

BILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

**WEDNESDAY 15TH MAY 2024 AT 7.00PM
HELD IN THE FUNCTION ROOM, BILLINGHAM FORUM**

Present: Councillors Atkinson
Bendelow
Leckonby
McCoy
Lacey
Scollen
Snead
Stoker
McCall
Besford
Gamble
Shotton
Gilburt
Forrest

Apologies: Cllr G Hedley (personal)

Officials: Miss Dee Smith, Town Clerk/RFO

Stockton Borough Council (SBC) Councillor Marcus Vickers and 16 members of the public were also present.

01/24 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR 2024/25

Proposals for Chairman for the forthcoming year were invited.

Councillor Atkinson was proposed by Councillor Bendelow and seconded by Councillor McCall

The vote was unanimous.

Congratulations were extended to Councillor Atkinson and the Declaration of Acceptance was duly signed.

02/24 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN FOR 2024/25

Proposals for Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year were invited.

Councillor Bendelow was proposed by Councillor Stoker and seconded by Councillor Scollen.

The vote was unanimous.

DAH 25
25/6/24

03/24

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations on this occasion.

04/24

UPDATES FROM STOCKTON ON TEES BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Billingham North

- The incidence of antisocial behaviour in April 2024 showed a notable decrease from the same period in 2023. Specifically there were 6 reported cases of antisocial behaviour in April 2024, in contrast to 16 incidents report in April 2023;
- In April 2024, there were 22 incidents reported in connection with violence against person, vehicle crime, burglary and theft compared to 28 incidents in April 2023;
- Ward walkabouts are continuing, the next one taking place on 30th May 2024;
- Targeted work is being undertaken around dog fouling;
- Looking at preventative measures around Billingham Beck to stop off road bikes
- Tree work continuing;
- General Casework being undertaken;
- 'No Mow' area at High Grange;
- No ward surgery in June, next one is July.

Billingham East

- Antisocial behaviour is rising, including off road bikes, cars on fire. Keep reporting all incidents;
- Work on potholes continuing and getting fixed;
- Rewilding project on Flodden Field and Daffodil Park;
- Working with Thirteen Group looking at solutions for problems with render on front of houses, a meeting is to take place with the Neighbourhood Managers;
- Looking at installing CCTV at Windlestone shops.

Billingham Central

- Working with Thirteen Group carrying out walkabouts. Parking underneath Dawson House to be closed off due to antisocial behaviour;
- Couple of issues picked up in Sidlaw area and reported to Care For Your Area;
- Dealing with complaints about overhanging trees and bushes, Care For Your Area looking at these;
- Parking bays and dropped kerbs being requested;

- Ward surgery is the first Wednesday of every month, 6pm at Billingham Community Centre. Police are sometimes in attendance;
- An area of grass on Brendon Crescent being churned up, looking at concreting over part of the area for easy access for bin wagons.

Billingham South

No update on this occasion.

Billingham West

- Collecting data on speeding in the ward;
- Looking at more road markings;
- Billingham Beck works ongoing;
- Assisting community groups to apply for grant funding;
- Looking at parking issues.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

05/24

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) 2023/2024

Members were asked to scrutinise and approve the following documents in relation to the AGAR 2023-24:

1. Annual Internal Audit Report;
2. Draft Accounts 2023-24;
3. Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement;
4. Section 2 – Annual Accounting Statement & Explanation of Variances.

RESOLVED

Members unanimously approved the above documents.

06/24

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES/SUB COMMITTEES

The following members were proposed and votes taken:

(i) Finance & General Purposes

Membership of this committee with the appointment of the Chairman and Vice Chairman was agreed as follows:

Chairman: Councillor Scollen

Vice Chairman: Councillor Snead

Members: Councillors Atkinson, Besford, Gamble, Gilbert, Leckonby, McCall & McCoy, .

(Councillor Scollen was proposed for Chairman by Councillor gamble and seconded by Councillor McCoy. Councillor Snead was proposed for Vice Chairman by Councillor Atkinson and seconded by Councillor McCall).

(ii) **Services & Engagement Committee**

Membership of this committee with the appointment of the Chairman and Vice Chairman was agreed as follows:

Chairman: Councillor Stoker

Vice Chairman: Councillor Hedley

Members: Atkinson, Bendelow, Forrest, Lacey & Shotton

(Councillor Stoker was proposed for Chairman by Councillor Bendelow and seconded by Councillor Shotton. Councillor Hedley was proposed for Vice Chairman by Councillor Bendelow and seconded by Councillor Stoker).

(v) **Staffing Sub Committee**

Members noted that this sub committee will consist of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council, and the Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

(vi) **Disciplinary & Grievance Sub Committee**

Members noted that this sub committee will consist of three members who have not had any dealings with the process prior to the hearing, as to ensure impartiality. It will be chaired by the Vice Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes committee (unless they have acted as a deputy for the Chair of the Finance and General Purposes committee in a Staffing Committee.

(vii) **Appeals Sub Committee**

Members noted that this sub committee will consist of three members who have not had any dealings with the process prior to the disciplinary and grievance hearing, as to ensure impartiality.

07/24

REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

- (i) Members were asked to approve representation during 2024/25 on Outside Bodies.

RESOLVED

The following members approved as representatives:

ORGANISATION	COUNCILLOR
Cleveland Local Council Association	Cllr Gamble
Billingham Environmental Link Programme	Cllr Scollen
Low Grange & Cowpen Residents Association	Cllr Bendelow
Billingham Legacy Foundation	Cllr McCall
Billingham Community Partnership	Cllr Gamble
Billingham International Festival of World Dance	Cllr Snead
Catalyst Health & Wellbeing Committee	Cllr Shotton
Port Clarence in Bloom	Cllr Lacey
Clarences Community Partnership	Cllr Lacey
Stockton Volunteers	Town Council Officer
The Voice Forum	Cllr Scollen
Stockton Housing, Neighbourhoods & Affordable Warmth Partnership	Cllr Bendelow
Catalyst Funders Forum	Town Council Officer
CCIN	Councillor Clare Gamble

- (ii) Members were asked to consider any other outside body representation.

RESOLVED

The following other outside bodies representation was considered and approved:

Stockton & District Citizens Advice & Information Service	Cllr Besford
Infinity Partnership	Cllr Scollen
Youth Providers Forum	Cllr Snead

NALC	Cllr Gamble

08/24 MEETING TIMETABLE

Members were asked to approve the updated meeting timetable presented at the meeting for 2024/2025.

RESOLVED

Members approved the updated meeting timetable for 2024/25.

09/24 MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26TH MARCH 2024

Members were asked to approve the above draft minutes as a true and accurate record.

RESOLVED

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

10/24 DRAFT POLICIES

Members were asked to approve the following policies, recommended by the Finance & General Purposes Committee:

- Draft Employee Volunteering Policy;
- Draft Treasury Management Policy.

RESOLVED

To approve the above policies.

The meeting concluded at 7.42pm with Councillors Atkinson, Bendelow, Besford, Forrest, Gamble, Gilbert, Lacey, Leckonby, McCall, McCoy, Scollen, Shotton, Snead & Stoker present.