

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Shildon Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Hall Square, Shildon, Co Durham on Monday, 13th October 2025.

Present: Councillor D Bell in the Chair
Councillors R A Bell, D L Mather, N Hanratty, P Quinn, S Townsend, T Hillary, D Thompson, N Cleasby and S Luckhurst.

In attendance: Sam Rushworth, MP
Charlotte Battison, Community Development and Engagement Co-ordinator
Lauren Robinson & young volunteer, Shildon Alive

TC 81/25 Notice of Meeting

The Notice convening the Meeting was taken as read.

TC 82/25 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor S Quinn.

TC 83/25 Public Question Time

There were no questions from members of the public.

TC 84/25 Co-option of New Councillor

Following a formal meeting with Members held on 21st August 2025 it was agreed that Mr Neil Cleasby be co-opted onto Shildon Town Council to represent the Byerley Ward of Shildon.

Resolved that Mr Neil Cleasby be co-opted onto Shildon Town Council to represent the Byerley Ward of Shildon.

Mr Neil Cleasby signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Town Councillor and joined the Meeting.

TC 85/25 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

TC 86/25 Members' Dispensations

No written requests for dispensations had been received.

TC 87/25 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 8th September 2025 be approved.

TC 88/25 Committee Minutes

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

Signed
Chairman

- a) Service & Amenities - 8th September 2025
- b) Resources - 8th September 2025

The Chair introduced Miss Charlotte Battison, Community Development and Engagement Co-ordinator and wished her well in her new role.

Miss Charlotte Battison left the meeting.

TC 89/25 Sam Rushworth, MP

Sam Rushworth, MP was in attendance to update Members on various funding opportunities for Shildon and Dene Valley including Better Youth Spaces Fund.

Resolved that thanks be extended to Sam Rushworth, MP for attending the meeting.

TC 90/25 Police Report

Members received the police report for the month of September 2025.

Resolved that:

- a. the report be received.
- b. a police representative be invited to attend the next meeting.

TC 91/25 Hand Up Bags

This item was discussed at the Resources Committee under Item 5, Grant Aid.

TC 92/25 Shildon Town Council Offices : Christmas Closure

The Town Clerk advised Members of the period of closure of the Council Offices during the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Resolved that the last working day of the Town Council Offices on Wednesday, 24th December 2025 to re-open on Monday, 5th January 2026 be noted.

TC 93/25 Hackworth Park Rest House

Members discussed the use of the Rest House in Hackworth Park.

Resolved that Rob Yorke be contacted to update Members on the current provision of the Rest House and of its intended use for the future.

TC 94/25 Audited Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2025

Signed
Chairman

The Town Clerk informed Members that the external auditor had issued a limited assurance opinion on the accounts.

It was proposed by Councillor P Quinn and seconded by Councillor S Luckhurst and

Resolved that:

- a. the Town Council approves and accepts the Audit Completion letter and the audited Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2025.
- b. the Town Council approves the proposed action to be taken to address the issue raised by the external auditor.

TC 95/25 Durham County Councillor Updates

There were no County Councillors in attendance after invites were sent.

Resolved that the County Councillors be invited once again to attend or submit a report to be read at the meeting.

TC 96/25 Town Councillor Updates

Councillor S Luckhurst discussed the possibility of re-introducing the Horticultural Show at Shildon Civic Hall.

Resolved that the Town Councillor updates be noted.

TC 97/25 Announcements

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

Signed
Chairman