

# **Billingham Town Council Minutes of Town Council Meeting**

**Tuesday 23rd June 2009  
6.00 pm,  
Council Chamber, Billingham**

- Present:** **Councillor Sue Skilbeck (Chairman)**  
Councillors; Helen Atkinson, James Dickinson, Ray McCall, Ann McCoy, Jane Metcalfe, Olive Milner, Eleanor Mockler, Jean O'Donnell, Sharon Scott & Paul Smith
- Apologies:** Apologies were received from, Councillors; Alan Gallimore, Colin Pollard, Mike Smith & Mick Stoker
- Official:** Dianne Rickaby – Town Clerk
- In Attendance:**
- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Mr Kevin Bowler     | North Billingham Residents Association |
| Mr Graeme Robertson | North Billingham Resident Association  |
| Mr Dale Clarke      | Member of the public                   |
| Jill Hutchinson     | Member of the public                   |

## **330/09 NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

## **331/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies of absence were submitted from Councillors: Alan Gallimore, Colin Pollard, Mike Smith & Mick Stoker.

## **332/09 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Chair asked if there were any declarations of interests.

No declarations were made.

333/09

## **DANIELLE BARNES & PAUL MAGEE – Community Fund Update**

Danielle Barnes and Paul Magee gave members an update on the current position with the Community Fund Project.

Last update from Paul Magee and Kevin McCauley we were at proposal stage. Now that the contract has been awarded to Newtown Resources Centre it is very much full steam ahead with the programme.

Danielle identified the various other partner groups and highlighted that the partnership with Billingham Town Council is fundamental to the progress of the project.

Danielle confirmed that Newtown Resources Centre as the lead providers will be providing funding of £45,000 over 3 years at £15,000 per annum as part funding for the Town Council to employ a Development Worker. Outcomes have been profiled to this post as part of the targets for the programme.

Members asked Danielle and Paul various questions around;

**Q. Funding from Newtown to Billingham Town Council for Development Worker, when will this be available and how frequently will it be paid?**

**A. This will be discussed and an amenable/frequency/method of payment will be implemented.**

**Q. Who will be the NVQ providers, will they be local training providers?**

**A. Looking at local providers within Billingham (Adult Education) but some will be from outside with possibly satellite groups within Billingham.**

**Q. How will the homeless be integrated into the worklessness programme especially when they do not have a fixed address?**

**A. This is a difficult area but there will be something put in place to ensure homeless have the same access to the programme.**

**Q. How will the over 50's be assessed in this programme?**

**A. All cases are addressed on an individual basis.**

**Q. Who will pay the registration fee's which will be required under the Independent Safeguarding Authority to work with youngsters in this programme?**

**A. Programme Lead will pay all registration fees.**

**Q. Sustainability/Outputs – is this achievable what is required?**

**A. Yes, we do feel it is achievable, however it's not going to be a simple programme in its infancy.**

After the questions were answered, the Chair thanked Danielle and Paul for attending the meeting and for their informative update.

**It was resolved**

The update from Danielle Barnes & Paul Magee is accepted.

**334/09**

**LOUISE McDONALD, REGNERATION MANAGER – Stockton Borough Council**

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

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

Members had various questions for Louise these were around;

- 2005 Public consultation regarding Town Centre redevelopment
- Cosmetic changes to Town Centre and public involvement in the proposed changes
- Viability of covered Town Centre
- Car parking where will it be, will spaces be lost?
- Tees Active – gym moved to Belasis Business Park, improved signage needed for residents to find the facility.
- Planning – what is proposed to be first application to be submitted for Town Centre redevelopment?
- Envisaged old Kwik Save building

After a lengthy discussion around regeneration in Billingham the Chair advised Louise that should any questions for her arise from public participation, the Clerk will advise accordingly.

**It was resolved**

Louise's updates on regeneration in Billingham are received.

**335/09**

**PRESENTATION OF PETITION RECEIVED FROM MR P KIRBY – re: Billingham Town Centre**

The Clerk presented to the members a petition she had been handed from Mr P Kirby, Billingham Health Centre. The petition holds several thousand names. The Clerk advised members that she had spoken with Mr Kirby prior to the meeting to discuss further. Mr Kirby advised that the general main concern of residents is the lack of information disseminated to them in relation to when and how the Town Centre will be redeveloped.

