application 23/0261/OUT – Outline application will all matters reserved for the erection of up to 700 dwellings, community centre, care and medical facilities, open space, golf course improvements and associated works: Land at Wynyard Village, Wynyard.

Members of SBC's Planning Committee.

167/23

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28TH NOVEMBER 2023

Members were asked to approve the draft minutes from the Full Council meeting held on 28th November 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.

168/23

POLICE UPDATE

Sergeant Cookland gave the following update:

- There has been no massive increase in crime and antisocial behaviour across the town;
- In the Central ward, crime numbers have fallen year on year;
- Eleven bikes and seven cars have been taken off the road, fourteen of which are directly linked to the Billingham area.

169/23

STOCKON BOROUGH COUNCIL (SBC) WARD COUNCILLOR UPDATES

The following updates were given:

Billingham North

- There has been improvements in antisocial behaviour, eighteen vehicles have been seized, with eight directly linked to the North ward;
- Regular walkabouts within the ward have taken place. The PSP (performance plan) has been closed due to improvements to antisocial behaviour;
- Residents are asked to report sightings of bike tracks so points of origin can be identified. The councillor ward budget to be used to put in mitigating measures to make areas inaccessible to quad bikes etc;
- Ward surgeries are ongoing;
- Work is ongoing with arborist in regards to a Tree Management Plan around High Grange, the ward budget will be used to prioritise that work.

Billingham East

- Complaints are being received around housing issues at Low Grange. Working with Thirteen Group looking at empty properties;
- Garage issues still ongoing with Thirteen as some roofs need replacing;
- Parking issues around Flodden Way and Naseby Court;
- Antisocial behaviour around Newbury Way;
- Damage to Low Grange Community Centre;
- 4/5 speed bumps to be installed on Neasham Avenue during February school half term holidays;
- Mobile library every second Thursday in the ward, 11-11.30am;
- Trees and pothole issues ongoing;
- In conversation with SBC regarding a Sports Village on the Campus field.

Billingham Central

- No announcement at this time from the proposed new owners of the town centre;
- £20m Levelling Up money received ringfenced to area around the town centre, needs to be spent by summer 2025;
- £10m still in SBC budget for town centre, legally has to show that SBC is getting a return on the investment;
- No answer at this time on the closed post office, working with Chris McDonald and Economic Development and Post Office to look at solutions;
- Meeting with the Executive Member of British Dental Association as a national shortage of dentists;
- Dealing with antisocial behaviour and those involved in land disputes;
- Ongoing work with SBC on budget/audit matters;
- Working with SBC Dementia Officer who has spoken to most of the businesses in the town centre, looking at making the area completely dementia friendly.

Billingham South

- A rise in fly tipping in Port Clarence from people out of the area. A dog has died after eating some rubbish in the ward that had been fly tipped;
- Looking at grass cutting issues and wildlife corridors;
- Slashing of tyres in the ward, asked the PCSO's to attend the next ward surgery on 6th February in Port Clarence;
- Issues with accusations of dog breeding at the allotments in Port Clarence however, no puppies found on the site. The land is leased to Billingham Environmental Link Programme;

- Looking at traffic calming measures, waiting for costings;
- Working with Thirteen Group to improve the signage on Stockton Street due to delivery issues.

Billingham West

- Looking at potholes, trees and parking issues;
- A Speed Awareness Group has been set up in Wolviston and speed surveys have been place on Whitehouse Road and surrounding area;
- Opposed the development on top of Sainsbury's, car park issue ongoing;
- New noticeboard in Wolviston Court;
- Objected to the Wynyard development outline planning application;
- Continuing to chase up the work on the community centre.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

170/23

JOHN WHITEHEAD PARK

The Town Clerk advised that the Town Council has been working with Cleveland Police, SBC Central Ward Councillors, SBC Officers and the Bowling Club to look at the issue of antisocial behaviour in John Whitehead Park. The Town Council has paid for a security CCTV camera to be moved further from down The Causeway to outside the entrance of the park, overlooking the Bowling Club. We are also in talks with SBC about locking the front entrance gates on a night time.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

