

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Shildon Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Hall Square, Shildon, Co Durham on Monday, 14th March 2016.

Present: Councillor P A Pemberton in the Chair
Councillors A Walker, B Bates, H Nicholson, L Cockfield,
P Quinn, S Quinn, J G Huntington, L Iddon, B Stoker,
J Gash and M Stott

TC 119/15 Notice of Meeting

The Notice convening the Meeting was taken as read.

TC 120/15 Public Question Time

There were no questions from members of the public.

TC 121/15 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Bird, D Gordon and J Miller.

Resolved that a further dispensation be granted to Councillor David Gordon due to compassionate leave, effective for a period of six months from the date of this meeting.

TC 122/15 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

TC 123/15 Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 8th February 2016 be approved.

TC 124/15 Committees

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

- a) Service & Amenities - 8th February 2016
- b) Resources - 8th February 2016

TC 125/15 Resignation of Town Mayor

The Town Clerk informed Members that following the resignation of Councillor Matthew Burdess as a Member of Shildon Town Council, a Notice of Vacancy (Byerley Ward) had been published with effect from 29th February, 2016.

Resolved that:

- a. the report be received.

Signed
Chairman.....

- b. a letter be sent to Matthew Burdess thanking him for his dedication and service as a Town Councillor and Town Mayor.

TC 126/15 Appointment of Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor

The Town Clerk requested Members to appoint a Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor to serve Shildon Town Council until the Annual General Meeting in May 2016.

Resolved that:

- a. the report be received.
- b. Councillor P A Pemberton be appointed Town Mayor for the remainder of the municipal year.
- c. Councillor S Quinn be appointed Deputy Town Mayor for the remainder of the municipal year.

TC 127/15 Police Report

APS D Littlefair presented details of the crime statistics for the month of February 2016. A copy of the report is attached to these Minutes.

Thanks were extended to APS D Littlefair following the execution of a search warrant by Shildon Police who subsequently uncovered over 100 cannabis plants.

The Town Clerk informed Members that Ron Hogg, Police and Crime Commissioner for Durham, had been invited to attend a future meeting to discuss policing levels in the Shildon area.

A letter from Michael Barton, Chief Constable for Durham Constabulary, was presented to Members providing information on Durham Constabulary's grading as the best police force in the country by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary.

Resolved that:

- a. the report be received.
- b. a letter be sent to the Chief Constable congratulating everyone who serves and works for Durham Constabulary.

TC 128/15 Shildon Community Street Audit Report

The Town Clerk provided information to Members on the work carried out by Living Streets on a Community Street Audit to identify potential improvements to the walking environment between Shildon Town Centre and the Station and Locomotion.

Resolved that the report be received.

Signed
Chairman.....

TC 129/15 External Audit for Smaller Authorities

The Town Clerk informed Members that Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd (SAAA) will take over the appointment of external auditors and the setting of audit fees for smaller authorities from 2017. The company will appoint an external audit for the Town Council automatically for a five year period from the financial year 2017/18 unless the Council opts out.

Resolved that:

- a) the report be received.
- b) the Town Council does not opt out of the new arrangements.

TC 130/15 Appreciations and Congratulations

Resolved that:

- a. the schedule of mayoral engagements be received.
- b. the letter of appreciation from Mrs H Lazenby, regarding the new cemetery road, be noted, and thanks be extended to the Direct Work Force for their assistance.

Signed
Chairman.....