



**350/09 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Chair asked if there were any declarations of interests.

No declarations were made.

**351/09 INSPECTOR STUART MICKLEWRIGHT (Billingham Police) & Alistair Place (Enforcement Representative) – Enforcement Provision**

Inspector Micklewright advised members of joint action groups which are currently held on a monthly basis within the five wards across Billingham. The action groups incorporate representation from the Youth Service, Tristar, Fire & Police service and Enforcement Officers to look at issues that have arisen from the previous month. The Clerk advised that since the closure of the Forum, more complaints have been reported to the Town Council office regarding anti social behaviour. Members asked Inspector Micklewright if he has seen an increase in anti social behaviour. Inspector Micklewright stated that he hasn't seen a specific increase and that if we bear in mind that only 25% of the users of the Forum came from Billingham, 75% outside of Billingham therefore he does not envisage a huge increase in anti social behaviour. However, Inspector Micklewright informed members that the police are working in partnership with Enforcement Officers to monitor anti-social behaviour.

Members had various questions for Inspector Micklewright & Alistair Place.

Alistair Place informed members that Stockton is covered 24 hours with patrols in cars. He advised that there are currently two Enforcement Officers for Billingham who patrol in a car up to 12 p.m. at night, week days. The Officers check noise abatement and patrol up to 3 p.m. on weekends. On an evening neighbourhood Police Officers also cover Billingham.

Inspector Micklewright stated that he does not anticipate seeing any particular problems arising following the closure of the Forum. He advised members that the Police Station within Billingham is open on following days and times:

<b>Monday &amp; Tuesday</b>	<b>9.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>12.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>8.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>9.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.</b>

After all questions were answered, the Chair thanked Inspector Micklewright and Alistair Place for attending the meeting.

**It was resolved**

The update from Inspector Micklewright and Alistair Place is accepted.

**351/09 LOUISE McDONALD, REGENERATION MANAGER – Stockton Borough Council**

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

Areas discussed were; Town Centre redevelopment, Billingham House, & Billingham Forum.

Members had various questions for Louise these were around;

- Billingham House and The Forum (security)

Louise informed members that information about the programme of activities/relocation of services following the closure of the Forum has been included in the July edition of Stockton News as a centre page pull out and is also provided on Stockton Borough Councils and Tees Active Ltd websites. Louise also advised that Morgan Ashurst the developers have taken over the security of the Forum building during the refurbishment.

The Clerk advised Louise of an issue in respect of the pathway between the Forum and Doctors surgery on Queensway being closed. Louise stated that it had been necessary to close this area to facilitate the erection of a 6 metre security fence and hoardings around the Forum and theatre while it is developed for the protection and safety of the public. The area is not recorded as a public right of way nor is it an adopted highway.

**Public Participation**

Kevin Bowler thanked the police for the reports they receive at Billingham North Residents Association meetings. Kevin asked if the Town Council can help support by distributing information to residents to change people's perceptions and attitude, around security, crime etc in Billingham.

Kevin reported that on the cycle lane at Rievaulx Avenue cars are parking on the path and asked who can enforce none parking? This would possibly be the Enforcement Team if cars are parked on the path/road.

Louise advised members that information about the refurbishment of the Forum including contact will be placed within the foyer of the old Billingham Art Gallery (window) which over time, is hoped will become a consultation and information hub for all schemes in Billingham. As the contract progresses, the display will be updated with text and pictures to allow residents and users to see the progress over the 18 month refurbishment.

Member of the public – have you ever asked if the public if they want the police station open on an evening?

Inspector Micklewright stated that he does not think that having the Police Station open on a night would be best usage and he would need to look at the busiest times within the Town Centre.

A member of public asked about safety of access and egress to the Billingham House site.

**It was resolved**

Louise's updates on regeneration in Billingham are received.

The Chair thanked Inspector Micklewright, Alistair Place & Louise Mc Donald for attending the meeting.

At this point he meeting was adjourned for a few minutes.

