

Billingham Town Council

Minutes of Services & Engagement Committee Meeting

Tuesday 16th April 2024 at 5.30 p.m.

Held at Billingham Library & Customer Service Centre

Present Councillors: Cllr Michelle Bendelow (Chair of Committee)
Cllr Helen Atkinson
Cllr Gareth Hedley (Vice Chair of Committee)
Cllr Maria Lacey

Official: Miss Vicky Lloyd – Deputy Town Clerk

In attendance: Miss Dee Smith - Town Clerk/RFO
Ms Tracy Reece – Business Support Manager

Apologies: Cllr Clare Gamble (No apologies received)
Cllr Michael Shotton (No apologies received)
Cllr Mick Stoker (No apologies received)

Cllr Gina McCall was also present.

218/23 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair welcomed all present. The usual rules about housekeeping were made.

219/23 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

220/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME

There were no public present and no questions received on this occasion.

221/23

**MINUTES OF SERVICES & ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 19th MARCH 2024**

Members were asked to approve the above draft minutes.

RESOLVED

- (i). That the minutes of the above meeting held on 19th March 2024, a copy of which has been circulated to each member, be approved, and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

222/23

EVENTS UPDATE

The Deputy Town Clerk gave members an overview of the town councils upcoming events.

D Day 80th Anniversary Beacon Lighting Ceremony

The D-Day commemoration working group have met to discuss plans for the 80th Anniversary of D-Day. On the morning of the 6th of June at 8:00am the Town Crier will read the official D-Day 80 Proclamation at the flagpole outside Billingham Library & Customer Service Centre. At 9:00am the town council will join with The Nation to raise a 'Flag of Peace' and lay a wreath.

On the evening from 8:00pm within John Whitehead Park, Billingham Silver Band will give a musical performance prior to our participation in the nations D-Day 80th Anniversary Beacon Lighting Ceremony at 9:15pm. At 9.15pm The Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Durham has been invited to light the beacon alongside which a member of the Royal British Legion will read The International Tribute to pay tribute to all those who took part in D-Day.

An event plan has been submitted to Stockton on Tees Borough Councils Independent Safety Advisory Group (ISAG) for assessment.

RESOLVED

- (i). Information duly noted.

223/23

SERVICES UPDATE

Members noted the update report from the Business Support Manager.

The Deputy Town Clerk informed members that a resident has made a complaint in respect of the Sunday Lunch service stopping. Members discussed the complaint and delegated the Deputy Town Clerk to respond to the resident.

RESOLVED

- (i). Information duly noted.
- (ii). The Deputy Town Clerk to respond to the resident.

224/23

SUNDAY LUNCH SERVICE

Cllr Atkinson asked members to consider a replacement for the Sunday Lunch delivery service which is to be stopped. At the Full Council meeting in March delegation was given to the Town Clerk and Business Support Manager, in consultation with Cllr Gamble to agree an exit plan and implementation.

The Business Support Manager informed members that due to a lack of volunteers it is becoming increasingly difficult to run the service.

Discussion took place on alternative services i.e. Age UK telephone friendship service a weekly check in call service to people who are feeling isolated. Local businesses that provide and deliver lunches and signposting anyone needing support as best we can to partner organisations.

Current service users will be contacted shortly informing them that the service will be stopping and to gain feedback on what support they need to shape a future service. We will work with our current service users to ensure that they are not left isolated following the closure of the service to identify other means of support as needed including Stockton on Tees Borough Councils First Contact Team.

RESOLVED

- (i). Information duly noted.

225/23

THE WARM WELCOME SOCIAL SESSIONS – BILLINGHAM PILOT

The Deputy Town Clerk advised members of initial startup costs for a six month pilot in Billingham. The sessions aim to create a fantastic community feel and create an environment that provides an ideal way of combating social isolation and loneliness whilst enabling participants a warm, safe and social space to interact with a broad selection of the community.

RESOLVED

(i). Information duly noted.

The meeting concluded at 6.10 pm with Councillors Bendelow, Atkinson, Hedley & Lacey present.

Signed.....  Date 18/6/24.....
Chairman of Services & Engagement Committee