

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Shildon Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Hall Square, Shildon, Co Durham on Monday, 20th April 2026.

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

In attendance: Durham County Councillors James Stephenson and Michael Ramage.

One member of the public in attendance.

TC 172/25 Notice of Meeting

The Notice convening the Meeting was taken as read.

TC 173/25 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors S Luckhurst and N Hanratty.

TC 174/25 Public Question Time

There were no questions from members of the public.

TC 175/25 Co-option of New Councillors

Following a formal meeting with Members held on 26th March 2026 it was agreed that Mr David Gisby and Mr Simon Hall be co-opted onto Shildon Town Council to represent the Thickley Ward of Shildon.

Resolved that Mr David Gisby and Mr Simon Hall be co-opted onto Shildon Town Council to represent the Thickley Ward of Shildon.

Mr David Gisby and Mr Simon Hall signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Town Councillor and joined the Meeting.

TC 176/25 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

TC 177/25 Members' Dispensations

No written requests for dispensations had been received.

TC 178/25 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 9th March 2026 be approved.

Signed
Chairman

TC 179/25 Committee Minutes

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

- a) Service & Amenities - 9th March 2026
- b) Resources - 9th March 2026

TC 180/25 Police Report

Members received the police report for the month of March 2026.

Resolved that:

- a. the report be received.
- b. the Town Clerk follow up a meeting with Neighbourhood Team Inspector Simon Peele.

TC 181/25 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 S Quinn proposed and Councillor S Townsend seconded that Allen Sykes be re-engaged to provide the internal audit function for 2026/27.

Resolved that Allen Sykes be re-engaged to provide the internal audit function for 2026/27.

TC 182/25 Lone Working Policy

The Town Clerk presented to Members a revised draft Lone Working Policy.

Resolved that the Lone Working Policy be approved and adopted subject to the inclusion of recommended amendments.

TC 183/25 Hackworth Park CCTV – Service Level Agreement

The Town Clerk provided an update to Members on the monitoring and maintenance of the CCTV cameras in Hackworth Park, Shildon. Durham County Council monitored and maintained the cameras for a yearly fee in the form of an SLA from their Care Connect centre based in Chilton Depot.

Members were advised that the images were of poor quality and the cameras were outdated and not up to modern standards.

Resolved that:

Signed
Chairman

- a. the report be received.
- b. the Town Clerk obtain three quotes from alternative providers.
- c. the item be deferred until 3 quotes had been obtained by the Town Clerk.

TC 184/25 Amendments to Cemetery Booklet

The Town Clerk advised Members of an amendment to the Cemetery booklet in relation to a designated area for floral tributes at the Memorial Tree.

Resolved that the Cemetery booklet be amended to specify that ‘no floral tributes etc be permitted in any area around the Memorial Tree.’

TC 185/26 Update on Town of Culture Competition

The Town Clerk updated Members on the Town of Culture Competition and advised that an Expression of Interest had been submitted on behalf of the Town Council. The Town Clerk would update Members on any future developments.

Resolved that the verbal update be noted.

TC 186/25 Durham County Councillor Updates

Councillors J Stephenson and M Ramage provided updates to Members on issues concerning the parish of Shildon. Councillor J Stephenson informed Members that funding had been allocated to update Durham County Council owned bus shelters within Shildon and that planters and benches would be installed at the bus station.

Members were informed that Councillor J Stephenson had allocated funding towards Fun4All 2026.

Resolved that the Durham County Councillor updates be noted.

TC 187/25 Town Councillor Updates

Councillor S Townsend provided an update on Shildon Railway Institute and Shildon Alive new building. Members were advised that a Case Worker for Sam Rushworth MP had attended the SCYPAN meeting held on 18th March 2026.

Councillor S Quinn had attended a Mayor Meets event on transport with North East Mayor, Kim McGuinness. Councillor S Quinn had also attended a National Association of Councillors Conference on 27th, 28th and 29th March 2026 at Scarborough and Timothy Hackworth Primary School Forum.

Resolved that the Town Councillor updates be noted.

Councillor M Ramage left the meeting.

Signed
Chairman

TC 187/25 Announcements

The Town Clerk advised Members that Murphy's Funfairs had requested the use of Hackworth Park to hold a family funfair on 15th, 16th and 17th May 2026.

Resolved that:

- a. the schedule of mayoral engagements and announcements by the Town Mayor and Town Clerk be received.
- b. permission be granted to Murphy's Funfairs to hold a family funfair in Hackworth Park on 15th, 16th and 17th May 2026.

Signed
Chairman