

Billingham Town Council

Minutes of Services & Engagement Committee Meeting

Tuesday 19th December 2023 at 5.30 p.m.

Held at Billingham Library & Customer Service Centre

Present Councillors: Michelle Bendelow (Chair)
Helen Atkinson
Mick Stoker

Official: Miss Dee Smith - Town Clerk/RFO

Apologies: Cllr Clare Gamble (Business)
Cllr Maria Lacey (Personal)
Cllr Gareth Hedley (Personal)
Cllr Michael Shotton (No apologies given)

Two members of the public were also present.

138/23 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair welcomed all present. The usual rules about housekeeping were made.

139/23 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

140/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME

One member of the public raised a question regarding the flats above the town centre shops. They were advised to speak to St Modwen's, Town Centre management.

141/23 MINUTES OF SERVICES & ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21ST NOVEMBER 2023

Members were asked to approve the above draft minutes.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the minutes of the above meeting held on 21st November 2023, a copy of which has been circulated to each member, be approved, and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

142/23

EVENTS UPDATE

The Town Clerk gave members an overview of the Town Council's recent events.

Christmas Lights Switch On

This year's annual Christmas lights switch on took place in Billingham Town Centre on Saturday 25th November between 4pm till 5pm. Singing Sue's Vocal Academy performed traditional Christmas carols and light Christmas songs around the tree at 4pm culminating in the light switch on at 5.00pm by the cast of Jack & The Beanstalk and our Christmas competition winner. The event was very well attended.

Christmas Family Fun at St Aidan's

The Town Council held a Christmas family fun event at St Aidan's Church Hall on Saturday 2nd December between 11am till 2pm. The event included festive food and refreshments, arts & crafts, facepainting, Christmas stalls, giant snow globe photo opportunity and visit to Santa. Unfortunately, due to the weather, the event was not that well attended.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

143/23

SERVICES UPDATE

The Town Clerk gave a verbal update on Café in the Park, Pantry in the Park, Soup & Sandwich Project and Sunday Lunch Service.

Café in the Park

The full café service will reopen for Easter 2024. Regular groups continue to run, and we look forward to welcoming new groups. As the cold weather approaches, we will continue with our community space previously known as warm space.

Food Pantry

The last pantry prior to Christmas was Monday 18th of December. It will reopen on Monday 8th January 2024. There are approximately 35 plus people using the pantry on a weekly basis.

From January 2024, we will be using Fairshare at a cost of £100 per month.

Soup & Sandwich Project

Soup and a sandwich are still available to those who attend the pantry.

Sunday Lunch Service

The service currently has 70 residents receiving a two course meal. The Christmas lunch went out on Sunday 17th December. The Sunday Lunch Working Group will be meeting in the new year to discuss the service moving forward.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

The meeting concluded at 5.43p.m. with Councillors Atkinson, Bendelow, & Stoker present.

Signed.......... Date 16.1.24
Chairman of Services & Engagement Committee