Mr Kirby felt that if Billingham Town Council could help to ensure that residents are kept informed of what is happening with the redevelopment instead of being kept in the dark the residents may be a little more appeased.

Members discussed the petition.

Cllr McCoy stated that she felt the petition should have been addressed at the Annual General Meeting when the press were present at it could have been an opportunity to send out the message that Billingham Town Council are listening to the residents.

The Clerk advised members that she did not feel that the petition could be presented at the Annual General Meeting as **a)** it was not an agenda item **b)** no preparation work had been carried out for this.

**It was resolved**

The Clerk to contact the press and have the article changed as the petition was not presented at Annual General Meeting (as stated in their published article) and re-issue a statement from the Town Council.

As we believe the correct procedure is to present the petition to the principal authority, the Clerk to pass the petition over to the Mayor of Stockton Borough Council.

The Clerk to reply to Mr Kirby outlining Billingham Town Council's actions and to make him aware that there are plans to utilise the art gallery building as an information point about the Town Centre redevelopment.

Louise McDonald to also contact Mr Kirby.

**336/09 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 22<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2009**

Consideration was given to the recommendations from the minutes of the Finance & Resources Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 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.

**337/09 MATTERS ARISING – from the minutes of the Finance & Resources Committee on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2009**

**FR/64/09** - Enforcement provision. Cllr Scott asked if this provision could be revisited by the Town Council as she does not want it to be put to one side. Crime figures are not completely accurate, as some crimes are not reported.

Members discussed this matter again.

**It was resolved:**

A representative from the Police and Enforcement be invited to the next Town Council meeting in July to discuss what extra provision is needed.

**FR63/09** – Youth Café, the Chair outlined the proposal recommended from Finance & Resources Committee to help with financing sessional workers and provide extra equipment for the centre.

**It was resolved**

The recommendation to help finance the Youth Café be approved.

**338/09 MINUTES OF THE SERVICES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE ON 22<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2009**

Consideration was given to the recommendations from the minutes of the Services & Amenities Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2009.

**It was resolved**

The minutes were accepted as a true record of proceedings and the recommendations made by the Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2009.

**339/09 MATTERS ARISING – from the minutes of the Services & Amenities Committee on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2009**

The Clerk gave members an update from this Committee in conjunction with her monthly report.

**It was resolved:**

The Clerk's update/report is accepted.

**340/09 CLERKS REPORT**

The Clerks update given earlier in meeting.

**It was resolved:**

The Clerks report is accepted.

**341/09 FINANCE**

The members considered the monthly Schedule of Accounts previously circulated.

The Clerk advised that she had received additional invoices from:

- Wallis Office Furniture (Conference room)      **£1711.21**  
    (approved at Committee)
  
- Stockton Borough Council for installation of      **£1840.00**  
    4 litter bins (approved at Committee)

- Internal audit review invoice – P Hall **£50.00**  
(approved by Committee)

**It was resolved**

The monthly accounts are accepted for payment.

The additional invoices be approved for payment.

**342/09 PLANNING**

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

Cllr O'Donnell advised members that the Tees Valley Waste Strategy is in draft and can be viewed.

Also 26 Tibbersley, Cllr Stoker had passed his concerns to Cllr O'Donnell about the size of this application. However, having looked at it Cllr O'Donnell advised that it looks well within planning remit.

**It was resolved:**

The planning applications are approved.

Cllr O'Donnell's information is accepted.

**343/09 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Chair closed the meeting at this point for 15 minutes to allow public participation.

Mr K Bowler – First question, is with regards to Community Fund project, as the project has already started in April 09 will the £15,000 for Billingham Town Council's Development Worker be apportioned to the remainder of the year or will all of the allocation still be paid?

The Clerk advised that she would expect the full £15,000 allocation will still be paid to Billingham Town Council for the year.

With regards to Mr Kirby's petition, could the Clerk perhaps make Mr Kirby aware of the information that is given to residents associations and maybe advise him when and where they are held. 2005 public consultation regarding Town Centre redevelopment. Mr Bowler advised that 25% of residents completed questionnaire but no mention on form for covered Town Centre. Mr Bowler felt that Billingham Town Council should be representing the residents and asking why a covered Town Centre was not given as an option in the top 10 wish list.

Mr Dale Clarke – Mr Clarke addressed matters around crime figures, council's proposed Garden Scheme, idea is to contact River Cottage (Hugh Fearnley) programme to see if it would be a viable project for Billingham.

