

BILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2023 AT 7PM
HELD IN MEETING ROOM C, BILLINGHAM LIBRARY & CUSTOMER
SERVICE CENTRE

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

Apologies: Councillor Scollen (Illness)
 Councillor McCoy (Business)

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

Patrick Wilson from BCT Aspire, Jane Wallace & Adrian Worth from Billingham Boxing Academy (arrived at 7.15pm), Stockton on Tees Borough Council (SBC) Councillors David Reynard & Paul Weston, and 15 members of the public were also present.

The meeting commenced at 7.05pm.

128/23 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed everyone present and announced the following:

- Housekeeping;
- The Town Council's Christmas Fair takes place on Saturday 2nd December, 11am to 2pm in St Aidan's Church Hall.

129/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Gilbert declared a personal interest in agenda item 6: Subsidy applications 2024-2027 – Known to referee for BCT Aspire.

Cllr Lacey declared a personal interest in agenda item 7a: Grant Funding application from Pat Chambers – Assisting with the event.

Cllr Leckonby declared a personal interest in agenda item 7a: Grant Funding application from Pat Chambers – Friend of applicant.

Cllr Lacey declared a personal interest in agenda item 7b: Grant Funding from High Clarence Primary School – Assisting with the event.

Cllr McCall declared a personal interest in agenda item 7b: Grant Funding from High Clarence Primary School – School Governor.

130/23

STOCKON BOROUGH COUNCIL (SBC) WARD COUNCILLOR UPDATES

The following updates were given:

Billingham North

- Good news about the Levelling Up funding;
- The planning application for a children's home in High Grange has been approved. They are now speaking to Children's Services at SBC and the expected open date is April 2024;
- The next ward surgery takes place next week;
- A walkabout has taken place with the local PCSO's;
- Resurfacing work has taken place at the roundabout at Owington Farm and used 80% less carbon than traditional road repairs.

Billingham East

- The Bread & Butter Thing project at the Newlife centre is now in its seventh week and going really well;
- Cllr Bendelow attended the Tuesday Chat Group at Low Grange;
- Looking at pothole, trees and parking issues including those on Flodden Way and Naseby Court;
- Antisocial behaviour is down in the area;
- Working is being carried on Low Grange shops including a tidy up at the back of the shops;
- Low Grange Club has been sold and there are plans for two retail units;
- Ward surgeries are going well.

Billingham Central

No update on this occasion.

Billingham South

- A meeting was organised and attended by Northumbrian Water Authority, Environment Agency, SBC and a Councillor from Hartlepool Council in regards to the recent flooding in Port Clarence. A follow up meeting is to be arranged to discuss the maintenance regime and what improvements can be made to the non-return valves.
- The Community Hub in Port Clarence will be reopening;
- Cowpen Bewley Residents Association secured £23k of funding and have some contracts that fund projects that they feel might help projects in the Clarence's;
- Street Surgeries have been taking place;
- Looking at traffic calming measures.

Billingham West

- Looking at potholes, trees and parking issues;
- A newsletter is being sent out regarding the parking issues at Priors Mill school;
- Arranging replacement 30 mph signs in the ward;
- Objected to the Wynyard Homes planning application;
- Opposed the planning application on Whitehouse Road above Sainsbury's on the grounds of overlooking and parking;
- Resurfacing work carried out on Whitehouse Road;
- Enforcement are currently looking at the speed results for Wolviston;
- There is a new scheme in the New Year where residents can hire Community Speedwatch equipment at any time. This will be resident led;
- Making enquiries in to Pop-Up Post Offices.

Members were also advised that the Emergency Planning Officer is working with lots of different agencies to investigate the gas smell. At this time, they do not know the source and it is not from the main gas pipes. If you smell gas, this should be reported as the more data there is, it will be easier for agencies to identify the source.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

131/23

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Members were asked to approve the draft minutes from the Full Council Council meeting held on 26th September 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.

132/23 SUBSIDY APPLICATIONS 2024-2027

Members were provided with presentations from the following organisations that have submitted subsidy applications for 2024-2027. These applications will be considered as part of the budget setting process.

- BCT Aspire;
- Billingham Boxing Academy.

RESOLVED

- i. Information duly noted.
- ii. Purple Dance Studio will present to the Finance & General Purposes Committee on Tuesday 19th December 2023.

Cllr Gilbert declared a personal interest in this matter.

Patrick Wilson, Jayne Wallace & Adrian Worth left the meeting.

133/23 GRANT FUNDING APPLICATIONS

- a. Members were asked to consider a grant application from Pat Chambers for £500 towards a Senior Citizens Party.
- b. Members were asked to consider a grant application from High Clarence Primary School for £500 for a Christmas Party.
- c. Members were asked to consider a grant application from Billingham Bowling Club for £500 towards the installation of CCTV.

RESOLVED

- i. To approve a grant of £500 to Pat Chambers.
- ii. To approve a grant of £500 to High Clarence Primary School.
- iii. To approve a grant of £500 to Billingham Bowling Club.

Cllrs Lacey and Leckonby declared a personal interest in 133/23 (a) and refrained from voting.

Cllrs Lacey and McCall declared a personal interest in 133/23 (b) and refrained from voting.

134/23 DRAFT POLICES

The draft policies will be deferred to the next Full Council meeting in January 2024.

135/23 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	No meeting
Billingham Environmental Link Programme – Cllr Scollen	No update
Low Grange & Cowpen Residents Association – Cllr Bendelow	No meeting
Billingham Legacy Foundation – Cllr McCall	No meeting
Billingham Community Partnership	Meeting was cancelled
Billingham International Festival of World Dance – Cllr Snead	No meeting
Catalyst Health & Wellbeing Committee – Cllr Shotton	No meeting
Port Clarence in Bloom – Town Clerk	On hold for this year, looking at setting for next year. Remove from the agenda.
Clarences Community Partnership – Town Clerk	Cllr Lacey advised members that the partnership is working with lots of different agencies on matters in Port Clarence. The notes from the meeting will be circulated.
Stockton Volunteers – Town Council Officer	No meeting
Stockton Housing, Neighbourhoods & Affordable Warmth Partnership – Cllr Bendelow	Cllr Bendelow advised that a presentation was given on the winter fuel costs.
The Voice Forum – Cllr McCall	No update
Catalyst Funders Forum – Town Clerk	No meeting.
CCIN – Cllr Gamble	Cllr Gamble advised that they are looking at policy labs and funding.
Billingham Show – Town Clerk & Cllr Bendelow	The Town Clerk advised members that she had received a letter from Billingham Legacy Foundation Supporters Group stating their

	intention to withdraw from the agreement with the Town Council regarding the Show. This is due to the volunteers not being available in 2024. They have not been able to recruit other volunteers, therefore they are not in a position to provide support to the Show going forward.
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RESOLVED

- i. Information duly noted.
- ii. Members agreed that the Town Council would continue to run the Billingham Show moving forward.

136/23 SUNDAY LUNCH SERVICE

Members were advised that some of the survey's still need to be completed and the Working Group will make recommendations to Full Council once this work is finished. Currently there are 70 residents receiving a Sunday Lunch.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

137/23 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Full Council takes place on Tuesday 23rd January 2024 at 7pm. The venue is to be confirmed.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

The meeting concluded at 8.10pm with Cllrs Atkinson, Bendelow, Besford, Forrest, Gamble, Gilbert, Hedley, Lacey, Leckonby, McCall, Shotton, Snead and Stoker present.



23/1/24.