

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Shildon Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Hall Square, Shildon, Co Durham on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

Present: Councillor P Quinn in the Chair  
Councillors A Walker, J Graham, J G Huntington, L Cockfield, D Reynolds, S Townsend, R A Anderson, L Deakin, D L Mather and H M Hanratty.

In attendance: Councillor R Yorke and Councillor B Stephens, Health Express

TC 52/19 Notice of Meeting

The Notice convening the Meeting was taken as read.

TC 53/19 Public Question Time

There were no questions from members of the public.

TC 54/19 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors S Quinn, A Farlow, K Ambrosini and D Childs.

TC 55/19 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

TC 56/19 Minutes

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019 be approved.

TC 57/19 Committees

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

a) Service & Amenities - 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019

b) Resources - 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019

TC 58/19 Police Report

In the absence of a police representative the Town Clerk presented details of the crime statistics for the month of August 2019.

A copy of the crime statistics report is attached to these Minutes.

**Resolved** that the report be received.

**Signed**  
**Chairman** .....

TC 59/19      Health Express

Councillor R Yorke gave a presentation to Members about Health Express whose aim was to help people live longer, be healthier and lead happier, more fulfilled lives.

Cllr Yorke provided an overview of the achievements and future plans of Health Express and, in particular, renovation works to the toilet provision within the Rest House, continued engagement with health professionals and pamper sessions for older people

A question and answer session followed the presentation which included a discussion about the delivery of mental health provision in Shildon.

A copy of the presentation is attached to these Minutes.

**Resolved** that thanks be extended to Councillor R Yorke and Councillor B Stephens for attending the meeting and providing an informative presentation.

TC 60/19      Durham County Council : Long Term Empty Property Tax Premium Consultation

The Town Clerk submitted a report to Members on the Long-Term Empty Property Tax Premium Consultation. Members were informed that Durham County Council were reviewing their policy relating to council tax charges for empty properties which would see the premium charge increased for long term empty properties.

**Resolved** that the following responses to the consultation be submitted:

- a. the empty property premium be increased.
- b. empty property for over 2 years be charged 75% premium.
- c. empty property that has been unoccupied for 5 years or more be charged 200% premium.
- d. Premiums would not apply to properties undergoing major repairs.

TC 61/19      Audited Annual Return for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019

The Town Clerk informed Members that the external auditor had issued an unqualified opinion on the accounts and had not raised any issues arising from the audit.

**Resolved** that the Town Council approves and accepts the audited Annual Return for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

TC 62/19      Outside Bodies

Reports were received from representatives on the following outside bodies: -

- a. Shildon Children and Young People's Action Network
- b. County Durham Association of Local Councils

**Signed**  
**Chairman** .....

- c. Jubilee Fields Community Association
- d. Larger Local Councils Forum
- e. Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership
- f. Shildon Chamber of Trade
- g. Friends of the Stockton and Darlington Railway

**Resolved** that no reports on outside bodies had been received.

TC 63/19      Appreciations and Congratulations

**Resolved** that the schedule of mayoral engagements and announcements by the Town Mayor be received.

TC 64/19      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.

TC 65/19      Direct Works Section

Members considered the report of the Town Clerk on early retirement and employment contracts.

**Resolved** that the recommendations outlined in the report be approved.

**Signed**  
**Chairman** .....