

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Shildon Town Council held on Monday, 19th April 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 Quinn, J G Huntington, J Graham, K Ambrosini and S
Townsend.

In attendance: Clare Hubbard, Patrick Rice and Stephen McCallan – COVID Awareness
Co-ordinators

Before the meeting commenced a one minute silence was observed in memory of
HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

TC 146/20 Notice of Meeting

The Notice convening the Meeting was taken as read.

TC 147/20 Public Question Time

There were no questions from members of the public.

TC 148/20 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors L Cockfield, R A
Nicholson and A Farlow.

TC 149/20 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

TC 150/20 Minutes

It was proposed by Councillor A Walker and seconded by Councillor L Deakin
that the minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Town Council held on 8th March 2021 be approved.

Resolved that the minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Town Council held on 8th
March 2021 be approved.

It was proposed by Councillor A Walker and seconded by Councillor L Deakin
that the minutes of the Virtual Special Meeting of the Town Council held on 16th March 2021 be
approved.

Resolved that the minutes of the Virtual Special Meeting of the Town Council held
on 16th March 2021 be approved.

TC 151/20 Clare Hubbard, COVID Awareness Co-ordinator

Clare Hubbard gave a presentation to Members on the aims and objectives of the
Covid Response Teams which included Covid Awareness Co-ordinators, Covid Compliance
Teams and Covid Community Champions.

Signed
Chairman

The Covid Response Teams anticipated issues such as vaccination hesitancy, reduced mask wearing, concern about Free Rapid Testing and of the potential increase in cases as restrictions are lifted.

A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

Resolved that thanks be extended to Clare Hubbard, Patrick Rice and Stephen McCallan for joining the meeting and providing an informative presentation.

TC 152/20 VE Day Working Party Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor K Ambrosini and seconded by Councillor D Reynolds that the minutes of the VE Day Working Party Meeting held on 16th March 2021 be approved.

The Town Clerk provided an update and informed Members that the memorial bench had now been installed and that land preparation work had started on the legacy memorial wildflower meadow. Also, the Shout About Shildon Memory Boxes had now been received and the VE Day livestreamed commemoration event plans were in progress.

Resolved that:

- a. the minutes of the VE Day Working Party Meeting held on 16th March 2021 be approved.
- b. the arrangements and recommendations from the VE Day Working Party Meeting held on 16th March 2021 be noted.

TC 153/20 Police Report

The Town Clerk presented details of the crime statistics for the month of March 2021.

A discussion took place regarding off road motor vehicles and anti-social behaviour.

Resolved that:

- a. the Police report be noted.
- b. the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner be invited to attend a future meeting of the Town Council.

TC 154/20 Review of the Effectiveness 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.

Resolved that Allen Sykes be re-engaged to provide the internal audit function for 2021/22.

Signed
Chairman

TC 155/20 Public Footpath No 81 Shildon Parish Diversion Order 2020

Resolved that the notice of confirmation for Public Footpath No 81 Shildon Parish Diversion and Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order 2020 be noted.

TC 156/20 ParkPlay : Hackworth Park, Shildon

The Town Clerk provided information to Members on ParkPlay whose mission was to give everyone the opportunity to experience the life-changing power of play and to encourage more people to be active.

ParkPlay would provide regular, fun, informal opportunities to be active with others and would be similar to Parkrun. From Spring 2021 ParkPlay wanted to start activities within 20 – 25 parks in the UK of which Hackworth Park, Shildon had been chosen with the support of Active Shildon.

Resolved that formal approval be given for ParkPlay to operate within Hackworth Park on a Saturday throughout the year and for the Town Council to support Active Shildon and County Durham Sport to recruit volunteers.

TC 157/20 Regeneration Proposal : Flats on the Jubilee Estate, Shildon

The Town Clerk provided information to Members on a regeneration proposal for flats on the Jubilee Fields Estate, Shildon.

The Management Board of Livin had agreed to commence a consultation exercise regarding the regeneration proposal for the flats on Maple Avenue and Firtree, Jubilee Fields Estate, Shildon. The proposal was to demolish flats in the area outlined and to build 19 modern, spacious and energy efficient bungalows.

Resolved that the report be received.

TC 158/20 Durham County Council – Community Action Team Project

The Town Clerk provided Members with information on the Community Action Team Project which had taken place from 18th January 2021 until 1st April 2021 in Shildon.

Groundwork would continue to work in the area to carry out sustainability work for the next 20 weeks, or equivalent, depending on easing of lockdown restrictions.

Resolved that the report be noted and feedback be provided to the Community Action Team.

TC 159/20 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

No meetings had been held.

Signed
Chairman

TC 160/20 Announcements

The Town Clerk informed Members that following a request from Murphy's Funfairs to use land in the ownership of the Town Council for two weekends in May, members had been informed, via email, of the request resulting in 9 Members voting in favour and 8 Members voting against.

Resolved that the Town Council agree for the event to be held for two weekends in May 2021 subject to Government guidance and COVID-19 restrictions and that Murphy's Funfairs be required to seek approval of the Safety Advisory Group.

TC 161/20 Civic Hall Financial Performance

There was no report for the month of March.

TC 162/20 Civic Hall Managers Report

The Civic Hall Manager presented a verbal report to Members and provided an update on the internal redecoration of the lounge and foyer area. Members were informed that the paint work was now complete and that new carpets had been ordered. Members were also informed that the roof had now been repaired.

The Civic Hall Manager informed Members that the Civic Hall would re-open on 17th May 2021 with COVID secure measures in place.

Resolved that the verbal report be received and noted.

TC 163/20 Durham County Council : Planning Applications

No planning applications had been received.

TC 164/20 Durham County Council : Planning Decisions

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

TC 165/20 Budgetary Control Statement

The Town Clerk advised that the budgetary control statement for the month of March indicated an underspend of £104k. This was a significant due to the reduced level of activity during the year as a result of the pandemic.

Work would commence shortly to prepare the annual accounts for 2020/21 and would involve a number of year end adjustments i.e. accruals etc. which would affect the underspend and, in addition, reserves would be created for certain elements of expenditure that were not incurred during 2020/21 i.e. street entertainment etc.

Once complete the annual accounts would be reported to Members for approval prior to submission for external audit.

Signed
Chairman

The Town Clerk informed Members that the heating boiler at the Civic Hall was beyond repair and recommended that a replacement boiler system be purchased from an earmarked reserve created from the 20/21 budget.

It was proposed by Councillor A Walker and seconded by Councillor M Johnson that the recommendations of the Town Clerk be approved.

Resolved that the report be received.

TC 166/20 Grant Aid

No Grant Aid applications had been received.

TC 167/20 Accounts

Resolved that the accounts awaiting payment and accounts paid in advance for the month of March 2021 in the sum of £61,202.27 be approved.

TC 168/20 Bank Reconciliations

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

The Chair and Town Clerk thanked Councillors A Walker, Councillor J G Huntington and Councillor L Cockfield for their service to the Town Council and wished them well for the future.

Signed
Chairman