Mr Clarke asked what has happened regarding the planning applications approved from Tesco for the extra lane at cross roads, Marsh House/Causeway, and the change of entrance to petrol station on Marsh House Avenue. Mr Clarke advised that the queue waiting at the petrol station at one point was actually encroaching onto Marsh House Avenue which could potentially cause congestion and accidents.

Billingham Forum – Mr Clarke advised that he has concerns around the longevity of the Forum after its refurbishment, due to increasing fuel costs. He stated that he had attended a finance meeting at Stockton Borough Council where it was discussed that rising energy costs around the Borough may cause problems. 80% increase in energy costs was stated. Where will this come from?

At this point Cllr McCoy advised that Stockton Borough Council were currently carrying out a 3 year programme of efficiency and prudent transformation which will address such concerns around rising energy costs.

Cllr O'Donnell added to Cllr McCoy's advice by stating that Stockton Borough Council are looking at more energy efficient mechanisms in all areas and gave an example of this re: street lighting.

Graeme Robertson – Mr Robertson asked members if they would vote by show of hands to the following question:

“For any forthcoming consultation facilitated by Stockton Borough Council about Billingham Town Centre regeneration proposals, how many Town Councillors present at this meeting wish to see it include specific questions to ascertain resident's views about: **(a)** extending the amount of covered space and **(b)** installation of canopies on shop frontages?”

The Chair and Clerk advised that it was not protocol for members to vote on a matter that had not been previously discussed.

Members would discuss and forward a reply via email (if acceptable) to Mr Robertson.

Mr Robertson accepted this proposal.

**It was resolved**

The Clerk to email Mr Bowler, Mr Clarke and Mr Robertson replies from Town Council (where practicable) to their questions.

The Chair thanked the members of the public for attending the meeting and for all their questions/comments.

At this point the Chair asked if the public could leave the meeting due to the confidential nature of the next agenda item **344/09** General Office Assistant.

**344/09 GENERAL OFFICE ASSISTANT**

The Clerk advised members that Vicky Lloyd's probation period was due to end on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009. The Clerk gave members a report from the Staffing Committee at which all members available approved the Clerk's recommendation to appoint Vicky on a permanent basis in her role as General Office Assistant.

The Clerk advised members of the salary £15,524 - £16,614 pro rata pa. Hours of work – 25 hours per week.

The Clerk advised that should the post warrant extra hours, Vicky is happy to work hours required.

**It was resolved**

The Clerks/Staffing Committee's recommendation be accepted. Vicky Lloyd is given a permanent contract from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009.

The Clerk thanked members for their approval and stated that Vicky is a tremendous support to her and that they both work very well together.

**345/09**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk advised members of the following correspondence.

- Letter from Billingham West Residents Association thanking Town Council for the flower tubs placed in their area and Roseberry Road
- Letter from Mrs Vernell re: garden that can be utilised as an allotment. (being addressed in possible garden scheme).
- Broadacres Building Care – Handyperson Service (leaflets handed out).
- Voluntary Sector Support Fund Review (emailed to members previously)
- Notice of submission of LDF Core Strategy Development Plan Document (Stockton Borough Council) – previously circulated
- Keith Matthews (Stockton Borough Council) – advising that café in John Whitehead Park is now open and confirmation that £50,000 of Stockton Borough Council’s play builder provision has been allocated to John Whitehead Park. (previously emailed to members)
- Stockton Borough Council – Submission of Core Strategy Development Plan accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal & Assessment (emailed to members previously on 28/06/09)

**It was resolved**

The correspondence is accepted.

**346/09**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Paul Smith asked if there is any progress on the path at Mill Lane/New Road and the provision of a Zebra Crossing on Mill Lane.

The Clerk advised that we are still uncertain who is in ownership of the path in question therefore at the moment unable to get any work carried out. We are still looking into this to ascertain who is responsible for the maintenance of the path.

Mill Lane Zebra Crossing – the Clerk advised that she will speak with Mark Gillson (Highways at Stockton Borough Council) as it was reported at the Northern Transport Strategy Meeting that there is provision for this crossing.

The Clerk will advise Cllr Paul Smith accordingly.

**It was resolved**

Cllr Paul Smith's queries be addressed further. The Clerk to inform Cllr Smith of progress.

**347/09      DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

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