**351/09 MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 23<sup>rd</sup> JUNE 2009**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Town Council meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2009.

**It was resolved**

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

**352/09 MATTERS ARISING – from minutes of meeting (discussion only)**

No matters arising.

**353/09 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup> JULY 2009**

Consideration was given to the recommendations from the minutes of the Finance & Resources Committee on 9th July 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.

**354/09 MATTERS ARISING – from the minutes of the Finance & Resources Committee on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

**FR73/09** – Donation request from Pentland Primary School. The request is to help fund a class of children to attend the Royal Albert Hall to receive their prize for winning the National Music Quest competition. Cllr Scott asked if Stockton Borough Council looked over this request under Gifted & Talented. Cllr Mike Smith explained that Stockton Borough Council budgets are tight. Cllr O'Donnell explained that schools do hold large funds for such projects.

The Chair asked Town Council members if they can inform her/ the Clerk of what is happening in schools for future events etc.

**355/09 MINUTES OF THE SERVICES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE ON 9th JULY 2009**

Consideration was given to the recommendations from the minutes of the Services & Amenities Committee on 9th July 2009.

**It was resolved**

The minutes were accepted as a true record of proceedings and the recommendations made by the Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

**356/09**

**MATTERS ARISING – from the minutes of the Services & Amenities Committee on the 9th July 2009**

Cllr Mockler raised the issue of attendance at the Billingham Carnival & Garden Show on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September & Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2009. The Clerk to advise all members of what is happening at the stand for Billingham Town Council and made a request for helpers on the day.

Requests for more information re: Neighbourhood Watch Schemes currently within Billingham and information in respect of dates and times to be circulated to members.

Cllr O'Donnell informed members that she had attended two Safer Billingham Partnerships meetings and this topic will be promoted at the Billingham Carnival.

**It was resolved:**

The Clerk to explore Neighbourhood Watch Schemes currently within Billingham.

**357/09**

**CLERKS REPORT**

The Clerk advised members on the progress of projects. (Previously circulated).

- **Youth Café –** The Clerk advised members that there are new developments with regards to the Youth Café in Billingham. The Clerk advised members that the Chair and herself had met with Barbara Jordan - Youth Support Team Manager for Stockton Borough Council, at which Barbara was advised of the Town Council's decision to help with funding for the Youth Cafe. It was identified that Billingham Town Council would pay for sessional youth workers and for extra equipment needed for the Café.

At the meeting the Clerk had asked for information prior to the release of any funds, this information being:

- Sustainability plan for the Youth Café
- Budget planning/forecast 3-5 years
- Staffing/running costs of the Café

Barbara had advised that she would pull the information together and a further meeting was arranged.

Further to this initial meeting the Clerk advised that she had received a telephone call from Barbara to cancel the arranged second meeting due to the fact she was unable to pull together the information requested by Billingham Town Council.

At this point the Clerk advised members that she had made enquiries into the Youth Service Review of which a report will be presented to cabinet late October, until which there is no clarification what will happen with the youth service in Billingham.

With this in mind the Clerk advised members that the Council should carefully consider this matter as it would not be prudent/safe to invest public monies into this project without all of the sustainability information and that we are uncertain what the results will be from the youth service review.

The Clerk advised members that it would be prudent to wait until the Youth review was completed and we know the longevity of the Youth Café before the proposed funding is handed over. However, it was recommended that Billingham Town Council fund the salaries for sessional workers over the summer holidays but paid by Billingham Town Council via an invoice procedure so we know that the money invested is spent on providing additional workers, to open the café more sessions per week, particularly over the summer period.

At this point Cllr Metcalfe expressed an interest in applying for a sessional workers post at the Youth Café.

- The Clerk advised members that she is still looking for match funding for the Development Worker' post and will continue to do so until we are successful. The Clerk informed members that she had made a request through Committee that should the need arise would the Town Council assist by stepping in to meet the match funding in the interim, so that we are able to proceed with advertising the post. Details of the post have been considered by the Staffing Committee for implementation once the full Town Council approve the Committee's recommendations.

