

Billingham Town Council Minutes of Town Council Meeting

**Tuesday 20th October 2009
6.30 pm,
Council Chamber, Billingham**

- Present:** **Councillor Sue Skilbeck (Chairman)**
Councillors; Helen Atkinson, James Dickinson, Alan Gallimore, Ray McCall, Ann McCoy, Olive Milner, Eleanor Mockler, Colin Pollard, Sharon Scott & Mick Stoker
- Apologies:** Apologies were received from Councillors: Jean O'Donnell, Jane Metcalfe, Michael Smith & Paul Smith
- Official:** Dianne Rickaby – Executive Officer
- In Attendance:**
- | | |
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| Louise McDonald | Regeneration Projects Manager – Stockton Borough Council |
| Nicola Garnham | Regeneration Officer – Stockton Borough Council |
| Frank Crosby | Member of the public |

384/09 NOTICE OF MEETING

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

385/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies of absence were submitted from Councillors: Jean O'Donnell, Jane Metcalfe, Michael Smith & Paul Smith

386/09 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair asked if there were any declarations of interests.

No declarations were made.

387/09

**LOUISE McDONALD, REGENERATION PROJECTS MANAGER -
Stockton Borough Council**

Louise gave an update on regeneration matters in Billingham, further to her report which was circulated in October.

Areas discussed were, Town Centre redevelopment, Billingham House, Forum, Integrated Health & Social Care Facility and John Whitehead Park.

Louise advised members that four new retailers have recently been announced as new tenants for the Town Centre – Ethel Austin, Grainger Games, Semichem & Wilkinson's. Taking these retailers into account there is now less than 7% of the total retail units vacant.

Louise informed members that Stockland are in the process of unveiling proposals for a master plan designs for Billingham Town Centre. Public consultation will begin on 2nd November 2009 with members of the public together with traders, local business representatives, local councillors and local interest groups. Louise advised members that this will be a chance to have a say on the proposals ahead of the master plan being formally submitted to Stockton Borough Council for approval. Louise requested that members submit any questions for Stockland to the Executive Officer prior to the meeting on 2 November 2009.

Louise updated members on Billingham House. A trial at Teesside Magistrates Courts was held on 12th October for the prosecution case against Bizzy B Management Ltd (the owners of Billingham House) for failing to comply with the legal notice requiring them to demolish the building by 31st December 2008. Louise informed members that Bizzy B's legal representatives entered a plea of 'guilty' at the hearing and were fined. Louise informed members that a private developer is interested in developing the building (Python Properties). Bizzy B have stated that they will work with the developer in respect of a development plan. Louise stated that if Bizzy B don't come back to Stockton Borough Council in good time with a development plan then Stockton Borough Council will take them back to court as they will be in breach of contract. Bizzy B is currently being fined £2 per day until things move on.

Louise informed members that work on the Forum is progressing and the contractor Morgan Ashurst is continuing to strip out and prepare the building for its refit. Work is going well and the programme is currently on budget. The information hub at Billingham Art Gallery will shortly be updated with latest photos of works during the first month of closure, and proposed next steps. As the contract progresses, the display will be updated with information to allow residents and users to see the progress over the 18 month refurbishment.

Louise informed members that Stockton Borough Council continues to finalise details of the scheme for the Integrated Health and Social Care Facility. This will involve the submission of an Outline Business Case to the Department of Health in March 2010 with the hope of formally securing the £35 million PFI credits, for which Stockton Borough Council presently has an allocation in principle.

PCT/GP's funding from PCT, Libraries and Customer Services, Children's Social and Health Care need to find funding. Adult Health Care funding is part of PFI credits.

Housing/Community use credits part capital/revenue to ensure that the building is kept in good condition after it is built.

Louise informed members that an Outline Business Case is currently being drawn up for submission. This is a lengthy piece of work and Stockton Borough Council is currently working with the PCT to finalise details of the scheme objectives, scope and deliverables.

