

Billingham Town Council Minutes of Town Council Meeting

**Tuesday 17th March 2009
6.30 pm,
Council Chamber, Billingham**

- Present:** **Councillor Sue Skilbeck (Vice Chair)**
Councillors; Helen Atkinson, James Dickinson, Alan Gallimore, Ray McCall, Ann McCoy, Olive Milner, Eleanor Mockler, Colin Pollard, Sharon Scott, Paul Smith, Mick Stoker
- Apologies:** Apologies were received from, Councillors; Jane Dobson, Jean O'Donnell & Mike Smith
- Official:** Dianne Rickaby – Town Clerk
- In Attendance:**
- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Chris Renahan | Stockton Borough Council |
| Richard McGuckin | Stockton Borough Council |
| Mike Blackburn | Evening Gazette |
| Dale Clarke | Member of public |

290/09 NOTICE OF MEETING

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

291/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies of absence were submitted from Councillors: Jane Dobson, Jean O'Donnell & Mike Smith.

292/09 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair asked if there were any declarations of interests.

Councillor Paul Smith declared a non-prejudicial interest in planning application for 42 Wharfdale Avenue, Billingham.

**293/09 RICHARD MCGUCKIN – STOCKTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
Re: Train Station**

Due to this item of the agenda being closed to members of the public and press the information stated in the minutes will be brief.

A separate report will be attached to the minutes marked confidential and will be released for public inspection once the matter has progressed and Stockton Borough Council indicates the reports release.

Richard McGuckin and Chris Renahan attended the meeting to put to Billingham Town Council possible proposals for relocation/refurbishment of Billingham Train Station. Members of the Council entered into discussion with the Officers of Stockton Borough Council.

A Q & A session took place. Richard and Chris were thanked for their attendance. The Clerk advised she would feed back to Richard the Council's recommendations.

It was resolved:

After an in-depth discussion members decided to put forward their recommendations 'in principle' however to stress to Richard McGuckin that the matter of no disabled access must be addressed with all urgency.

**294/09 MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17TH
FEBRUARY 2009**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Town Council meeting on the 17th February 2009.

It was resolved:

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

At this point the Clerk gave members a report on achievements over the past two years. The report included future plans, and the impact in monetary terms of the increased precept.

The Clerk asked members if they approved for the report to be put on Billingham Town Council website to give members of the public additional information about projects/council tax.

It was resolved:

The Clerks report is accepted and to be placed on the website.

295/09 MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk asked members if they still want names added into conversations written in the minutes as sometimes this may not be applicable unless it is a proposal/recommendation.

It was resolved:

Members decided that Councillors names be added to conversation, proposals and recommendations when requested to be.

296/09 MINUTES OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 4TH MARCH 2009.

Consideration was given to the recommendations from the minutes of the Development Committee on 4th March 2009.

It was resolved:

The minutes were accepted as a true record of proceedings and the recommendations made by the Committee are to be accepted.

297/09 MATTERS ARISING - From the minutes of the Development Committee on the 4th March 2009.

DC43/09 – A member asked when will the newsletter be delivered.

The Clerk advised that she is meeting with Unique Distribution and it is envisaged that the newsletters will be out at the end of March/beginning of April.

To ensure full delivery is being achieved the Clerk has drawn up a Service Level Agreement which will include various constraints, also spot checks will be carried out after the distribution is completed.

The Chair advised that in relation to the Summer Event an extra meeting is required to discuss this in more detail as a quick turn around of plans is needed.

298/09 MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE HELD ON 10TH MARCH 2009

Consideration was given to the recommendations from the minutes of the Environmental Committee on 10th March 2009.

It was resolved:

The minutes were accepted as a true record of proceedings and the recommendations made by the Committee are to be accepted.

299/09 MATTERS ARISING – From the minutes of the Environment Committee on 10th March 2009.

There were no matters arising from the Environment Committee.

300/09 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 11TH MARCH 2009.

Consideration was given to the recommendations from the minutes of the Finance Committee on 11th March 2009.

It was resolved:

The minutes were accepted as a true record of proceedings and the recommendations made by the Committee are to be accepted.

301/09 MATTERS ARISING – From the minutes of the Finance Committee on 11 March 2009.

FIN25/09 – Approval of this minute was sought to the alternatives proposed regarding Youth Services.

FIN27/09 – The chair asked the Councillors if they approved of the minute stating that no one member would have autonomy to approve the spend of the Town Councils budget.

Members were in agreeance to approve the minute FIN27/09.

It was resolved:

The Committees recommendations be accepted.

302/09 CLERKS REPORT

As the Clerk has advised members of progress on projects throughout the meeting the Clerk asked if members had any specific areas/projects they require any further information.

Members were happy with project updates.

The Clerk confirmed that the recruitment of the General Office Assistant was successful. Out of 240 applicants, six were shortlisted.

Victoria Lloyd was offered the post and has accepted. Victoria will commence her role on 1st April 2009, she will work Monday – Friday 10.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.

