

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Shildon Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Hall Square, Shildon, Co Durham on Monday, 13 March 2023.

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

In attendance: Paula Nelson, Shildon Alive

TC 139/22 Notice of Meeting

The Notice convening the Meeting was taken as read.

TC 140/22 Public Question Time

There were no questions from members of the public.

TC 141/22 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors S Quinn, N Hanratty and S Townsend.

TC 142/22 Declarations of Interest

Councillor A Farlow declared an interest in item 9 – Shildon Alive and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

TC 143/22 Members' Dispensations

No written requests for dispensations had been received.

TC 144/22 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 20th February 2023 be approved.

TC 145/22 Committee Minutes

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

- a) Service & Amenities - 20th February 2023
- b) Resources - 20th February 2023

TC 146/22 Exclusion of Press and Public

That in accordance with the provisions of Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council now excludes the press and public on the grounds of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted since publicity would be prejudicial to the public.

Signed
Chairman

TC 147/22 Shildon Alive

This item was deferred from the February meeting. Paula Nelson, Shildon Alive was in attendance to provide further information and answer any questions from Members.

Members considered the letter from Shildon Alive requesting a grant to support the purchase of land. Members unanimously agreed to award the grant and it was

Resolved that:

- a. £12,109 be donated from the former Edward Metcalfe Charity Fund.
- b. the funding allocated by the Town Council be returned if the purchase of land did not proceed.
- c. the Town Council be recognised on any publicity and naming of rooms within the building.

TC 148/22 Police Report

No police report had been received.

TC 149/22 Allotment Tenancy Agreement

The Town Clerk provided Members with a draft Allotment Tenancy Agreement. Members were advised that the allotment consultation process had ended on 3rd March 2023 and that no material comments had been received on the proposed changes.

Councillor P Quinn proposed and Councillor D Reynolds seconded that the revised Allotment Tenancy Agreement be approved and adopted.

Resolved that:

- a. the proposed revised allotment tenancy agreement be agreed.
- b. the tenancy agreement be distributed immediately to include information on the rent increase to £10 from April 2024.
- c. new tenancy agreements be signed and returned by current allotment tenants as soon as possible and existing tenants be given 6 months to comply with the terms of the revised agreement.

TC 150/22 Corporate Risk Report and Action Plan

The Town Clerk reported on the revised corporate risk report and updated action plan.

Resolved that the Corporate Risk Report and Action Plan for 2023/24 be approved.

Signed
Chairman

TC 151/22 Armed Forces Covenant Silver Award

The Direct Works Manager presented to Members a draft Armed Forces Covenant Silver Award nomination document.

Members unanimously agreed to support the Employer Recognition Scheme Silver Award nomination.

Resolved that the Town Council submit a nomination to be considered for an Employer Recognition Scheme Silver Award.

TC 152/22 Durham County Councillor Updates

Councillor M Johnson provided Members with various updates concerning the parish of Shildon and provided an update on issues arising from the Meeting of Durham County Council held on 22nd February 2023.

Resolved that the verbal report be noted.

TC 153/22 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

The Town Clerk provided an update from the meeting held on 8th March 2023 and informed Members that a funder had visited the youth session on 7th March. Members were informed that the current venue was not large enough for the size of group attending the sessions and that alternative venues had been approached.

b. County Durham Association of Local Councils

Councillor P Quinn provided an update to Members.

c. Jubilee Fields Community Association

No update provided.

d. Larger Local Councils Forum

Councillor P Quinn provided an update and informed Members that Civility and Respect training had taken place on 9th March 2023.

e. Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership

No meeting held.

f. Shildon Town Team

Signed
Chairman

The Town Clerk provided an update from the meeting held on 17th February 2023 and informed Members that a monthly Hero Award had been introduced. The next meeting was to be held on 24th March 2023.

g. Friends of the Stockton and Darlington Railway

Councillor D Reynolds provided an update from the meeting held on 2nd March 2023. Members were informed that a working replica of Locomotion No. 1 was to run along the Weardale Railway over a three day period. Stockton on Tees Borough Council had appointed a Bicentenary Festival Director.

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

TC 154/22 Announcements

The Town Clerk informed Members that a letter had been received from Churches Together in Shildon for a request to hold the 2024 Civic Carol Service on a Sunday evening.

Members considered the letter and it was agreed to review the date nearer the time.

Resolved that:

- a. the schedule of mayoral engagements and announcements by the Town Mayor and Town Clerk be received.
- b. the letter received from Churches Together in Shildon be reviewed at a later date.

Signed
Chairman