

Minutes of the Meeting of Shildon Town Council held in the Town Council Offices, Civic Hall Square, Shildon, Co Durham and virtually on Monday, 18th January 2021.

Present: Councillor P Quinn in the Chair
Councillors D Reynolds, A Walker, J Graham, N Hanratty, H M Hanratty, D Childs, L Deakin, D L Mather, M Johnson, S Townsend, R A Nicholson, S Quinn, A Farlow, and K Ambrosini.

In attendance: Chief Constable - Jo Farrell, Assistant Chief Officer - Gary Ridley, Acting PCVC - Steve White and Acting Chief Executive - Sharon Caddell.

TC 79/20 Notice of Meeting

The Notice convening the Meeting was taken as read.

TC 80/20 Public Question Time

There were no questions from members of the public.

TC 81/20 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors J G Huntington and L Cockfield.

TC 82/20 Declarations of Interest

Councillor S Quinn declared an interest in respect of item 7 – Proposed Custody Facility in Durham – and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

TC 83/20 Minutes

It was proposed by Councillor S Quinn and seconded by Councillor J Graham that the minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Town Council held on 17th December 2020 be approved.

Resolved that the minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Town Council held on 17th December 2020 be approved.

TC 84/20 Committees

It was proposed by Councillor S Quinn and seconded by Councillor K Ambrosini that the minutes of the Virtual Special Meeting of the Resources Committee held on 17th December 2020 be approved and adopted.

Resolved that the minutes of the Virtual Special Meeting of the Resources Committee held on 17th December 2020 be approved and adopted.

TC 85/20 Proposed Custody Facility in Durham

Chief Constable - Jo Farrell, Assistant Chief Officer - Gary Ridley, Acting PCVC - Steve White and Acting Chief Executive - Sharon Caddell from The Office of the Durham Police,

Signed
Chairman

Crime and Victims' Commissioner, gave a presentation to Members on proposals for a new custody suite in Durham.

Members were informed that the existing custody suites did not comply with HMIC and Fire & Rescue Services statutory requirements. The proposed new custody suite would replace the existing custody suites and would provide a legal, safe and compliant facility.

Durham Constabulary had submitted a planning application to Durham County Council in December 2020 and, subject to planning consent, the facility was expected to be completed and operational by Spring 2023.

A question and answer session followed the presentation.

A copy of the presentation is attached to these Minutes.

Resolved that thanks be extended to Chief Constable - Jo Farrell, Assistant Chief Officer - Gary Ridley, Acting PCVC - Steve White and Acting Chief Executive - Sharon Caddell for joining the meeting and providing a comprehensive and informative presentation.

TC 86/20 Police Report

The Town Clerk presented details of the crime statistics for the month of December 2020 and informed Members that Sergeant Alex Clarke would be joining the Town Council Meeting on 8th February 2021.

Resolved that the Police report be noted.

TC 87/20 Notice of Motion

The Notice of Motion was withdrawn at the request of the Proposer, Councillor L Cockfield.

TC 88/20 Notice of Motion

The following Notice of Motion had been proposed by Councillor D Childs and seconded by Councillor D Reynolds.

That the Town Council agrees to hold singular council-wide online Councillor Surgeries on 6th February and 6th March to provide an opportunity for residents to raise local issues and seek advice and to set dates for 2021/22 municipal year to be held online (or in person dependent on coronavirus guidelines).

A vote was taken and Members agreed unanimously to carry the Notice of Motion.

Resolved that the Notice of Motion be agreed.

TC 89/20 Budget and Precept Requirement 2021/22

The Town Clerk submitted the budget and precept requirement report seeking approval for the setting of the Council's 2021/22 precept.

Signed
Chairman

It was proposed by Councillor A Walker and seconded by Councillor P Quinn that the budget and precept requirement for 2021/22 be agreed.

Resolved that:

- a) the 2021/22 council precept requirement of £682,100 be approved.
- b) the Town Mayor and Town Clerk be duly authorised to sign the relevant precept request form.

TC 90/20 CDALC : Double Taxation

The Town Clerk updated Members on the outcome of discussions concerning double taxation which was discussed at the CDALC Larger Councils Forum.

At the Town Council meeting on 17th September Members had proposed an amendment to a Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J G Huntington on double taxation. The amended Notice of Motion, together with Notices of Motion submitted by Great Aycliffe Town Council and Spennymoor Town Council, were submitted to the Larger Councils Forum for discussion.

At the CDALC Larger and Smaller Council Forum meetings the matter was discussed and it was agreed to consult all members councils on a further Notice of Motion submitted by Great Aycliffe Town Council.

It was proposed by Councillor A Walker that the proposed Notice of Motion submitted by Great Aycliffe Town Council be supported.

Resolved that the proposed Notice of Motion submitted by Great Aycliffe Town Council be supported.

TC 91/20 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

There were no reports from representatives on outside bodies.

TC 92/20 Announcements

There were no announcements by the Town Mayor.

TC 93/20 Civic Hall Financial Performance

There was no report for the month of December.

TC 94/20 Civic Hall Managers Report

The Civic Hall Manager presented a verbal report to Members and provided an update on the heating system within the Civic Hall. Members were informed that the heating boiler had now been repaired but due to the age of the boiler a number of parts were now obsolete. The Civic Hall Manager advised Members that quotes would be obtained for a replacement boiler system and this would be reported back to the Town Council in due course.

Signed
Chairman

Members were informed that due to Covid-19, Heineken had not charged the Town Council for the smart dispense system for January and February but intended to add the missed months onto the end of the contract.

Resolved that:

- a. the verbal report be received and noted.
- b. thanks be extended to the Civic Hall Manager for his commitment during the current lockdown restrictions.

TC 95/20 Durham County Council : Planning Applications

No planning applications had been received.

TC 96/20 Durham County Council : Planning Decisions

Recommended that the decisions taken since the last meeting of the Committee be noted.

TC 97/20 Budgetary Control Statement

The Town Clerk advised that the budgetary control statement for the month of December indicated an underspend of £51k which was in line with the anticipated underspend for the year as detailed in the draft 2021/22 budget.

The Civic Hall was currently overspending against the budget to date which again was anticipated in the draft budget.

Further grant support was due to be received in respect of the Civic Hall following the recent enhanced lockdown arrangements implemented by the Government which would help to minimise the net effect of the anticipated closure for the remainder of the financial year.

Resolved that the report be received.

TC 98/20 Grant Aid

No Grant aid applications had been received.

TC 99/20 Accounts

Resolved that the accounts awaiting payment and accounts paid in advance for the month of December 2020 in the sum of £56,182.86 be approved.

TC 100/20 Bank Reconciliations

Resolved that the bank reconciliations as of 31st December 2020 be noted and confirmed.

Signed
Chairman

TC 101/20 Request to Waive Rent

The Town Clerk informed Members that a request had been received from the Town Crier to waive the rent for a period of two months in January and February 2021 due to the current lockdown restrictions and the impact this had on the production and delivery of the free community newspaper.

It was proposed by Councillor A Walker and seconded by Councillor A Farlow that the request to waive rent for January and February 2021 be agreed.

Resolved that the office rental be waived for January and February 2021.

Signed
Chairman