

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Shildon Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Hall Square, Shildon, Co Durham on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

Present: Councillor H Nicholson in the Chair  
Councillors A Walker, M P Burdess, P Quinn, S Quinn,  
P A Pemberton, G Huntington, D M Hancock, M Stott,  
L Iddon and D Gordon

TC 128/14 Public Question Time

The following question submitted in advance by Mrs S Horner was put to the meeting by the Town Mayor in her absence:-

*I have contacted my local representative Ms Pemberton and she advised me to write to the Town Council and ask for this letter to be read out at the next Town Council meeting as I am unable to attend as I am on holiday, I have also e-mailed the letter to other people, who I believe will be at the meeting.*

*To Elected representatives*

*The Town Council has received and considered an application from Shildon Health Express to lease the Rest House for a 25 year period and it HAS BEEN AGREED, in principle, to enter into such a lease subject to the outcome of the full feasibility study to be undertaken by Health Express.*

*The Rest House, originally opened in 1926 and was erected with monies provided by local Miners who put away a weekly amount for the benefit of the local community.*

*In 2001 Hackworth Park restoration took place with the aid of a £352,800 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. A plaque was placed outside the rest house to commemorate this refurbishment and it reads "Originally opened in 1926 to provide a social, community and educational base for local people, the Rest House has been fully restored for the same purpose.*

*The Heritage Lottery Fund provided grants in order to restore historical parks and recreation areas to their former splendour and provide local people with an insight into its history, indeed the Heritage Lottery stated that "money from the National Lottery is helping to support groups and organisations to rejuvenate historical parks and gardens making sure that their history is understood and explained and that the local community HAS A SAY IN THEIR FUTURE.*

*Could I please ask when the local community was consulted over this issue? I was certainly not approached by my local representative.*

*The Health Express will, no doubt, benefit some of the local community, but not the majority. It has been stated that the Health Express, if they do eventually take a lease on the building, MAY allow other groups to use the premises, but it would be their decision.*

*What about groups who use and have used this building over the last 14 years? What becomes of them, are they not part of the local community who should have a say in the future of the building?*

*I believe that the Town Council, who are elected by US the local people, should not act and make decisions regarding COMMUNITY buildings without consultation.*

*A response would be appreciated so that the next option can be considered.*

*Mrs Susan Horner*

Following which the Town Mayor responded as follows on behalf of the Town Council:

*The Town Council received an application from Shildon Health Express to lease the Rest House for a 25 year period. To enable the consideration of the proposal a full presentation was made to the Town Council by Shildon Health Express and the difference it would make to the health and wellbeing of the community of Shildon.*

*To clarify, the overall aim of Shildon Health Express is to help residents of Shildon to live longer, be healthier and lead happier, more fulfilled lives.*

*The objectives of Health Express are to:*

- increase the knowledge and awareness of health issues in the community*
- promote and facilitate the community to build networks, relationships and friendships*
- promote mental well-being and develop resilience*
- support people back into education, training and employment*
- help people access health services, support positive behaviour changes*
- focus on helping people to manage their long term conditions*

*Consequently the Town Council resolved that the proposal from Health Express be approved in principle subject to the outcome of the independent feasibility study and on condition that:-*

- a. the lessee be Health Express Limited*
- b. the terms of the disposal satisfy the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 General Disposal Consent 2003*
- c. the Town Council be reimbursed for any legal and/or valuation costs incurred to satisfy **b** above*
- d. the existing CCTV equipment remain within the Rest House*
- e. the public toilet provision be retained*
- f. if required, suitable alternative accommodation be provided for the current regular users of the Rest House*

*These terms were agreed by Shildon Health Express with the proviso that the public toilet provision can be retained but Shildon Health Express does not want to be responsible for its upkeep*

*Shildon Health Express is agreeable to support any existing groups that are actively contributing to the aims and objectives of Health Express but cannot accept responsibility to find alternative accommodation for any other groups.*

*It can be noted, therefore, that the interests of the limited regular users of the Rest House were taken into account. The Town Council resolved that the lease of the Rest House to Shildon Health Express, to improve the health and wellbeing of the community taking into account the significant health issues that need to be addressed in Shildon, would be beneficial to the wider community of Shildon.*

*In response to the second question:*

*Shildon Health Express has undertaken that they are willing to support existing local community and voluntary groups who are actively contributing to the aims and objectives of Health Express.*

*This is, of course, a matter for consideration between the relevant local community and voluntary groups and Shildon Health Express.*

*A written copy of the above response will be provided to Mrs S Horner due to her absence at the meeting.*

TC 129/14     Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Bird, B Stoker, M Gordon and J Miller.

TC 130/14     Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

TC 131/14     Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015 be approved.

TC 132/14     Committees

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

- a) Service & Amenities         -         9<sup>th</sup> March 2015
- b) Resources                     -         9<sup>th</sup> March 2015

TC 133/14     Police Report

In the absence of a police representative the Chair provided an update on local issues for the information of Members. A copy of the report for March is attached to these Minutes.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

TC 134/14     Report from Representatives on Outside Bodies

- a.         Minutes of the meeting of Shildon Children and Young People's Action Network held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015 – **resolved** that the minutes be received.

TC 135/14     Shildon Town Square - Consultation

The Town Clerk informed Members of a draft consultation carried out by Durham County Council on the current and potential use of the Town Square. Attached to the report were the draft consultation responses for Members information.

**Recommended** that a timeline for improvements to the Town Square be sought from Durham County Council with a report back to Members in due course.

TC 136/14 Corporate Risk Report and Action Plan

**Resolved** that the Corporate Risk Report and Action Plan for 2015/16 be approved.

TC 137/14 Review of the Effectiveness of Internal Audit

**Resolved** that the effectiveness of the internal audit service be confirmed and Allen Sykes, Chartered Accountants, be re-appointed for 2015/16.

TC 138/14 The Power of Culture, Tourism and Sport to Transform Places and Renew Democracy Conference

Councillor P A Pemberton gave a presentation on promoting tourism and jobs within the area along with details of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Stockton and Darlington Railway.

**Resolved** that the presentation be welcomed and thanks be extended to Councillor Pemberton.

TC 139/14 Appreciations and Congratulations

Councillor G Huntington requested that a letter of congratulations be sent to Shildon AFC for their success in the Northern League.

**Resolved** that the schedule of mayoral engagements be noted.