

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Shildon Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Hall Square, Shildon, Co Durham on Monday, 14th April 2025.

Present: Councillor S Quinn in the Chair
Councillors S Luckhurst, A Farlow, R A Bell, D Bell, D L Mather, H M Hanratty, N Hanratty and P Quinn

Two members of the public in attendance.

TC 175/24 Notice of Meeting

The Notice convening the Meeting was taken as read.

TC 176/24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors M Johnson, W Keal, G Mather, K Ambrosini and D Reynolds.

TC 177/24 Public Question Time

The following public questions had been submitted.

- what actions are you taking regarding the rising in the amount of moto Cross bikes being illegally ridden through Hackworth Park and the high street
- the high volume of dog mess in the park and surrounding streets, why have shildon not got any registered dog wardens patrolling problem areas
- lack of use of the meeting house in Hackworth Park
- what the councils plans for encouraging new businesses to the high street instead of shops standing empty

The Town Mayor provided a full and comprehensive reply to the questions posed.

TC 178/24 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

TC 179/24 Members' Dispensations

No written requests for dispensations had been received.

TC 180/24 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 10th March 2025 be approved.

TC 181/24 Committee Minutes

Signed
Chairman

Resolved that the minutes of the following Committees be approved and adopted:-

- a) Service & Amenities - 10th March 2025
- b) Resources - 10th March 2025

TC 182/24 Presentation of Mayoral Award

Councillor S Quinn presented the following Mayoral Award for recognition of dedication and support to the local community.

- Beverley Watkins

Resolved that the Mayoral Award be received.

TC 183/24 Police Report

No police report had been received.

TC 184/24 Review of Internal Audit

The Town Clerk provided Members with details of the internal audit function provided for the Town Council by Allen Sykes, Chartered Accountants. The review of internal audit had been undertaken and a copy of the completed review checklist had been provided to Members. As a result of the review, it was considered that the internal audit service was effective.

Councillor P Quinn proposed that Allen Sykes be re-engaged to provide the internal audit function for 2025/26.

Resolved that Allen Sykes be re-engaged to provide the internal audit function for 2025/26.

TC 185/24 Heritage Festival

The Town Clerk informed Members that correspondence had been received from Baccanalia to expand their annual Bishop Auckland Heritage Festival into a South West Durham Heritage Festival to include other towns in the area with each town hosting activities and programmes over September 2025.

Councillor H M Hanratty proposed and Members unanimously agreed that involvement in the event be declined at the present time.

Resolved that:

- a. the report be received.
- b. involvement in a South West Durham Heritage Festival be declined on this occasion.

Signed
Chairman

TC 186/24 Durham County Councillor Updates

Councillor S Quinn informed Members that a Full Council meeting had been held in March 2025 and the AGM was to be held in May 2025. A Planning Committee meeting was to take place on 17th April 2025 and a GRT meeting in April 2025.

Resolved that the Durham County Councillor updates be noted.

TC 187/24 Town Councillor Updates

No updates provided.

TC 188/24 Announcements

Resolved that the schedule of mayoral engagements and announcements by the Town Mayor and Town Clerk be received.

TC 189/24 Exclusion of Press and Public

It was **resolved** that in accordance with the provisions of Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council now excludes the press and public on the grounds of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted since publicity would be prejudicial to the public.

TC 190/24 Direct Works Manager

The Town Clerk updated Members on the replacement post of Direct Works Manager and of an internal progression to the post.

Members agreed unanimously for an internal progression to the post and it was

Resolved that:

- a. the report be received.
- b. the post of Direct Works Manager be offered to an internal candidate.
- c. the start date of the post be Monday 28th April 2025.
- d. training costs be paid by the Town Council with the proviso that if the employee leaves the employment of the Town Council that repayment costs would be applied.
- e. The post of Direct Works Operative be advertised.

Signed
Chairman