

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Shildon Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Hall Square, Shildon, Co Durham on Monday, 11th March 2024.

Present: Councillor S Quinn in the Chair
Councillors K Ambrosini, D Reynolds, S Luckhurst, D Childs, M Johnson, W Keal, S Townsend, R A Nicholson, D L Mather, N Hanratty, H M Hanratty and P Quinn.

TC 156/23 Notice of Meeting

The Notice convening the Meeting was taken as read.

TC 157//23 Public Question Time

There were no questions from members of the public.

TC 158/23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors G Mather, D Bell and A Turner.

The Chair welcomed Councillor S Luckhurst to the meeting.

TC 159/23 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

TC 160/23 Members' Dispensations

No written requests for dispensations had been received.

TC 161/23 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 12th February 2024 be approved.

TC 162/23 Committee Minutes

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

- a) Service & Amenities - 12th February 2024
- b) Resources - 12th February 2024

TC 163/23 Presentation of Mayoral Award

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

Signed
Chairman

- March Award – Dennis Duncan

Resolved that the Mayoral Award be received.

TC 164/23 Police Report

The Town Clerk presented details of the crime statistics for the month of February 2024.

Resolved that:

- a. the report be received.
- a. Shildon Neighbourhood Police Sergeant be approached to include monthly comparison statistics in the police report.

TC 165/23 Stockton & Darlington Railway Bicentenary Festival 2025

The Town Mayor and Town Clerk provided an update to Members on the Stockton & Darlington Railway Bicentenary Festival 2025.

Resolved that:

- a. the verbal report be noted.
- b. the Bicentenary Festival Director be invited to attend a future meeting of the Town Council.

TC 166/23 Corporate Risk Report and Action Plan

The Town Clerk reported on the revised corporate risk report and updated action plan.

Resolved that the Corporate Risk Report and Action Plan for 2024/25 be approved.

TC 167/23 Durham County Councillor Updates

Councillors S Quinn, S Townsend and M Johnson provided Members with various updates including Eldon and Dene Valley Anti-Social Behaviour Project, the Leap Festival, County Durham Partnership meeting and pre-consultation on Greenfields Community College new build.

Resolved that:

- a. the verbal report be noted.
- b. the Chief Executive Officer, Durham County Council be contacted to provide an update on future plans for the Shildon Sunnydale Leisure Centre and the site of the former Sunnydale School.

Signed
Chairman

TC 168/23 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Reports were received from representatives on the following outside bodies: -

a. Shildon Children and Young People's Action Network

Councillor S Townsend provided an update from the Annual General Meeting held on 14th February 2024 and informed Members that the Shildon Youth Group continued to make good progress and the Playzone project was at the public consultation stage.

b. County Durham Association of Local Councils

Councillor P Quinn provided an update from the meeting held on 15th February 2024.

c. Jubilee Fields Community Association

Councillor H Hanratty provided an update and informed Members that various activities and events were taking place at the Community Centre and were well attended.

d. Larger Local Councils Forum

Councillor P Quinn provided an update and informed Members that a vote had taken place to contact candidates standing for a Combined Authority Mayor to gather their views on supporting parish and town councils.

e. Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership

Councillor S Quinn provided an update and informed Members that a new coordinator had now been appointed. The next meeting was to be held on 21st March 2024.

f. Friends of the Stockton and Darlington Railway

Councillor D Reynolds provided an update from the meeting held on 7th March 2024 and informed Members that the Save Heighington Station Campaign had been launched and that work on some sections of the walking and cycling route was still to be completed.

g. Shildon Alive

Councillor S Townsend provided an update on the progress of the new building at Main Street, Shildon.

Resolved that the reports given by representatives on outside bodies be received.

TC 169/23 Announcements

Signed
Chairman

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

TC 170/23 Exclusion of Press and Public

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 171/23 Direct Works Operative

The Town Clerk informed Members of a vacancy for a full time Direct Works Operative and of the recruitment of a seasonal worker. Members were advised that the Town Council had employed a seasonal worker since 2016 and following a discussion it was unanimously agreed to offer the full time position of Direct Works Operative to the seasonal worker.

Resolved that:

- a. the full time position of Direct Works Operative be offered to the seasonal worker.
- b. the vacancy for a seasonal worker be advertised.

Signed
Chairman