

# **BILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

## **DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING**

**TUESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025 AT 7PM**

**HELD IN THE MAIN HALL, BILLINGHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**Present:** Councillors      H Atkinson  
                                     M Bendelow  
                                     C Besford  
                                     M Besford  
                                     C Leckonby  
                                     G McCall  
                                     A McCoy  
                                     M Stoker  
                                     A Gilburt  
                                     J Scollen  
                                     G Hedley  
                                     J Atkin  
                                     D Forrest

**Apologies:**                Councillor G Snead (No apologies received)  
                                     Councillor M Lacey (Personal)

**Officials:**                Miss Dee Smith - Town Clerk/RFO

Stockton on Tees Borough Council (SBC) Councillors Marcus Vickers, David Reynard and Katie Weston and 6 members of the public were also present.

### **182/24                CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman welcomed everyone present and announced the following:

- Housekeeping

### **183/24                DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations on this occasion.

### **184/24                MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS FULL COUNCIL MEETING**

Members were asked to approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025 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.

*Cllr Forrest left the meeting at 7.03pm*

**185/24**

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

The following updates were given:

#### Billingham North

- Really pleased that Ash Trees were one of the pilot schools for a new breakfast club;
- Ward Walkabouts took place with new PCSO Liz Lutz. An off road bike was spotted around High Grange shops and Casson Way. It was seized the following day;
- Green waste bins ordered by 14<sup>th</sup> February have all been delivered. SBC are now delivering bins ordered after this date;
- Still looking at installing security cameras at High Grange play area;
- SBC have passed a refresh of the Tree Management Policy and there is now an option to report concerns around trees online;
- New lighting installed on Wolviston Back Lane which was switched on in January;
- Visited The Junction Foundation Multibank;
- Warm Homes Healthy People initiative offers emergency heating, energy saving advice, welfare and benefits advice and boiler repairs to eligible residents;
- Next ward surgery is Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 7pm at High Grange Community Centre.

#### Billingham East

- Attended St Columbus church and visited the Hope cancer Group that takes place there. Collecting items from the multibank for the church and in the process of recycling items from the Bread & Butter project to help with soup project at the church;
- Pleased to see different activities taking place at Low Grange Community Centre;
- Ongoing development at St Josephs with the main structure in place. Setting up a meeting with the Head teacher. Scot Bros are doing a great job of keeping the road clean;
- The work on the Sports Hub is ongoing;

- Herons food shop possibly coming on to the Low Grange Club site in July;
- Door knocking carried out, issues reported are potholes and off road bikes;
- Next Ward Surgery is 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025;
- Bread & Butter Project ongoing every Wednesday at the New Life Centre;
- Billingham Stars Hockey Team (sponsored by the Town Council) recently won the cup final and Cllr Bendelow presented the Man of the Match award.

### Billingham Central

- The Town Centre planning application has been approved by SBC's planning committee;
- Continuing the meetings with Thirteen Group, including discussions over Dawson House. Three residents still in place at Dawson House;
- Working through a long list of drop kerb requests;
- Looking at the issue of people bringing cars into John Whitehead Park;
- Met with Police Crime Commissioner. Government has allocated £2.3m for neighbourhood policing which should see 40 new officers for Cleveland;
- New PCSO for Central ward:
- Serious incident took place on Brendan Crescent, this was an isolated incident however, police are increasing the patrols in the area for reassurance;
- SBC are looking at all town centres in the borough and how they can be safer and more welcoming. Consultation has taken place with all stakeholders;
- Next ward surgery is on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 6pm at Billingham Community Centre.

### Billingham South

- New bus service commenced during February half term which was designed for residents in Port Clarence. The service runs from Port Clarence to Billingham, then Norton and North Tees Hospital;
- The new play area proposed for Mill Lane is now at the planning application stage. Comments can be made online. Hopefully it will be in place in the school summer holidays. A road crossing is also to be installed in the area;
- Looking at traffic calming measures on New Road;
- Still dealing with the parking issues at Manjaro's. Possibly look at further enforcement in the area;

- Next ward surgery taking place on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 6.30pm at St Cuthbert's.

#### Billingham West

- Dealing with individual queries that arise, including planning issues and bins getting damaged;
- A new noticeboard is in place;
- Looking at the installation of planters in the ward for summer;
- Carrying out casework on planning issues, trees, potholes.

#### **RESOLVED**

Information duly noted.

### **186/24 REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Updates were given from representatives on outside bodies:

<b>ORGANISATION</b>	<b>UPDATE</b>
Cleveland Local Council Association – Cllr Besford	No meeting
Billingham Environmental Link Programme – Cllr Scollen	No meeting
Billingham Legacy Foundation – Cllr McCall	No meeting
Billingham Community Partnership – Cllr Besford	Cllr Besford advised of the Prom Donation Drive, which will help families who are struggling financially with the prom season.
Billingham International Festival of World Dance – Cllr Snead	No update
Catalyst Health & Wellbeing Committee	No update
Port Clarence in Bloom – Cllr Lacey	No update
Clarences Community Partnership – Cllr Lacey	No update
Stockton Volunteers Coordinators Forum – Town Council Officer	The Town Clerk advised that Volunteer week is taking place in June. Also a presentation was given by a Volunteer Coordinator from North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust.
Stockton Housing Forum/The Energy Advice Forum – Cllr Bendelow	No meeting
The Voice Forum – Cllr Scollen	Two presentations took place from Volunteering Together and Thirteen

	Group.
Stockton Funders Forum – Town Clerk	Discussed the issues around applying for funding and some of the restrictions in place.
Stockton & District Citizens Advice & Information Service – Cllr M Besford	Remove from the agenda.
Infinity Partnership – Cllr Scollen	No update
Youth Providers Forum – Cllr Snead	No update
NALC – Cllr C Besford	No update, meeting took place in London and could not attend.
Friends of St Cuthberts	No update

## **RESOLVED**

Information duly noted.

### **187/24 DRAFT POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

Members were asked to approve the below policies and procedures:

- Standing Orders;
- Financial Regulations;
- Internal Audit Policy;
- Review of Effectiveness of Internal Audit;
- Financial Risk Assessment;
- Banking & Cash Handling Policy.

## **RESOLVED**

To approve the above policies and procedure.

### **188/24 GENERAL RESERVES**

Members were asked to consider the allocation of funds in the general reserve budget.

## **RESOLVED**

- a. To set up a Working Group for all members to attend to discuss the allocation of these funds and bring back suggestions to Full Council.
- b. Members to email the Town Clerk of any suggestions and a proforma set up detailing the estimated costs and benefits.

### **189/24 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The Annual Assembly of Billingham takes place on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 6.30pm in Meeting Room C at Billingham Library.

The next Full Council meeting (Annual Meeting) takes place on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 6.30pm. Venue to be confirmed.

The meeting concluded at 7.45pm with Cllrs J Atkin, H Atkinson, M Bendelow, C Besford, M Besford, A Gilbert, G Hedley, C Leckonby, G McCall, A McCoy, J Scollen, and M Stoker present.