

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Shildon Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Hall Square, Shildon, Co Durham on Monday, 13th September 2021.

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

TC 52/21 Notice of Meeting

The Notice convening the Meeting was taken as read.

TC 53/21 Public Question Time

There were no questions from members of the public.

TC 54/21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors M Johnson, D Reynolds and D Bell.

TC 55/21 Declarations of Interest

Councillor A Farlow declared an interest in item 12 – Winter Support Fund and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

TC 56/21 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 12th July 2021 be approved.

TC 57/21 Committee Minutes

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

a) Service & Amenities - 12th July 2021

b) Resources - 12th July 2021

TC 58/21 Police Report

No report had been received for the month of August.

A discussion took place on the rise in anti-social behaviour in Shildon and concern raised regarding the lack of police presence in the area.

Resolved that Chief Constable Jo Farrell, and Neighbourhood Police Inspector Sarah Honeyman be invited to a meeting of the Town Council on 18th October 2021 to discuss the rise of anti-social behaviour in Shildon together with policing levels.

Signed
Chairman

TC 59/21 New Members' Code of Conduct

The Town Clerk provided Members with an amended Code of Conduct to bring it in line with an updated Durham County Council Code of Conduct.

Resolved that the amended Model Code of Conduct retaining relevant elements of the Town Council's current Code of Conduct be approved and adopted.

TC 60/21 Town Councillor Vacancy, Byerley Ward, Shildon

The Town Clerk advised Members of a vacancy in the Byerley Ward of Shildon Town Council and informed Members that Durham County Council did not receive the requisite number of signatories to call an election for the vacancy. Members were advised that the vacancy could now be filled by co-option.

Councillor P Quinn proposed and Councillor S Quinn seconded a nomination for Jeff Miller to be co-opted onto Shildon Town Council.

Resolved that Jeff Miller be co-opted as a Councillor for Byerley Ward, Shildon.

TC 61/21 Code of Conduct Complaint

The Town Clerk advised Members that a Code of Conduct complaint had been made against a Member of the Council and of the outcome of the Code of Conduct investigation by Durham County Council Governance Solicitor which had now been completed. A Decision Notice had been issued advising that local resolution was required in respect of the complaint. A detailed discussion took place on the benefit from receiving Equality and Diversity awareness training and the decision made by the Governance Solicitor.

Resolved that:

- a. the report be noted.
- b. the Town Clerk contact the Governance Solicitor, Durham County Council, seeking information on the requirement for awareness training for Members who already receive Equality and Diversity Awareness training through their employment.
- c. Equality and Diversity Training be offered to Members who wish to pursue additional training.

TC 62/21 Audited Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2021

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

Resolved that the Town Council approves and accepts the audited Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2021.

TC 63/21 Winter Support Fund

Signed
Chairman

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

Resolved that the report be noted.

TC 64/21 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

Councillor S Townsend provided Members with an update.

- b. County Durham Association of Local Councils

Councillor P Quinn informed Members that he had been nominated as Vice Chairman of CDALC.

- c. Jubilee Fields Community Association

No meeting held.

- d. Larger Local Councils Forum

No meeting held.

- e. Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership

Councillor S Townsend provided an update and informed Members that applications were being assessed for support through the COVID recovery fund.

- f. Shildon Chamber of Trade

No meeting held.

- g. Friends of the Stockton and Darlington Railway

Councillor S Townsend provided Members with an update.

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

TC 65/21 Announcements

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

Councillor D Childs informed Members that the Mini Miners Gala on 7th August 2021 was a huge success and thanked everyone at the Town Council who was involved in the event.

Signed
Chairman

Councillor P Quinn thanked the Direct Works Staff for providing support to the Monster Truck Show on 11th and 12th September 2021.

TC 66/21 Greenfields School (Sunnydale Site)

Councillor K Ambrosini provided information to Members regarding Greenfields School (Sunnydale Site). A lengthy discussion took place and concerns were raised about comments made on the future of the school.

The Town Clerk informed Members that a meeting was to be held with the Director of Education and Skills and the Corporate Director for Children and Young Peoples Services on 5th October 2021, to discuss Greenfields School (Sunnydale Site).

Resolved that a Working Party meeting be arranged to discuss Greenfields School (Sunnydale Site) to allow Members to raise any potential questions for the meeting with Durham County Council on 5th October 2021.

Signed
Chairman