

**BILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**TUESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024 AT 7PM**  
**HELD IN THE FUNCTION ROOM, BILLINGHAM FORUM**

**Present:** Councillors      Gamble (Chairman)  
                                 Atkinson  
                                 Bendelow  
                                 Besford  
                                 Forrest  
                                 Gilbert  
                                 Hedley  
                                 Lacey  
                                 McCall  
                                 Snead  
                                 Stoker  
                                 McCoy  
                                 Leckonby

**Apologies:**                      Councillor Scollen (Illness)  
                                 Councillor Shotton (No apologies received)

**Officials:**                      Miss Dee Smith - Town Clerk/RFO  
                                 Mrs Kate Minza – Administration Officer

Stockton on Tees Borough Council (SBC) Councillors Marcus Vickers, Katie Weston and Paul Weston, and 7 members of the public were also present.

**208/23                      CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman welcomed everyone present and announced the following:

- Housekeeping.

**209/23                      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr McCall – Agenda Item 9 - Percuniary: Recipient of Sunday Lunch Service

*W A H - 12-50*  
*10.524*

210/23

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 23<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY 2024**

Members were asked to approve the draft minutes from the Full Council meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 as a true and accurate record.

**RESOLVED**

That the above minutes, a copy which has previously been circulated to each member, be approved, and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

211/23

**STOCKON BOROUGH COUNCIL (SBC) WARD COUNCILLOR UPDATES**

The following updates were given:

Billingham North

- Regular casework, walkabouts with PCSO's;
- Boulders to be installed around Billingham Beck to stop off road bikes;
- Still would like CCTV at High Grange Park, may have an update for the next meeting;
- Camera has been put up at High Grange shops.

Billingham East

- Dealing with parking, grass verges, trees, potholes issues;
- Quad bikes are out again;
- Ongoing patrols taking place;
- Speed bumps have been installed on Neasham Avenue;
- Bread and Butter project is ongoing;
- New roads on Windlestone Road and Tunstall Avenue.

Billingham Central

- Working on dropped kerbs in the ward;
- An area of grass on Brendon Crescent being churned up due to cars parked in the area and limited access for the bin wagon, may get concreted;
- Attending Kennedy Gardens Resident meetings;
- Regular contact with police.

### Billingham South

- New bus routes via Stagecoach through Port Clarence;
- The GP service in Port Clarence is stopping. A meeting is taking place as to why and to look at restarting the service;
- Slashing of tyres on Stokesley Crescent, parking on pavements. Police have done some work and no one has been caught;
- Anti social behaviour in the ward seems to be low at this time;
- Monthly surgeries are continuing;
- Attending a meeting re: the possible closure of St Cuthbert's Church.

### Billingham West

- Planning application for 74 houses off A19 slip road behind the services ;
- Ward surgeries will take place at the Kings Arms Public House.

### **RESOLVED**

Information duly noted.

### **212/23 PORT CLARENCE - CCTV**

Members were asked to approve a spend of £2900 towards one year monitoring costs of CCTV at Port Clarence, installed by Thirteen.

### **RESOLVED**

To approve a spend of £2900 from General Reserves.

### **213/23 REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Updates were given from representatives on outside bodies:

ORGANISATION	UPDATE
Cleveland Local Council Association – Cllr Gamble & Town Clerk	No update
Billingham Environmental Link Programme – Cllr Scollen	No update.
Low Grange & Cowpen Residents Association – Cllr Bendelow	No meeting
Billingham Legacy Foundation – Cllr McCall	No update.
Billingham Community Partnership	The Town Clerk advised that a meeting took place and the notes from the meeting will be circulated



	to all members.
Billingham International Festival of World Dance – Cllr Snead	No meeting
Catalyst Health & Wellbeing Committee – Cllr Shotton	No update
Port Clarence in Bloom – Town Clerk	No meeting
Clarences Community Partnership – Town Clerk	No update
Stockton Volunteers – Town Council Officer	No meeting
Stockton Housing, Neighbourhoods & Affordable Warmth Partnership – Cllr Bendelow	Cllr Bendelow advised that the group is on hold at this time
The Voice Forum – Cllr McCall	No update
Catalyst Funders Forum – Town Clerk	No meeting.
CCIN – Cllr Gamble	The policy prototypes were approved about to publish case studies. Cllr Gamble to submit an article on food poverty.

## **RESOLVED**

Information duly noted.

**214/23**

## **DRAFT POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

Members were asked to consider and approve the following policies and procedures reviewed by the Finance & General Purposes committee (with amendments):

- Standing Orders;
- Financial Regulations;
- Financial Risk Assessment;
- Internal Audit Policy;
- Review of Effectiveness of Internal Audit;
- Display Screen Equipment Policy.

## **RESOLVED**

To approve the following:

- a. Standing Orders
- b. Financial Regulations;
- c. Internal Audit Policy;
- d. Financial Risk Assessment;
- e. Review of Effectiveness of Internal Audit;
- f. Display Screen Equipment Policy.

**215/23**

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

- (i) Members were asked to consider the following recommendation from the Services & Engagement Committee (deferred from the January 2024 Full Council Meeting):

*To cease the Sunday Lunch Delivery Service and replace with a community lunch sit-in service on a monthly basis.*

**RESOLVED**

Cllr Bendelow gave an update from the Services & Engagement committee and amended the proposal to 'Cease the Sunday Lunch Delivery Service'.

A lengthy discussion took place about the service running its course however, concerns were raised about leaving vulnerable residents without a hot meal.

A vote was then taken.

**RESOLVED**

That the Sunday Lunch Service will be stopped. This will be delegated to the Town Clerk and Business Support Manager, in consultation with Cllr Gamble, and an exit plan will be agreed and implemented.

**Vote: 7 For, 5 against, 1 abstention**

*Cllr McCall declared a pecuniary interest in this matter.*

**216/23**

**DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Full Council (Annual Meeting) takes place on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7pm. Venue to be confirmed.

The Annual Assembly of Billingham takes place on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 6pm. Venue to be confirmed.

**RESOLVED**

Information duly noted.

**217/23**

**EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC**

Members are asked to pass the following resolution:

"That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the disclosure of the following item on the agenda as it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of schedule 12A in the 1972 Act as indicated below"

Business Contract – A confidential report was tabled at the meeting.

**RESOLVED**

- a. The above resolution was passed.
- b. The Town Council agrees in principle to enter into a management agreement with Low Grange Community Association for 2 years, subject to the existing Stockton on Tees Borough Council lease and zero cost to Billingham Town Council. Authority is delegated to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman of the Council and committees to progress the management agreement. A copy of the agreement to be sighted by all members before signing.

The meeting concluded at 8.10pm with Cllrs Atkinson, Bendelow, Besford, Forrest, Gamble, Gilbert, Hedley, Lacey, Leckonby, McCall, McCoy, Snead and Stoker present.