171/23

REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Updates were given from representatives on outside bodies:

ORGANISATION	UPDATE
Cleveland Local Council Association – Cllr Gamble & Town Clerk	No meeting
Billingham Environmental Link Programme – Cllr Scollen	Cllr Scollen not in attendance.
Low Grange & Cowpen Residents Association – Cllr Bendelow	No meeting

Billingham Legacy Foundation – Cllr McCall	No report.
Billingham Community Partnership	The Town Clerk advised that a meeting took place and an update was given on SBC's Anti-Poverty Strategy and Action Plan.
Billingham International Festival of World Dance – Cllr Snead	No meeting
Catalyst Health & Wellbeing Committee – Cllr Shotton	Cllr Shotton was not in attendance
Port Clarence in Bloom – Town Clerk	Cllr Lacey advised that Port Clarence in Bloom is happening this year and will be focused on the village.
Clarences Community Partnership – Town Clerk	No update
Stockton Volunteers – Town Council Officer	No update
Stockton Housing, Neighbourhoods & Affordable Warmth Partnership – Cllr Bendelow	Cllr Bendelow advised that the group is looking at splitting the structure to 3 individual groups.
The Voice Forum – Cllr McCall	No update
Catalyst Funders Forum – Town Clerk	No meeting.
CCIN – Cllr Gamble	No update, next meeting tomorrow.
Billingham Show – Town Clerk & Cllr Bendelow	The Town Clerk advised members that she has now received the official hand over from the Legacy Foundation Supporters Group. Preparations for the show have begun. A Show Working Group to be established of Cllrs Besford, Gamble, Forrest, Gilbert and Bendelow .

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

172/23

DRAFT POLICIES

Members were asked to approve the following policies and procedures:

- Smarter Working Policy;
- Complaints Policy;
- Data Protection Policy;
- Dignity at Work Policy.

RESOLVED

To approve all of the above.

173/23 PLANNING APPLICATION 23/0261/OUT – Outline application with all matters reserved for the erection of up to 700 dwellings, community centre, care and medical facilities, open space, golf course improvements and associated works: Land at Wynyard Village, Wynyard.

Members were asked to provide comments to the above planning application.

RESOLVED

To object to the above planning application on the following grounds:

- Close proximity to Wolviston Village;
- Overdevelopment;
- Contrary to the agreed Wynyard Master Plan that was agreed by both Stockton and Hartlepool Borough Councils;
- Poor amenities;
- Infrastructure not suitable for approx. 1000 extra cars and other traffic;
- Safety issues around the local schools;
- Not in line with the Local Plan;
- It could go against the Garden Village initiative;
- Wynyard Road not suitable for more traffic.

Cllrs Bendelow & Stoker declared a pecuniary interest in this matter and left the room at 7.55, returning at 8.02pm.

174/23 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

- (i) Members were asked to consider the following recommendation from the Services & Engagement Committee:

To cease the Sunday Lunch Delivery Service and replace with a community lunch sit-in service on a monthly basis.

- (ii) Members were asked to consider the following recommendation from the Finance & General Purposes Committee:

To approve the draft budget for 2024/25 and to formulate a resolution to levy a precept of £357710.00 on SBC for the financial year 2024/25.

RESOLVED

- a. To defer the decision on the Sunday Lunch Service to the next Full Council meeting in March 2024.
- b. To levy a precept of £357710.00 on SBC for 2024/25.

175/23

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Full Council takes place on Tuesday 26th March 2024 at 7pm. The venue is to be confirmed.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

The meeting concluded at 8.08pm with Cllrs Atkinson, Bendelow, Besford, Forrest, Gamble, Gilbert, Hedley, Lacey, McCall, McCoy, Snead and Stoker present.