

BILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 21ST JANUARY 2025 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 Gilbert
 J Scollen
 G Hedley

Apologies: Councillor D Forrest (No apologies received)

Officials: Miss Dee Smith - Town Clerk/RFO

Stockton on Tees Borough Council (SBC) Councillors David Reynard, Katie Weston and Paul Weston, and 5 members of the public were also present.

147/24 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed everyone present and announced the following:

- Housekeeping

148/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Lacey declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 11 - Confidential business proposal.

149/24 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Members were asked to approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 26th November 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.

150/24

COOPTION FOR THE VACANCY OF COUNCILLOR IN BILLINGHAM SOUTH WARD

One application was received and circulated to members before the meeting. The applicant gave a short presentation and answered questions from members. A vote was then taken.

RESOLVED

Janet Atkin was coopted onto the Town Council for the vacancy of Councillor in the Billingham South Ward. The Acceptance of Office form was duly signed.

151/24

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;
- Ward Walkabouts taking place with PCSO's on Saturday 26th January at 3pm, meeting at High Grange Community Centre. Residents are welcome to attend;
- The cameras on Casson Way at the shops are proving to be effective, complaints have reduced;
- Still looking at installing security cameras at High Grange play area however annual monitoring costs are expensive. Possibly move the camera from the shops to the play area;
- Accidents on the Sealsand road/Marsh House avenue road, looking at a way to reduce the accidents using funds from the Ward Transport budget.

Billingham East

- Ongoing development at St Josephs. The work on the Sports Hub commences Spring 2025;
- Scaffolding up at Low Grange Club;
- Looking at issues in relation to changing grassed areas into hardstanding;
- Next Ward Surgery is Friday 14th February;

- Bread & Butter Project ongoing every Wednesday at the New Life Centre;
- Looks at issues with the paths on Low Grange Avenue;
- Casework – pot holes, parking etc.

Billingham Central

- Continuing the meetings with Thirteen Group, including discussions over Dawson House. Not happy with explanations from Thirteen group regarding housing situation in Billingham;
- A second traffic survey has been conducted on Pendle Crescent with the strip put in a different location from resident's requests. The results from the second survey did not meet any criteria for bollards, speed bumps etc;
- Still looking at options for the hard standing areas on Melrose Avenue;
- Casework including dropped kerbs, parking bays etc;
- Looking at the issue of people bringing cars into John Whitehead Park;
- A full leaflet drop was not carried out at the end of 2024 as planned, targeted drops are taking place;
- The crossing on Station Road will be closed from 11.20pm on Saturday 8th February to 9.15am on Sunday 9th February;
- Looking at the issue of the strip that you drive over that needs flattening near the Swan Pub;
- The gas board are currently doing works on Cheviot Crescent and Cotswold Crescent that is causing congestion in the area;
- Determined to make the new town centre a dementia friendly area.

Billingham South

- Newsletter delivered over the Christmas period;
- Door knocking sessions carried out, giving out information on Pension Credit;
- Design agreed for the new play area on Mill Lane field;
- Looking at traffic calming measures on New Road;
- Working out the route/timings for the new bus service that will run from Port Clarence to Billingham, then Norton and North Tees Hospital. It is proposed that one bus will run on Monday's, Wednesday's, Friday's and Saturday. Should be available in approximately three months time;
- Taking a motion to SBC to bring buses back under public control;
- Lots of well attended events taking place at Billingham Synthonia Cricket Club however, issues with antisocial

behaviour and parking outside the venue. Future events will be going through SBC's ISAG process;

- Dealing with issues at the allotments in Port Clarence, meeting held with BELP and council officers;
- New playing field at High Clarence school;
- Northumbrian Water Authority installing property prevention measures to those affected by flooding in Port Clarence;
- Fly tipping continues to be an issue in Port Clarence;
- Dealing with issues with private landlords regarding properties at Limetrees Close, Community Protection Warnings and Notices have been issued and there is some improvement from 6 months ago.

Billingham West

- Still waiting for noticeboard to be installed;
- Issues with parking on grass verges at Northfield;
- Still working on issues with speeding in the ward;
- Carrying out casework on planning issues, trees, potholes;
- Assisting local groups to get funding.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

152/24

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	Meeting taking place on Monday 27 th January 2025
Billingham Community Partnership – Cllr Besford	Cllr Besford advised that the Something New For You event at the Forum was well attended
Billingham International Festival of World Dance – Cllr Snead	No meeting
Catalyst Health & Wellbeing Committee	Cllr Atkin to be the representative.
Port Clarence in Bloom – Cllr Lacey	Cllr Lacey advised that on 10 th December, Thirteen Group planted a Christmas tree in Port Clarence. Meetings to possibly begin in February.

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 update
The Voice Forum – Cllr Scollen	Meeting was cancelled
Stockton Funders Forum – Town Clerk	No meeting
Stockton & District Citizens Advice & Information Service – Cllr M Besford	No update. Cllr Besford advised that he has been invited to the AGM.
Infinity Partnership – Cllr Scollen	No update
Youth Providers Forum – Cllr Snead	Meeting in February
NALC – Cllr C Besford	No update
Friends of St Cuthberts	Cllr Gilbert advised the Friends Group now has charitable status. Members are looking at increasing the events programme, also considering wedding packages. A Teesside wide marketing and fundraising campaign is commencing. Smaller committees have been formed to look at different aspects e.g, events etc

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

152/24

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

Members are asked to consider the following recommendation from the Finance & General Purposes Committee:

To approve the draft budget for 2025/26 and to formulate a resolution to levy a precept of £384021.00 (which includes the Local Council Tax Support of £23509.00(LCTS)) on Stockton on Tees Borough Council for the financial year 2025/2026 (see appendix B).

The Town Clerk asked all members to consider whether they needed to make a declaration in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

RESOLVED

- a. No declarations were made in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

- b. To levy a precept of £384021.00 on Stockton on Tees Borough Council for the financial year 2025/2026.

153/24 WOLVISTON ROAD WELCOME SIGN

Members were advised that the Welcome to Billingham sign at Wolviston Road is missing, the two posts remain in the verge. The sign is under the ownership and responsibility of the Town Council.

Members were asked to consider a replacement sign. The Town Clerk advised that the cost of the sign including the road closure is £791.30. The signs are covered by the Town Council's insurance policy and a claim could be made with a £100 excess needing to be paid. There is no budget for the signage.

RESOLVED

- a. To replace the missing sign through the Town Council insurance.
- b. To check the condition of the other Welcome to Billingham signage.

154/24 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Full Council meeting takes place on Tuesday 25th March 2025 at 6.30pm in the main hall at Billingham Community Centre.

155/24 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 received an updated confidential report on a business proposal in Port Clarence.

RESOLVED

To decline the business proposal in relation to the Port Clarence Community Hub.

Councillor Lacey declared a pecuniary interest in this matter and left the room at 7.50pm.

The meeting concluded at 8.05pm with Cllrs J Atkin, H Atkinson, M Bendelow, C Besford, M Besford, A Gilbert, Hedley, C Leckonby, G McCall, A McCoy, J Scollen, G Snead and M Stoker present.