An update was given about John Whitehead Park and that the Probation Services have continued to install the play fence, which is now 95% complete, with gates and access points to be fabricated and installed.

A questions and answers session took place.

Comment. Cllr McCoy informed that PCT visited Salford to see a new Integrated Health & Social Care Facility. This was beneficial as they were able to ask about do's and dont's when setting up this facility.

Q. Cllr Scott – In respect of Billingham House what does Stockton Borough Council see as a timely matter?

A. We would like to see a plan of action within the next three months.

Q. Cllr Scott - Do you not feel that they have already had a lot of time?

A. It will take a while to pull the plans together.

Q. Is it a viable project due to the recession.

A. Yes, as a new build would be more costly than a refurbishment cost and is more attractive to new smaller businesses who are looking for lower rents.

Q. Cllr McCoy – is the Director of Regeneration confident about Python

Developers and will one floor occupied give enough income to refurbish rest of building?

- A. The project will break even with the first floor completed.
- Q. Cllr Pollard – will the current library be moved into the integrated health & social care building?
- A. Yes

388/09 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

At this point the Chair closed the meeting for 10 minutes to allow public participation to address questions to Louise McDonald.

Mr Crosby – member of the public

- Q. Where will the integrated building go?
- A. Possible area - Billingham Chamber, police station, element into grassy area, but building can also go upwards in size as it is in Town Centre.
- Q. Mr Crosby – will the residential units be compliant with disability requirements.
- A. 50 residential units and all with appropriate accesses.
- Q. Where?
- A. Site not determined yet. Maybe near Community Centre. Looking at several other areas in Billingham.
- Q. If it goes on this site how far will it be?
- A. Not decided yet.
- Q. Is there going to be a Skateboard Park in John Whitehead Park?
- A. This will be taken back to Keith Matthews in Parks & Countryside's.

Statement The youths need something/somewhere to go but residents say that they “don't want it” on their door steps.

At this point the Chair apologises but she will be leaving the meeting at 7.45 pm and Cllr Pollard (Vice Chairman) will chair the remainder of the meeting.

It was resolved

The update from Louise McDonald is accepted.

Louise and Nicola were thanked for attending the meeting.

The meeting reconvened to continue the agenda items.

389/09 MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15th September 2009

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Town Council meeting on 15th September 2009.

It was resolved

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

390/09 MATTERS ARISING – from minutes of meeting (discussion only)

On page 5 item **369/09 Ian Hayton, Chief Fire Officer – Cleveland Fire Brigade Update on Billingham Fire Station**. Cllr Pollard queried the total cost is 2 billion per year to run a fire station?

It was resolved

The Executive Officer to check this figure.

391/09 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 8th OCTOBER 2009

Consideration was given to the recommendations from the minutes of the Finance & Resources Committee on 8th October 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.

392/09 **MATTERS ARISING** – from the minutes of the Finance & Resources Committee on the 8th October 2009

It was resolved

The purchase of an additional dog fouling bin at Rochester Road to be discussed later in the Executive Officers report.

393/09 **MINUTES OF THE SERVICES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE ON 8th OCTOBER 2009**

Consideration was given to the recommendations from the minutes of the Services & Amenities Committee on 8th October 2009.

It was resolved

The minutes were accepted as a true record of proceedings and the recommendations made by the Committee on 8th October 2009 are to be accepted.

394/09 **MATTERS ARISING** – from the minutes of the Services & Amenities Committee on the 8th October 2009

Cllr Scott queried who suggested selling glow sticks at the Christmas event on 5th December 2009? The Executive Officer advised that it was discussed/decided in the Services & Amenities Committee

On page 5 **SA36/09 Traffic Calming** Members discussed this item and felt that the traffic calming proposal for Tamworth Road was not as much of a priority as Malvern/Pentland which had been previously approved by Billingham Town Council. Cllr McCoy stated that it was reported that Malvern/Pentland would cost too much this year and has agreed to support Tamworth on the proviso that Malvern/Pentland is considered in next year's Transport Strategy Group budget.

