Minutes of the Economy Committee meeting held on

**Thursday 26th September 2023 at 7.pm**

# Present:

Cllrs G Jennison, R Knowles, B Wyatt-Millington and K Griffin.

# In attendance:

David Shaw (Co-optee), Emily McDowell and Baildon Town Council Volunteer Coordinator

# ECO2324/21 Chair’s opening remarks

Cllr Jennison noted that Cllr Griffin recently joined the Council and will become a member of the Economy Committee in due course (once properly appointed by Full Council).

Cllr Jennison also welcomed Dave Shaw to the committee.

The great success of the Walkers are Welcome festival was noted.

The Chair also noted that City of Culture meetings are taking place with Bradford Council officers in order that Baildon Town Council can be fully briefed and involved in the programme.

# ECO2324/22 Approve reasons for absence

Resolved to approve reasons for absence of Cllr Dixon.

# ECO2324/23 Disclosures of interest

None.

# ECO2324/24 Minutes of the previous meeting

**Resolved to approve the minutes of the Economy Committee meeting of 13th June 2023 subject to the following amendments:**

* **ECO2324/10 – Cllr Dixon advised that Friends of Baildon Station had recently held their AGM and it was noted that passenger information screen will be made 2 sided.**

# ECO2324/25 Clerk’s report

Deferred to relevant items.

# ECO2324/26 To Co-opt non-voting member(s) to the Economy Committee

Resolved to co-opt David Shaw to the Economy Committee.

**ECO2324/27 Important Information from Councillors and Staff**

David Shaw detailed the great success of the Harley Rally and advised that while numbers were slightly down on for the rally, the ride-out itself was the busiest that it had ever been.

It was noted that the closure to Northgate went well and was well received by all.

David confirmed that all the pubs / cafes that he had spoken to were incredibly happy with the event and its success.

It was again noted that there is an ongoing need for volunteers to assist in the running of such events.

The Chair thanked David Shaw and the Shipley Wrecking Crew for their hard work in continuously putting this event together.

**ECO2324/28 Baildon at Christmas and Christmas Switch on Event**

Emily McDowall gave a brief narrative on the background and formation of the Baildon at Christmas committee. The event has been extremely successful over the past several years despite challenges such as the loss of Ian Clough Hall and the Baildon Club.

Emily confirmed that £1806.55 will be returned to Baildon Town Council in order to facilitate the running of the event this year and in the future.

Cllr Jennison thanked Emily and the committee for their work in providing such a great event over the years.

It was noted that Baildon Town Council have now taken the lead on Baildon at Christmas by arranging the market licence. The hubs will continue to book their own stalls.

The committee formally thanked Emily and the committee for their efforts.

**Resolved to accept £1806.55 to be returned and held as an earmarked reserve for Baildon at Christmas.**

Cllr Jennison also explained to the committee that following meeting with the Baildon at Christmas venues, there was an overwhelming feeling that the lights switch on should be on the same date as Baildon at Christmas so as not to cause confusion.

**Resolved to amend resolution ECO2324/14. The switch on event will now be held at 17:15 on 3rd December 2023.**

# ECO2324/29 To consider current Planning applications on CBMDC website and to agree actions (see planning4Bradford.ECO).

Deferred to the end of the meeting.

Resolved:

23/03238/FUL – A number of concerns were raised about the suitability of this location for a retail unit. Baildon Town Council comments that pedestrian access must be provided and the disabled parking space maintained’.

23/03192/FUL – No comment

23/03419/HOU – No comment

# ECO2324/30 Baildon Library

The Volunteer Coordinator gave a detailed report on the current library service including details on footfall, volunteers and closures.

The library is well received generally with the main challenge being its size. The Volunteer Coordinator still has a good amount of volunteers to cover shifts and will be recruiting again shortly.

The Volunteer Coordinator requested that the ‘library’ budget line be split to have a ‘volunteers’ budget line and a ‘library’ budget line as the majority of money is actually spent on volunteers and this is not shown in the budget heading.

The committee thanked the volunteer coordinator for the report and noted how successful the footfall figures were given the size of the building.

# ECO2324/31 Christmas Lights

A report was received from the Clerk regarding Baildon Town Council’s Christmas lights contract:

**Resolved to offer Christmas Plus a 3 year contract from March 2024 to March 2027 (reference made to financial regulation 11.1d).**

# ECO2324/32 Northgate Public Toilets

The Deputy Clerk provided a detailed annual report on the Northgate toilets as well as the incident log. The Deputy Clerk also provided an update on the Northgate Toilets cleaning contract which had been delegated to the Clerk to resolve.

**Resolved:**

* **To vire £1500 from the Community Bus budget line to the repairs and maintenance budget line.**

# ECO2324/33 Shipley Glen Tramway

A report was received from the Shipley Glen Tramway regarding how last years funding from Baildon Town Council was spent. The monies were spent on a new timeline for the lower station.

The report noted that the tramway is ran entirely by volunteers.

Resolved to award a further £1000 to the Shipley Glen Tramway and that the tramway be included in the Economy Committee’s Bradford 2025 event planning.

# ECO2324/34 Baildon Ignition Group

A report was received from BIG regarding their winding down. The report noted that £750 was to be returned to Baildon Town Council.

Resolved to accept the £750 returned from BIG with no interest to be sought.

**ECO2324/35 Committee Budget**

23/24 budget:

It was noted that the Northgate toilets budget is very concerning, and it was discussed whether there is a need for a full review next year

Resolved to undertake a formal review of the Northgate Toilets (costs and footfall) at the end of the next financial year.

24/25 proposed budget:

The proposed budget for 24/25 was considered and accepted but it was noted that a provision for City of Culture will be required somewhere within the whole Council budget.

Resolved to recommend a budget of £33,250.00 for the Economy Committee for 2024 / 2025 to the Governance Committee.

**ECO2324/36 Promotional Opportunities**

Christmas lights switch on event / Baildon at Christmas.

**ECO2324/37 Next Meeting Date**

6th February 2024

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