

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Shildon Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Hall Square, Shildon, Co Durham on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

Present: Councillor D L Mather in the Chair  
Councillors K Ambrosini, D Reynolds, J Graham, A Farlow, M Johnson, F Langley, D Bell and R A Nicholson.

In attendance: Andrea Patterson-ASB Champion and Vicki Booth-Community Engagement Officer, Durham Police and Crime Commissioner's Office

TC 125/21 Notice of Meeting

The Notice convening the Meeting was taken as read.

TC 126/21 Public Question Time

There were no questions from members of the public.

TC 127/21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors P Quinn, S Quinn, N Hanratty, H M Hanratty, L Deakin, D Childs and S Townsend.

TC 128/21 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

TC 129/21 Minutes

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 be approved.

TC 130/21 Committee Minutes

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

- a) Service & Amenities - 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022
- b) Resources - 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022

TC 131/21 Andrea Patterson & Vicki Booth, Durham Police and Crime Commissioner's Office

Andrea Patterson and Vicki Booth joined the meeting and a discussion took place on various policing issues including anti-social behaviour, 101 response rates, recruitment of additional call handlers, off road motor vehicles and unauthorised encampments.

**Resolved** that thanks be extended to Andrea Patterson and Vicki Booth for joining the meeting.

**Signed**  
**Chairman** .....

TC 132/21 Police Report

No report had been received for the month of January.

TC 133/21 Greenfields School (Sunnydale Site)

Councillor D Reynolds provided a verbal report to Members. A discussion took place on the results of the consultation document and it was determined that a more detailed data breakdown of the consultation document was required in order to provide further clarity on the information given.

**Resolved** that the verbal report be noted.

TC 134/21 Payments for Goods and Services

The Town Clerk provided information to Members on the current payment methods for the supply of goods and services with the default method being payment by cheque.

An increasing number of suppliers were requesting payment by BACS which was cheaper, more secure and more convenient for suppliers.

It was proposed by Councillor D Reynolds and seconded by Councillor M Johnson and

**Resolved** that:

- a. the default method of payment for the supply of goods and services be amended from cheque to BACS.
- b. authorisation be granted to request, in writing and in accordance with the bank mandate, to introduce a BACS facility on the Town Council's current account in the amount of £50,000 per month.

TC 135/21 Durham County Councillor Updates

Councillor M Johnson provided Members with various updates concerning the parish of Shildon.

Members were informed that a competition had been launched inviting areas with a history of the railways to bid for the new headquarters of the Great British Railways. As part of the government's commitment to level-up the UK the new GBR HQ would be based outside of London and bring a number of high-skilled jobs to the winning location.

**Resolved** that:

- a. the Durham County Councillor updates be noted.
- b. a letter be sent to MP Dehenna Davison, Leader of Durham County Council and the CEO of Durham County Council to encourage a submission of interest to be made for Shildon to be the home of the Great British Railways.

**Signed**  
**Chairman** .....

TC 136/21 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

No meeting held.

- b. County Durham Association of Local Councils

No update provided.

- c. Jubilee Fields Community Association

No update provided.

- d. Larger Local Councils Forum

No update provided.

- 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 was unable to attend the meeting. An update would be provided following the next meeting.

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

TC 137/21 Announcements

The Town Clerk informed Members that the Town Council had been approached by the Royal George, Shildon to house a defibrillator within Shildon which was easily accessible to the public. Members were invited to submit suggestions to the next meeting on a suitable location to house the defibrillator within Shildon.

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

TC 138/21 Double Taxation

The Town Clerk provided a verbal report to Members on double taxation. A video conferencing presentation by Jeff Garfoot, Head of Corporate Finance and Commercial Services had taken place where the background and wider implications of the proposed re-appraisal were

**Signed**  
**Chairman** .....

discussed The County Council indicated the only true way to address double taxation was the option of a Special Expenses Scheme. There would need to be an ongoing requirement by all local councils and the County Council to develop and maintain the Special Expenses Scheme which was a significant task and would result in a loss of income for the County Council which would have to be met from elsewhere. It was outlined that all local councils in County Durham would need to be part of the scheme.

The Town Clerk advised that during the presentation some larger parish and town councils in attendance indicated, because of the complexities of double taxation, to not pursue the re-appraisal.

**Resolved** unanimously:

- a) the verbal report of the Town Clerk be noted.
- b) that the Town Council does not pursue the issue of double taxation with Durham County Council.

**Signed**  
**Chairman** .....