

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Shildon Town Council held in the Shildon Civic Hall, Civic Hall Square, Shildon, Co Durham on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

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

TC 25/20 Notice of Meeting

The Notice convening the Meeting was taken as read.

TC 26/20 Public Question Time

There were no questions from members of the public.

TC 27/20 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors D Childs, N Hanratty and M Johnson.

TC 28/20 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

TC 29/20 Minutes

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Town Council held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020 be approved.

TC 30/20 Committees

No committee meetings had been held.

TC 31/20 Police Report

The Town Clerk presented details of the crime statistics for the month of August 2020.

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

TC 32/20 Code of Conduct Complaint

The Town Clerk advised Members that the Monitoring Officer, Durham County Council had received Code of Conduct complaints against a Member of the Council.

Members were informed that no decision notice had yet been received.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

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

TC 33/20 Bereavement Leave Policy

The Town Clerk presented to Members an amended Bereavement Leave Policy.

Members were informed that Parental Bereavement Leave and Pay Regulations 2020 came into force from 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020 and the new Regulations had been included within the Bereavement Leave Policy.

**Resolved** that the draft Bereavement Leave Policy be approved and adopted.

TC 34/20 Carnival and Monster Trucks Event, Hackworth Park, Shildon: Re-Scheduling

The Town Clerk informed Members of a request to change the date for a Carnival and Monster Truck Event to be held on Town Council land at Hackworth Park, Shildon as the event had been cancelled for 2020 due to the current Covid-19 pandemic.

Carnival Funfairs had requested the use of Hackworth Park, Shildon to host the main event on Saturday and Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and a funfair for 2 hours on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021 from 6-8pm.

A further request had been received from the Promotor to provide bar facilities during the event which would be accommodated within an enclosed seating area.

Following a discussion on allowing bar facilities at the event, it was put to the vote with 3 Members voting in favour, 8 Members voting against and 2 Members abstaining.

**Resolved** that:

- a. the Town Council agree, in principle, subject to Government guidance and COVID-19 restrictions for the event to be held during July/August/September 2021 due to potential adverse ground conditions in March.
- b. Carnival Funfairs be required to seek approval of the County Durham Safety Advisory Group for the event and provide the Town Council with evidence.
- c. all relevant documentation including event insurance, risk assessments and event management plans be submitted to the Town Council.
- d. Carnival Funfairs be responsible for any major groundwork repair should the football pitch be damaged.
- e. responsibility for the removal of rubbish from the site be the sole responsibility of Carnival Funfairs.
- f. the Town Council refuse the provision of bar facilities.
- g. a ground rent of £200 plus VAT be charged for the use of the land.

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

TC 35/20      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  
No meeting held.
- b. County Durham Association of Local Councils (Virtual Meeting)  
Councillor P Quinn gave an update.
- c. Jubilee Fields Community Association  
No meeting held.
- d. Larger Local Councils Forum  
No meeting held.
- e. Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership (Virtual Meeting)  
Councillor S Quinn gave an update.
- f. Shildon Chamber of Trade  
No meeting held.
- g. Friends of the Stockton and Darlington Railway  
No meeting held.

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

TC 36/20      Announcements

There were no announcements by the Town Mayor.

TC 37/20      Notice of Motion

The following Notice of Motion had been proposed by Councillor J G. Huntington and seconded by Councillor L Cockfield.

*This Council applauds the close working relationship between Durham County Council and Town and Parish Councils across County Durham.*

*In recognising this relationship this Council also notes that not all of County Durham is Parished.*

*Residents in the Shildon Town Council area pay council tax to Durham County Council for services in unparished areas which they also pay to this Council. This situation is often referred to as Double Taxation.*

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

*This situation goes against the principles of natural justice and fair taxation.*

*This Council therefore calls on Durham County Council to bring forward a report with a view to identifying the services and their associated total costs that residents would receive from the County Council if the area were unparished. While also exploring all solutions to the imbalance tax payers of parished and unparished areas face, along with details of any financial implications.*

The following amended Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor A Walker and seconded by Councillor S Townsend.

*That the Town Council requests the County Durham Association of Local Councils to raise the issue of double taxation with Durham County Council with a view to seeking a long term sustainable solution to the problem of double taxation which affects a large number of town and parish councils in County Durham.*

A vote took place on the amended Notice of Motion.

**Resolved** that the amended Notice of Motion be carried.

TC 38/20      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 39/20      The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) Accessibility Regulations 2018

The Town Clerk provided an update to Members on the current position of the Town Council website with regard to the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) Accessibility Regulations 2018 which required public sector bodies to ensure reasonable adjustments were made to websites so they were accessible to people with various disabilities. From 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 local council websites would have to comply with the regulations.

A draft website accessibility statement was provided to Members which demonstrated what action would need to be taken to provide a compliant website. To bring the current website up to the accessibility standard would not be cost effective.

The Town Clerk requested Members to consider a service level agreement be entered into with Durham County Council to provide a compliant responsive website and website support.

It was put to the vote and **unanimously resolved** that a Service Level Agreement be entered into with Durham County Council at a cost of £614.00 per annum.

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