

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Shildon Town Council held on Monday, 8th February 2021.

Present: Councillor P Quinn in the Chair
Councillors D Reynolds, A Walker, 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.

TC 102/20 Notice of Meeting

The Notice convening the Meeting was taken as read.

TC 103/20 Public Question Time

There were no questions from members of the public.

TC 104/20 Apologies for Absence

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

TC 105/20 Declarations of Interest

Councillor A Farlow declared an interest in respect of item 14 – Planning Applications – and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

TC 106/20 Minutes

It was proposed by Councillor A Walker and seconded by Councillor H M Hanratty that the minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Town Council held on 18th January 2021 be approved.

Resolved that the minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Town Council held on 18th January 2021 be approved.

TC 107/20 Police Report

Sergeant Alex Clarke presented details of the crime statistics for the month of January 2021.

Sergeant Clarke informed Members that the Neighbourhood Policing Team had patrolled hotspot areas in order to tackle the issue of youth anti-social behaviour. This had resulted in a reduction in youth related ASB incidents.

Members were also informed that due to the current lockdown restrictions there had been a reduction in the number of incidents reported relating to vehicle crime and burglary. However, there was still an increase in crimes such as low-level violence offences and damage. There had also been a large spike in mental health related incidents during the current lockdown.

Resolved that the Police report be noted.

Signed
Chairman

TC 108/20 Minutes of the Greenfields School (Sunnydale Site) Working Party Meeting

The following proposal and recommendations from the meeting of the Greenfields School (Sunnydale Site) Working Party held on 26th January 2021 were submitted for consideration.

a. Proposal

Shildon Town Council want to see a new, high quality secondary school built in Shildon that is of sufficient size to educate the young people of our town and the surrounding area.

The school will be modern, it will be well led and will inspire children to achieve and realise their full potential. A significant number of children in town come from homes where there is high deprivation and a lack of aspiration; we want to nurture these children and help them to aspire and learn so that they can become fulfilled and enriched. We want them to feel a sense of pride in their town, and we believe that by giving them a brand new facility that can be utilised alongside existing facilities such as the Athletics Track and the Leisure Centre will enhance their prospects in life and will encourage healthier and happier lifestyles.

b. Subject to (a) above agreed, that the Town Council prepare a survey to gauge public opinion on the position of the Town Council to retain secondary education in Shildon.

c. Subject to (a) above agreed, that a communication strategy be produced in order to provide a framework to communicate and engage with the public.

A vote was taken and Members agreed unanimously to adopt the proposal and agree the recommendations from the Greenfields School (Sunnydale Site) Working Party held on 26th January 2021.

Resolved that the proposal and recommendations from the Greenfields School (Sunnydale Site) Working Party held on 26th January 2021 be agreed.

TC 109/20 Notice of Motion

The following Notice of Motion had been proposed by Councillor L Deakin and seconded by Councillor K Ambrosini.

a. *That Shildon Town Council continues its commitment to the environment and work to reinstating the recycling facilities on the site of the former new Shildon Club (now a carpark) as the current facilities provided by DCC are inadequate for the residents of Shildon.*

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

Resolved that the Notice of Motion be agreed.

Signed
Chairman

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

- b. *That Shildon Town Council write to both our own MP and MP for Sedgfield pledging our support for the re - opening of Ferryhill Station and the Leemside Line and a connection to Shildon for passengers and freight. This would give the people of Shildon better access to jobs and travel across Tyneside and Teesside.*

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

Resolved that the Notice of Motion be agreed.

TC 110/20 Winter Support Fund

The Town Clerk informed Members that three applications for the Winter Support Fund had been received and approved.

Resolved that the report be noted.

TC 111/20 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
No meeting held.
- b. County Durham Association of Local Councils – Virtual Meeting
Councillor P Quinn provided Members with an update.
- c. Jubilee Fields Community Association
No meeting held.
- d. Larger Local Councils Forum
No meeting held.
- e. Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership
No meeting held.
- f. Shildon Chamber of Trade
No meeting held.
- g. Friends of the Stockton and Darlington Railway
Councillor D Reynolds provided Members with an update.

Signed
Chairman

A vote took place regarding the future location of Locomotion No. 1 and it was unanimously agreed that Locomotion No. 1 should be relocated to the National Railway Museum, Shildon.

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

TC 112/20 Announcements

There were no announcements by the Town Mayor.

TC 113/20 Civic Hall Financial Performance

There was no report for the month of January.

TC 114/20 Civic Hall Managers Report

The Civic Hall Manager presented a verbal report to Members and provided an update on the heating system which had now been repaired.

Members were informed that a section of roof at the Civic Hall was in need of repair and investigations ongoing with regards to a claim under the warranty.

Resolved that the verbal report be received and noted.

TC 115/20 Durham County Council : Planning Applications

Resolved that no comment be made on the following application:

- a. Porch to front elevation with single storey extension to rear at 13 Hazeldale Avenue, Shildon, submitted by Michelle McGowan.

TC 116/20 Durham County Council : Planning Decisions

No planning decisions had been received.

TC 117/20 Budgetary Control Statement

The Town Clerk advised that the budgetary control statement for the month of January indicated an underspend of £84k and whilst there would be a number of provisions made at the year-end there was every indication that the projected underspend for the year, as identified during the consideration of the 2021/22 budget, would at the very least be achieved.

Resolved that the report be received.

TC 118/20 Grant Aid

No Grant Aid applications had been received.

Signed
Chairman

TC 119/20 Accounts

It was proposed by Councillor A Walker and seconded by Councillor H M Hanratty that the accounts awaiting payment and accounts paid in advance for the month of January 2021 in the sum of £46,188.18 be approved.

Resolved that the accounts awaiting payment and accounts paid in advance for the month of January 2021 in the sum of £46,188.18 be approved.

TC 120/20 Bank Reconciliations

It was proposed by Councillor A Walker and seconded by Councillor M Johnson that the bank reconciliations as of 31st January 2021 be noted and confirmed.

Resolved that the bank reconciliations as of 31st January 2021 be noted and confirmed.

Signed
Chairman