The Executive Officer advised members that she had forwarded an email to Steve Lumb, Community Engineer at Stockton Borough Council to confirm that Billingham Town Council would support Tamworth Road, traffic calming proposal providing that Malvern/Pentland is made a priority next year.

Cllr Pollard informed members that at North Billingham Residents Association meeting it was advised that there was only £2,000 in the pot for the traffic calming measures and the scheme will actually cost approximately £9,000.

It was also noted at Billingham North Residents Association meeting that Billingham Town Council did not give funding to the scheme due to the fact that there is no allocation into this year's budget for such schemes.

Cllr Stoker informed members that the path leading down to the Station is getting done now and Small Environment Improvement Budget money is allocated to do this.

Cllr McCoy advised members that there is a small budget and the lists are endless with residents requests.

Cllr McCall stated that he is concerned with the building work currently being carried out at the Stoney Oak to transform the building into a Tesco/Spar.

Cllr Stoker advised that the LDT (Framework) is near completion and it would be advisable to look at attracting S106 monies for possible new builds.

It was resolved:

All matters arising be recorded. .

395/09

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT

The Executive Officer advised members on a meeting herself and the Chair had with Joe Maloney from Billingham International Folklore Festival. This is in respect of a proposal for a centre of excellence in Billingham and a possible outside stage at John Whitehead Park. Cllr McCoy queried funding for the project.

At this point Cllr McCall declared a non-prejudicial interest as part of The Partnership Board at which Joe Maloney sits as representative of Billingham Folklore.

Cllr Scott queried what would happen to the building for the other 52 weeks a year? The Chair stated that the building could be used for dance groups/training etc.

Cllr Stoker enquired about office accommodation. The Executive Officer mentioned the proposal for the new Town Council offices.

Cllr Pollard enquired about flooding/damage in John Whitehead Park.

Youth Provide Forum

The Executive Officer informed members of a meeting she had attended with the Youth Provider Forum. The Executive Officer advised members that the forum wish to obtain views from youngster on the youth services currently within Billingham. This could best be achieved by the Town Council hosting a Facebook page which would also raise awareness of the Town Council and provide PR and links to youth service provider. This page would be a source of information about what activities and special events will be taking place in the local area.

The Executive Officer informed members that Billingham Town Council will be the direct information point for all organisations wanting to promote their activity and event. As Billingham Town Council work for the local people we are the perfect host as we do not have any personal agendas and therefore the information that is shared is specific and not supportive of any one organisation. We will be the first to know what events and activities are available for our local people and therefore always informed and up to date.

We will also have access to any comments and discussions that have been posted on the web page which will give us direct feedback about what activities work and which areas can be improved. The link for the website can have a link to the Billingham Town Council website and vice versa and also other organisations websites can be linked for more information. The aim of the website is that local people have one direct link to everything that is happening in their area.

The Facebook page can include the following contents:

- Logo
- Contact details
- Links
- Newsfeed for 'what's on' which can be updated regularly
- Discussion board
- Comments

Cllr McCoy stated that perhaps one of the youngsters could be an associate member of the Town Council. The Executive Officer advised that one of her future ideas/plans to bring to Council is a proposal to set up a Youth Council which would fit in very well with this forum.

Communities Fund

The Executive Officer gave members an update on the Communities Fund. We have been referred 8 people already, however only two of these referrals are eligible for the Communities Fund. Laura is currently working with 6 of the 8 people.

Laura has been working closely with Clarence's and will be assisting on a couple of new initiatives. Laura will be contacting five people from the funded area regarding a pamper day that will take place in December. There is also a Lone parent initiative due to start next month which Laura will be involved in.

We have produced a newsletter with information on the Communities Fund and our Christmas event which will be delivered within the central and eastern areas of Billingham shortly. We also have up to £50 worth of Lidl vouchers that can be offered to any eligible person who signs up to the Communities Fund and completes such tasks as creating a CV, completing training and applying for jobs.