Cllr Metcalfe asked if we are responsible for funding the Development Worker post out of the precept – clarification was given on this by the Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer.

Cllr Mike Smith stated that we will be advertising the post on the basis of a 12 month contract. Does that mean that the Town Council would receive a 1/3 of funding bearing in mind that the project started in April 09. If we need to give notice to terminate the contract will the Town Council be paid the notice money?

Cllr Metcalfe expressed her reservations with proceeding with the Development Worker's post.

At this point the Chair asked members to vote on the proposal to proceed with the appointment of a Development Worker.

**It was resolved:**

The Clerks report is accepted. A vote was taken and it was agreed by members to proceed with the appointment to the Development Workers post and that Billingham Town Council match fund the post in the interim until further funding is found.

**358/09 FINANCE**

The members considered the monthly Schedule of Accounts previously circulated.

**It was resolved**

The monthly accounts are accepted for payment.

The Clerk advised members that Graham Barker (Manager of Shaw Trust) is able to purchase a water bowser for £500. As the watering of the Town Council flower tubs has increased this year due to the extra tubs being placed around Billingham, would Billingham Town Council consider part funding the purchase of the bowser, so that the watering system is more streamlined. This will be an investment for the future particularly as the project is to increase each year.

**It was resolved**

Members voted and it was decided that Billingham Town Council would pay £250 towards the purchase of the bowser, supporting the Town Council logo.

**360/09 PLANNING**

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

At this point Cllr O'Donnell declared a non-prejudicial interest as Vice Chairman of Cleveland Fire Authority and Cllr Stoker as a member of Cleveland Fire Authority in **planning application no. 09/1000/OUT** for the proposal: Outline application for new fire station (demolition of existing fire station). **Location:** Fire Station, Seat Carew Road, Port Clarence.

Cllr Pollard gave information on the erection of a 5 metre fence around the new college building in respect of Bede Sixth Form College, Hale Road, Billingham. The original planning application was approved for a 3 metre fence.

**It was resolved:**

The planning applications are approved. The plans to be obtained from Stockton Borough Council on fencing at the Bede Sixth Form College development, to ascertain the actual recommended height for the fence.

**361/09 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Chair closed the meeting at this point for 10 minutes to allow public participation. (Time was reduced due to the public participation earlier in the meeting).

Kevin Bowler stated that the potential for Billingham Town Council to be involved in the Communities Fund would be a great opportunity. However, he has reservations in respect of Newtown Resource Centre who would be part funding the post.

Also Kevin advised about an incident in John Whitehead Park, need to look at CCTV camera footage and speak to PC Simon Pearson.

**It was resolved**

Members of the public were thanked for attending the meeting.

**362/09 CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk advised members of the following correspondence.

- Letter from Simon Hoad – Development Director, Stockland (UK) Ltd via Dale Clarke
- Email from David Campbell, Headteacher – Pentland Primary School

- Email from Louise McDonald, Regeneration Manager – programme of activities for children and young people scheduled to take place in Billingham over the school holidays.
- Letter from Graham Clingan, Strategy & Development Manager, Countryside & Greenspace, Stockton Borough Council in respect of Draft Stockton on Tees Green Infrastructure Strategy 2009-2021.
- Invitation from Futurity Tees Valley CIC to the official launch of the Mobile Play Facility on National Play Day

**It was resolved**

The correspondence is accepted.

**363/09 OTHER BUSINESS**

A member reported that bigger/bolder signs have been placed around Billingham to warn residents about dog mess and the penalty applied.

Stockland (UK) Ltd to be invited to the next Town Council meeting.

**It was resolved**

Information received is accepted.

Clerk to invite Stockland to Town Council meeting in September .

**364/09 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting is **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2009** commencing at 6.30 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

**Signed.....**  
**Chairman to Billingham Town Council**