

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Shildon Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Hall Square, Shildon, Co Durham on Monday, 10th April 2017.

Present: Councillor S Quinn in the Chair
Councillors A Walker, H Nicholson, J G Huntington, L Cockfield, L Iddon, B Bates, L Deakin, P A Pemberton, J Miller and P Quinn.

In attendance: Lee Brownson and Chris Walkinshaw, Auckland Castle Trust

TC 137/16 Notice of Meeting

The Notice convening the Meeting was taken as read.

TC 138/16 Resignation from the position of Town Mayor and Appointment of new Town Mayor

The Town Clerk notified Members of the formal resignation by Councillor P A Pemberton from her role as Town Mayor with effect from 20th March 2017 and of the appointment of a new Town Mayor for the remainder of the municipal year.

Resolved that:

- a. the resignation of Councillor P A Pemberton from her role as Town Mayor be accepted.
- b. that Councillor S Quinn be appointed Town Mayor until the Annual Meeting of the Town Council in May 2017.

The newly appointed Mayor made and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Members paid tribute to Councillor P A Pemberton for her dedication and commitment to the role as Town Mayor of Shildon Town Council.

TC 139/16 Public Question Time

There were no questions from members of the public.

TC 140/16 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D Gordon and B Stoker.

TC 14116 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

TC 142/16 Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting

Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 13th March 2017 be approved.

Signed
Chairman.....

TC 143/16 Committees

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

- a) Service & Amenities - 13th March 2017
- b) Resources - 13th March 2017

TC 144/16 Police Report

An apology had been received from Acting Sgt Matt Plumb who was unable to attend the meeting. The Town Clerk advised Members that the crime statistics for the month of March would be distributed as soon as they were made available by the Police.

Resolved that the verbal report of the Town Clerk be received.

TC 145/16 Presentation by Lee Brownson, Senior Visitor Services Officer on the future plans for Auckland Castle and the surrounding area.

Lee Brownson and Chris Walkinshaw, Auckland Castle Trust, gave a presentation to Members on the future plans for Auckland Castle and the surrounding area, to transform Auckland Castle into a faith, art and heritage destination, creating jobs, training and new opportunities for Bishop Auckland and the wider area.

Resolved that thanks be extended to Lee Brownson and Chris Walkinshaw for attending the meeting and providing an informative presentation.

TC 146/16 Review of the Effectiveness of Internal Audit

The Town Clerk provided Members with details of the internal audit function provided for the Town Council by Allen Sykes, Chartered Accountants. The review of internal audit had been undertaken and as a result of the review it is considered that the internal audit service is effective. A copy of the completed review checklist was provided to Members.

Resolved that Allen Sykes be re-engaged to provide the internal audit function for 2017/18.

TC 147/16 Durham County Council : Public Consultation on implementation of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Dog Control

The Town Clerk updated Members on a public consultation carried out by Durham County Council on the implementation of a countywide Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for dog control, and to consider including fenced off play areas under the control of the Town Council within the Order.

Resolved that:

- a. the Town Council include the Natural Play Area within the Public Space Protection Order.
- b. the Town Council seek to fence and gate the larger play area to conform to the criteria set out by Durham County Council at a cost not exceeding £3,500 and

Signed
Chairman.....

for this area to be included within the Public Space Protection Order. The cost of gates and fencing to be financed from the Play Equipment Earmarked Reserve.

- c. two employees of the Direct Works Section be trained to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for the breach of the Dog Control PSPO on land in the ownership of the Town Council. These employees will be 'authorised' to cover land to which the public have access.
- d. conflict training be offered to the two employees as part of the Town Council's training programme.

TC 148/16 Final Determination on Proposal to Remove Street Lights

The Town Clerk advised Members of the final determination by Durham County Council on the proposal to remove street lights. The consultation had been concluded and all feedback received during the consultation and road safety risk assessments had been reviewed. Durham County Council has concluded that in accordance with the current Street Lighting Policy it would be safe to remove the street lights presented within the package. The Town Council expressed their disappointment at the decision taken by Durham County Council.

Durham County Council had provided costings and options associated with a Service Level Agreement to retain the street lighting columns at the Town Council's expense and these were presented to Members.

Resolved that:-

- a. the report be received.
- b. the determination by Durham County Council that it is safe to remove the street lights contained within the package be noted.
- c. the Town Council decline to enter into a Service Level Agreement to retain the street lighting columns at a cost of £60,826 (cost subject to annual inflation) over a 10 year period at the expense of the Town Council.

TC 149/16 Appreciations and Congratulations

Resolved that:

- a. the schedule of mayoral engagements be received.
- b. the letter of appreciation from David Snowball, Shildon Horticultural Show Committee, be received.

Signed
Chairman.....