

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Shildon Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Hall Square, Shildon, Co Durham on Monday, 16th January 2023.

Present: Councillor H M Hanratty in the Chair
Councillors K Ambrosini, D Reynolds, J Graham, S Quinn, D Childs, A Farlow, S Townsend, D Bell, G Mather, D L Mather, J Miller and P Quinn.

In attendance: S Smith – Middridge Action Group and Cllr P Dicker – Middridge Parish Council

TC 112/22 Notice of Meeting

The Notice convening the Meeting was taken as read.

TC 113/22 Public Question Time

There were no questions from members of the public.

TC 114/22 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors M Johnson, R Nicholson and N Hanratty.

TC 115/22 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

TC 116/22 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 12th December 2022 be approved.

TC 117/22 Committee Minutes

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

- a) Service & Amenities - 12th December 2022
- b) Resources - 12th December 2022
- c) Special Resources - 14th December 2022

TC 118/22 Middridge Parish Council – Planning Application

Mr Smith, Middridge Action Group and Cllr P Dicker, Middridge Parish Council, gave a presentation to Members on a planning application for the reclamation of Middridge Quarry by partial infilling.

A question and answer session followed the presentation.

Signed
Chairman

Members unanimously **resolved** to object to the planning application and provide a corporate response to Durham County Council as follows:-

1. Access to Middridge will be via Shildon and Newton Aycliffe. There will be a noise/dust impact to residents of Shildon caused by the additional high number of HGV movement through the town and residential areas and will adversely affect the road infrastructure over the 2.5 years outlined within the planning application.
2. Middridge Quarry is a site of Special Scientific Interest rich in flora and fauna and has the most diverse Permian flora in Britain. The Quarry has vertebrate faunas and has the potential of further vertebrate discoveries.
3. There will be destruction of hedgerows and loss of native wildlife which is enjoyed by the local community.
4. The health and safety of pedestrians and non motorised vehicles using Walkers Lane will be compromised due to HGV vehicle movement (up to 40 per day) on a single track road and will pose a clear danger to the high number of users of the roadway.
5. Impact on the existing Public Rights of Way enjoyed by the community.
6. It is understood that the County Council has identified, within the Climate Energy Policy, that there is significant landfill capacity within existing sites in County Durham which negates the necessity for partial infill with inert construction and demolition waste at Middridge Quarry.

TC 119/22 Police Report

The Town Clerk presented details of the crime statistics for the month of December 2022.

Resolved that:

- a. the report be received.
- b. Shildon Neighbourhood Police Sergeant be approached to request that the solved rate for recorded crime be included in the police report for the information of members.

TC 120/22 Budget and Precept Requirement 2023/24

The Town Clerk submitted the budget and precept requirement report seeking approval for the setting of the Council's 2023/24 precept.

Resolved that:

- a) the 2023/24 council precept requirement of £753,070 be approved.

Signed
Chairman

- b) the Town Mayor and Town Clerk be duly authorised to sign the relevant precept request form.

TC 121/22 Royal Garden Party

The Town Clerk informed Members that the County Durham Association of Local Councils was still awaiting information relating to the allocation of two tickets for the Royal Garden Party in 2023. In order to be prepared, CDALC had asked for nominations.

Previously the Town Council had nominated the outgoing Town Mayor to be the nominee.

Resolved that the Town Mayor, Councillor H M Hanratty be entered into the draw for a place at the Royal Garden Party 2023.

TC 122/22 Durham County Councillor Updates

Councillor S Townsend provided Members with various updates concerning the parish of Shildon and provided information from the Boundary Commission meeting on proposed new boundary changes. The next Cabinet Meeting was to be held on 18th January 2023.

Resolved that the verbal report be noted.

TC 123/22 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 informed Members that the next meeting was to be held on 18th January 2023.

- b. County Durham Association of Local Councils

Councillor P Quinn provided an update to Members from the CDALC Executive Committee meeting.

- c. Jubilee Fields Community Association

Councillor S Quinn provided an update and informed Members of programs and services that the Community Centre offers.

- d. Larger Local Councils Forum

No meeting held.

- e. Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership

No meeting held.

- f. Shildon Town Team

Signed
Chairman

Councillor D L Mather informed Members that the next meeting was to be held on 20th January 2023.

- g. Friends of the Stockton and Darlington Railway

Councillor D Reynolds provided an update to Members from the Brusselton Incline Group.

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

TC 124/22

Announcements

The Chair welcomed Councillor G Mather to the meeting.

Resolved that:

- a. the schedule of mayoral engagements and announcements by the Town Mayor and Town Clerk be received.
- b. the rescheduled February Town Council Meeting on Monday, 20th February 2023 be noted.

Signed
Chairman