

BILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7PM
HELD IN THE FUNCTION ROOM, BILLINGHAM FORUM

Present: Councillors Gamble (Chairman)
 Atkinson
 Besford
 Lacey
 Leckonby
 Forrest
 McCoy

Apologies: Councillor McCall (Personal)
 Councilor Scollen (Illness)
 Councillor Stoker (Personal)
 Councillor Gilbert (Personal)
 Councillor Hedley (Personal)
 Councillor Bendelow (No apologies received)
 Councillor Snead (No apologies received)
 Councillor Shotton (No apologies received)

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

Sgt Russ Boon - Cleveland Police (left the meeting at 7.33pm), Stockton Borough Councillors Paul Weston, Katie Weston, Marcus Vickers and David Reynard and eight members of the public were also in attendance.

The meeting commenced at 7.05pm.

91/23 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed everyone present and announced the following:

- Housekeeping.

92/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Gamble & Besford declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 7d: Sponsorship application Catalyst Stockton on Tees Ltd – Employer

**STOCKON BOROUGH COUNCIL (SBC) WARD COUNCILLOR
UPDATES**

The following updates were given:

Billingham North

- Dual purpose bin installed at Kettlewell Close;
- Damaged litter bin replaced on Longfellow Road
- A planning application has been submitted for a children's home for 3 children in the ward;
- Developing a Tree Management Plan;
- Sorting potholes;
- Looking at cycle path improvements;
- Ward surgeries are the first Thursday in the month, 7pm at High Grange Community Centre.

Billingham East

No update on this occasion.

Billingham Central

- Looking at drop kerbs and parking and sorting grass verges;
- Carrying out walkabouts around the ward with Thirteen and SBC Care For Your Area;
- Would like to create a Dementia Friendly Town Centre in Billingham, positive response from businesses;
- New Police hotspot initiative that includes the town centre and speaking to the police for it to be extended to John Whitehead Park;
- Ward surgeries first Wednesday every month at Billingham Youth and Community centre.

Billingham South

- Flooding in Port Clarence result of non-return valves from the river not being maintained. Questions to be asked of the Environment Agency and Northumbrian Water;
- Issues with residents reporting the flooding and not getting through as an emergency. A meeting to be set up to review the event and processes;
- Ward walkabouts carried out with SBC Care for your area and Enforcement and looking at various issues;
- Extra policing resources requested for around Billingham Green and Tibbersley Avenue;

- The Tees Valley Flex been temporarily extended to The Clarences. Looking at other bus services and routes in the area;
- Reported lots of potholes, most marked up and many filled in;
- Three street surgeries carried out;
- Three ward surgeries carried out, the next one is Tuesday 3rd October at St Cuthberts Hall.

Billingham West

- Potholes reported, some have been repaired but need redoing;
- Sorting uneven footpaths and paving on Whitehouse Road;
- Trees not being maintained and overgrown. Trees on Tees to assist with this;
- Speeding issues through Wolviston Village;
- Looking at the impact of a development at Wynyard village and the impact of traffic onto Thames Road and Wynyard Road;
- Confirmed that there is no intention to pull the number 35 bus service;
- Discussions taking place of the rewilding of Billingham Beck;
- Reported anti-social behaviour at Northfields and Carlton Avenue. Download COPA app and report.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

94/23

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6TH JUNE 2023

Members were asked to approve the draft minutes from the Full Council Council meeting held on 6th June 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.

95/23

YEAR END ACCOUNTS – AUDITED ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) 2022/23

Members were asked to approve the audited AGAR for 2022/23. The Town Clerk advised members that no issues had been raised.

RESOLVED

Members unanimously approved the audited AGAR for 2022/23.

96/23

SPONSORSHIP BUDGET & APPLICATIONS

- a. Members were asked to approve the allocations of funds from General Reserves to the Sponsorship budget, recommended by the Finance & General Purposes committee on 20th June 2023.
- b. Members were asked to approve additional sponsorship of £5000 to Billingham Ice Hockey Club, as recommended by the Finance & General Purposes committee on 20th June 2023.
- c. Members considered a sponsorship application from Billingham Synthonia Cricket Club for £5000 to support a Community Fun Day Fundraiser.
- d. Members were asked to consider a sponsorship from Catalyst Stockton on Tees Ltd for £500 to sponsor one of the Catalyst Annual Achievement Awards.

