

BILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 26th NOVEMBER 2024 AT 7PM
HELD IN THE MAIN HALL, BILLINGHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Councillors H Atkinson
 M Bendelow
 C Besford
 M Besford
 C Leckonby
 M Lacey
 G McCall
 A McCoy
 G Snead
 M Stoker
 A Gilburt

Apologies: Councillor Scollen (Personal)
 Councillor G Hedley (Personal)
 Councillor D Forrest (No apologies received)

Officials: Miss Dee Smith - Town Clerk/RFO
 Miss Vicky Lloyd, Deputy Town Clerk

Stockton on Tees Borough Council (SBC) Councillors Marcus Vickers, Katie Weston and Paul Weston, and 2 members of the public were also present.

The meeting commenced at 7.02pm.

106/24 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed everyone present and announced the following:

- Housekeeping

107/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Lacey declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 8b – Confidential business proposal.

M. Atkinson
21 Jan 25

108/24

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Members were asked to approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 24th September 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.

109/24

STOCKON BOROUGH COUNCIL (SBC) WARD COUNCILLOR UPDATES

The following updates were given:

Billingham North

- New signage has been installed at Haydon Green Play area to discourage dog fouling;
- Walkabouts have taken place with PCSO's. There have been increased levels of vehicle crime across High Grange, and antisocial behaviour involving young people around the Spar area and North Billingham Methodist Church. Visibility patrols have been carried out.;
- New lines being painted at Hepple Close to improve residents parking;
- Still looking at installing a defibrillator at High Grange field;
- Looking at installing security cameras at High Grange play area;
- The cameras on Casson Way at the shops are proving to be effective;
- Resurfacing works have been carried out on Marsh House Avenue and Casson Way;
- Next year's resurfacing schedule will be available soon;
- Next ward surgery is 7pm at High Grange Community Centre on 5th December 2024.

Billingham East

- Casework on trees, grassed areas;
- Looking at parking issues and HGV's on Marsh House Avenue;
- Held a meeting with Neighbourhood Manager from Thirteen Group to look at the moss on side of some houses due to lack of sunlight;
- Looking at parking issues on Flodden Way. Garages in the area used for storage, not parking cars. Investigations being carried out by Thirteen Group;
- In regular contact with PCSO's. Vehicle crime has been reported;

- Minimal disturbance from new build development opposite Neasham Avenue;
- Work continuing on Low Grange Working Club despite recent fire;
- Next ward surgery on 13th December at 4.30pm at New Life centre.

Billingham Central

- Receiving regular updates from Thirteen about Dawson House, concerns about the security of the building and rehousing have been raised;
- A traffic survey has been conducted on Pendle Crescent. This will be carried out again as the result didn't prove anything. The strip will be put in another location;
- Looking at options for the hard standing areas on Melrose Avenue. A site visit will take place with SBC officers;
- Crime figures have dropped on a whole by 24%.

Billingham South

- Looking at parking issues outside Manjaros on zig zag lines, possibly an engineering solution;
- Ongoing issues on New Road, lots of HGV's using the road, looking at a solution which could include thinning the road in places;
- Ongoing issues with no direct bus from Port Clarence to Billingham. Had discussions with Stagecoach and Tees Valley Combined Authority re: a new service once a day which will be trialled for 3 months and timing services to meet others that are going to Billingham at a bus stop in an appropriate place, creating a through ticket;
- Lots of well attended events taking place at Billingham Synthonia Cricket Club however, issues with antisocial behaviour and parking outside the venue. Working with SBC to look at these issues;
- Next surgery to take place on Tuesday 3rd December, 6.30pm at Billingham Town Football Club.

Billingham West

- Had poppies on display;
- Still waiting for noticeboard to be installed;
- Path markings to be installed to discourage dog fouling;
- Looking at installation of speed indicator devices;
- Carrying out casework on planning issues, trees, potholes.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

110/24

REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Updates were given from representatives on outside bodies:

ORGANISATION	UPDATE
Cleveland Local Council Association – Cllr Besford	No meeting
Billingham Environmental Link Programme – Cllr Scollen	No update
Billingham Legacy Foundation – Cllr McCall	No meeting
Billingham Community Partnership – Cllr Besford	The Town Clerk advised that at the last meeting a presentation was given by Sarah Jones on the Wellbeing Hub in Stockton.
Billingham International Festival of World Dance – Cllr Snead	No meeting
Catalyst Health & Wellbeing Committee	No update and new representative required.
Port Clarence in Bloom – Cllr Lacey	Cllr Lacey advised on 10 th December, Thirteen Group will be planting a Christmas tree in Port Clarence.
Clarences Community Partnership – Cllr Lacey	Meeting was cancelled
Stockton Volunteers Coordinators Forum – Town Council Officer	No update
Stockton Housing Forum/The Energy Advice Forum – Cllr Bendelow	No meeting
The Voice Forum – Cllr Scollen	No update
Stockton Funders Forum – Town Clerk	No meeting
CCIN – Cllr C Besford	No update – remove from agenda
Stockton & District Citizens Advice & Information Service – Cllr M Besford	No update. Cllr Besford advised that no correspondence has been received.
Infinity Partnership – Cllr Scollen	No update
Youth Providers Forum – Cllr Snead	Cllr Snead advised that at the last meeting, vaccination uptakes were discussed. Also, Facebook posts re: antisocial behaviour

NALC – Cllr C Besford	Cllr Besford advised that election of officers took place. There was a discussion around devolution to lowest level of local authorities. NALC have advised that they are facing increases in Employers NIC. A discussion took place around affiliation fees and an increase of 5% was agreed. The National Assembly meeting takes place on 10 th December.
Friends of St Cuthberts	Cllr Gilbert advised that discussions have taken place around the long term viability of the project and energy costs. The group are looking at external funding and are in the process of setting up charity status. Further discussions are happening around the church hall.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

111/24 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Full Council meeting takes place on Tuesday 26th November 2024 at 6.30pm in the main hall at Billingham Community Centre.

112/24 EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

Members were 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 Matters

- a. Members were asked to consider the proposed lease for the Café in the Park.
- b. The Town Clerk gave members a report on a business proposal in Port Clarence.

RESOLVED

- a. To agree the lease agreement with Stockton Borough Council in regards to the Café in the Park. Delegation given to the Town

Clerk/RFO to make the necessary arrangements for the signing of the lease.

- b. To refuse the proposal at this time due to the cost of the maintenance listed in the survey. However, to revisit the idea if the maintenance is carried out.

Councillor Lacey declared a pecuniary interest in this matter and left the room at 8.02pm.

The meeting concluded at 8.21pm with Cllrs Atkinson, Bendelow, C Besford, M Besford, A Gilburt, Leckonby, G McCall, A McCoy, G Snead and M Stoker present.