It was resolved:

The Clerks report is accepted.

303/09 FINANCE

The members considered the monthly Schedule of Accounts previously circulated.

It was resolved:

The monthly accounts are accepted for payment.

304/09 REGNERATION MATTERS

The Clerk gave members a general update, and asked if there were any questions around regeneration.

Councillor Ann McCoy informed the meeting that she feels enthused by the fact that there is a lot of money being invested into Billingham in the future.

£30 million for Integrated Health Service, 16 million for refurbishment of the Forum and a new doctor's surgery. Town Centre regeneration investment, £500k spent so far on John Whitehead Park.

When all of the above are complete Billingham will be an improved place to live.

A member asked for an update on Billingham House further to the brief sent by Louise McDonald (Regeneration Manager, Stockton Borough Council).

The Clerk advised that Stockton Borough Council will still be pursuing the breach of contract by Bizzy Bee in May 2009, and this should not impact on any future developments.

Councillor Stoker advised that at the last Town Council meeting he had mentioned to Graham Clingan (Countryside & Greenspace, Stockton Borough Council) about the 'Older Peoples Park' and if something like this provision could be implemented in Billingham.

Graham has advised that he will look into the provision in his review of services.

It was also mentioned that free swimming sessions will soon be made available to under 16's and over 60's in Stockton Borough. Transport links will be reviewed with this particularly when the Forum closes in June 2009

It was resolved:

The Clerks update is accepted. Councillor McCoy's information is noted. Councillor Stoker's information is noted.

305/09

PLANNING

The planning application report (previously circulated) was reviewed/discussed by members.

Application number 09/0416/FUL - Councillor Mockler raised concerns on this application and enquired if the land that is being built on is in the blast zone (exclusion zone) and should the Council be allowing building on this land.

The Clerk advised that she would look into this further.

09/0296/FUL – A member asked what is the difference between A1 retail and A2 retail.

Councillor Stoker advised members that they are both retail outlets that do not sell food products but have different areas of sales products.

It was resolved:

Apart from 09/0416/FUL application which requires further investigation the planning applications are approved.

306/09 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

At this point the meeting was closed and opened for public participation.

Mr Dale Clarke raised a few matters. These being:

- Mr Clarke was unable to access Billingham Town Councils website, however the Clerk advised that all information was up to date on the website. Mr Clarke did state that he didn't use windows operating system which may be the problem.

Also, Mr Clarke advised that at the entrance of the Chambers there isn't a ramp in place on the side where the car park is for disabled access.

The Clerk advised she would address this with Stockton Borough Council.

Mr Clarke stated that he is new to Billingham but would like to take more interest in what projects will be delivered in the future.

It was resolved:

Mr Clarke was thanked for attending the meeting and for raising the matters above, both of which will be addressed.

307/09 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk advised members of the following correspondence.

- Tees Valley Town and Parish Councils Ethical Governance Workshops – Friday 8 May 2009

Half day event – 2 places for Billingham Town Council. Anyone interested in attending please contact the Clerk.

308/09 OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Paul Smith asked if there is any information/progress on the following matters:

1. Mill Lane Zebra Crossing
2. Pathway Mill Lane/ New Road – overgrown
3. Cleaning of the telephone poles – bird fouling

The Clerk advised that:-

1. We are still looking for funding for the Mill Lane Zebra Crossing proposals. This will be taken to the Area Transport Strategy Meeting in May 2009.
2. The overgrown pathway at Mill Lane/New Road has been reported to Care For Your Area, however the Clerk will pursue this further.
3. The Clerk advised that the telecommunication companies have stated that they do not clean their poles of bird foul.

Also Care For Your Area are unable to assist as the poles are not Council property.

Councillor Paul Smith's concerns were noted. The Clerk will pursue on these matters where possible.

Councillor Stoker advised the members that Bewley Woodland Trust are digging Christmas Trees. These trees will still have their roots and can be planted anywhere. Councillor Stoker asked if Shaw Trust are able to plant for Billingham Town Council in areas around Billingham. The Town Council would need to act on this quickly.

The Clerk will talk to Parks & Countryside to see if this would be possible.

Other points made:

Councillor Pollard asked if Public Participation should be earlier on the agenda should the public wish to discuss these matters then leave as opposed to waiting until the end.

The Chair advised that it is better placed later in the meeting so that members of the public could hear what is happening with projects etc then have the chance to comment later.

Councillor Pollard accepted this explanation.

Members requested if an update report can be given by Stockton Borough Council Officers on projects/roadwork's etc in Billingham. The Clerk advised it will be looked into.

A member asked if there is any further information about the change of use of the Kiosk.

The Clerk advised that she has passed Billingham Town Councils concerns onto Louise McDonald, Regeneration Manager and awaits her update.

309/09 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is **21st April 2009 at 6.30 p.m.**

Councillor Olive Milner put forward her apologies for this meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

Signed.....
Chairman to Billingham Town Council