RESOLVED

- i. To allocate £15,000 from General Reserves to the Sponsorship budget.
- ii. To approve an additional £5000 sponsorship.
- iii. To approve £5000 sponsorship.
- iv. To approve £500 sponsorship.

Cllrs Gamble and Besford declared a pecuniary interest in this matter and left the room whilst the Catalyst Stockton on Tees Ltd application was discussed and a decision was made.

97/23

DRAFT CCTV POLICY

Members were asked to approve the draft CCTV policy, as recommended by the Finance & General Purposes committee on 18th July 2023.

RESOLVED

To approve the above policy.

98/23

REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

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

ORGANISATION	UPDATE
Cleveland Local Council Association – Cllr Gamble & Town Clerk	Annual General Meeting took place last week. Cllr Gamble has been reappointed to the National Assembly. There is currently

	opportunities for councillors not on the National Assembly to stand for election on the Larger Councils Committee.
Billingham Environmental Link Programme – Cllr Scollen	No update
Low Grange & Cowpen Residents Association – Cllr Bendelow	No update
Billingham Legacy Foundation – Cllr McCall	No update
Billingham International Festival of World Dance – Cllr Snead	No update
Catalyst Health & Wellbeing Committee – Cllr Shotton	No update
Port Clarence in Bloom – Town Clerk	On hold for this year, looking at setting for next year.
Clarences Community Partnership – Town Clerk	Meeting took place on 26 th September. Notes will be circulated.
Stockton Volunteers – Town Council Officer	No update
Stockton Housing, Neighbourhoods & Affordable Warmth Partnership – Cllr Bendelow	No update
The Voice Forum – Cllr McCall	No update
Catalyst Funders Forum – Town Clerk	Update to be circulated by Deputy Town Clerk
CCIN – Cllr Gamble	No meetings during August. Annual Conference takes place in Sunderland on 1 st and 2 nd November. Tickets are free for all member councils. Presentation to Town Council to be arranged.
Billingham Show – Town Clerk & Cllr Bendelow	Show was a success. Debrief to take place in next few weeks to discuss few issues raised.

99/23

TOWN CRIER UPDATE

Members were presented with an update on all engagements carried out by the Town Crier during 2022/23. The Town Clerk advised those present that this is a volunteer role.

RESOLVED

- i. Information duly noted.
- ii. Thanks to be given to the Town Crier for his time and effort.

100/23 BUDGET WORKING GROUP

Members were asked set up a Budget Working group and agree the Terms of Reference.

RESOLVED

- i. That all members present be on the Working Group along with Cllr Scollen as Chair of the Finance & General Purposes committee.
- ii. The Terms of Reference are that it will meet approximately 3 to 4 times, one of which will be a face to face meeting. It will report back to the Finance & General Purposes Committee.
- iii. Dates of meetings to be circulated by the Town Clerk.

101/23 CHRISTMAS CLOSING

Members were advised that the Town Council Office will close on Friday 22nd December 2023 at 12 noon, and will reopen on Tuesday 2nd January 2024 at 9am.

The Community Hub and Annexe will close on Friday 22nd December 2023 and reopen on Tuesday 2nd January 2024.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

102/23 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Full Council takes place on Tuesday 28th November 2023 at 6.30pm. The venue is to be confirmed.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

103/23 EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

At this point on the agenda, 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”

Business Contracts

The Town Clerk gave a verbal update on a business contract that was in place for the Billingham Show providing security, health and safety, stewarding and medical cover.

Members were advised that this business provided a very professional service at the Show and there were no issues raised over the weekend.

RESOLVED

- a. Members agreed to pass the above resolution.
- b. Members unanimously agreed that this business or any associates with this business, will not be used at future events.

The meeting concluded at 8.30pm with Cllrs Atkinson, Besford, Forrest, Gamble, Leckonby, Lacey and McCoy present.