At this point the Chair left the meeting (7.45 pm)

Allotments

The Executive Officer advised members that maps have been given to the residents associations to locate viable allotment sites.

Christmas Event

The Executive Officer advised members that we are moving forward with this years 'Traditional Christmas Event'. We are currently looking for volunteers for the day for stalls, mulled wine, lost children area, bowls club, meet Jet and handing out mince pies/mulled wine.

Cllrs Mockler & Scott kindly agreed to assist with the tombola stall. Confirmation of help for the day was also received from Councillors Atkinson, Gallimore, Milner, Pollard & Stoker.

Members stated that they wished the event to be publicised in the Herald & Post and Tyne Tees. It was advised to check weather reports for France prior to the event.

The Executive Officer advised members that once a venue and time had been confirmed by Stockland for the meeting on the 2 November 2009 she would advise members. Any questions for Stockland at the meeting should be forwarded to the Executive Officer prior to the meeting.

It was resolved:

The Executive Officers report is accepted.

396/09 FINANCE

The members considered the monthly Schedule of Accounts previously circulated.

Members discussed the renewal of the annual insurance policy and agreed to renew the policy at a cost of £813.56.

The Executive Officer advised members that notification has been received from the National Joint Council in respect of the annual pay increase of 1% for 2009 with 1 days additional holiday. Members discussed the pay increase and accepted the award.

It was resolved

The monthly accounts are accepted for payment.

The annual insurance policy be renewed for 2009/10.

The annual pay increase of 1% is accepted, backdated and contracts be amended to reflect additional days holidays.

397/09 PLANNING

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

Cllr Stoker asked about the refurbishment of the Stoney Oak. The Executive Officer advised that as the refurbishment is classed as a 'downgrade' for A5 to A1 planning permission for change of use is not required. Planning applications have been submitted for 'changing porch and refrigeration units. Unfortunately there is not much we can do to prevent the refurbishment.

The Executive Officer advised members that the planning application for a café/restaurant on 31-33 Station Road had been deferred.

The Executive Officer advised of planning application no. **09/2360/LBC** Ivy house – Cowpen Bewley for listed building consent for single storey rear extension to provide parents wing. Cllr Stoker stated that this application poses no problems for the area.

At this point Cllr McCoy left the meeting

It was resolved:

The planning applications are approved.

398/09 CORRESPONDENCE

The Executive Officer advised members of the following correspondence:

- Stockton Borough Council has commissioned Arc4, housing and regeneration consultancy, to undertake a detailed assessment of rural housing need in Stockton. The survey forms will be sent out week beginning 26th October 2009 to every resident in rural Stockton. Four 'Community Events' will then run for two weeks from the 10th November.
- Letter of thanks from Malcolm Tattersall, Maritime Restoration project for meeting Services & Amenities Committee on 8th October 2009.
- Letter from War Memorials Trust hosting a half day conference entitled "Looking after war memorials" on 2nd December 2009.
- Letter from Stockton Borough Council on Consultation on School Admission Arrangements – Primary & Secondary Schools in 2011-12.

It was resolved

Items of correspondence are accepted.

399/09 OTHER BUSINESS

The Executive Officer advised members that Cllr Paul Smith had reported an increase in vandalism to street sign posts and wanted to see if other councillors have had similar problems within their ward areas. Members discussed this item and agreed that this should be reported to Stockton Borough Council.

It was reported that £7,000 of damage had been reported in Carlton Avenue play area.

The new gate in John Whitehead Park has been damaged. Members queried the security within the park, cameras and CCTV footage.

Cllr Mockler raised concerns about the number of beds allocated in the new hospital for acute patients and that she had heard that stays would be limited to 1-2 days. The Executive Officer to ask the PCT for information.

400/09 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is **Tuesday 17th November 2009** commencing at 6.30 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

Signed.....
Chairman to Billingham Town Council