



**WEST BEDLINGTON
TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 13th October 2016 at 6.30 pm at Bedlington Community Centre, Bedlington.

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: M Robinson (Chair), K Dalton, J Dobie, D Graham, P Hedley, A Hogg, C Taylor,

COUNCILLORS NOT PRESENT: J Tyler, S Tyler.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Town Clerk S Young and 7 (Seven) members of the public.

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations for this meeting.

OPEN SESSION

- A resident expressed his objection to an application for funding from The Schalksmuhle Society. (Agenda Item 13).

C140/16 - 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Councillors J Tyler and S Tyler.

Resolved to accept the apologies for absence received.

C141/16 - 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS

Resolved that the minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council meeting of 8th September 2016 are approved.

C142/16 - 3. MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Hogg provided an update in relation to minute C125/16 re: planning consent for Advertising Hoarding in Bedlington Market Place to the effect that the advertisement was permissible.

C143/16 – 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures for this meeting.

C144/16 - 5. CHAIRS UPDATE

The Chair provided updates on the matters detailed in Appendix A – Chairs Update

Chairman's initials

C145/16 - 6. COMMITTEE / WORKING GROUPS

- a. Finance and Governance – Councillor Robinson circulated a written report in relation to the working groups meeting on 30th September 2016 which was essentially to inspect council’s financial position and assess financial performance. . Recommendations from the meeting and an opportunity to discuss the Councils financial position are included within Agenda Item 16.
- b. Events and Communication working group – Councillor Graham advised that all matters to be considered were already included with the current agenda. (Agenda Item 7).
- c. Services Committee – Councillor Taylor provided a verbal update in support of the previously distributed draft copy of the minutes from the Services Committee meeting held on 22nd September 2016.
Resolved to accept all committee / working group reports

C146/16 - 7. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

- a. **Arrangements for Remembrance Parade and Service on Sunday 13th November 2016 are noted.**
- b. **Resolved to procure Entertainments Unlimited for the provision of a Christmas Lights Switch on Event on 2nd December 2016.**
- c. **Resolved to hold an indoor Christmas Fair at Bedlington Community Centre alongside the Christmas Lights Switch on Event.**
- d. **Resolved to appoint Hags SMP as the Councils preferred contractor for the refurbishment of its play areas at Meadowdale and West Lea Bedlington.**

C147/16 – 8. CORRESPONDENCE

Resolved that all Correspondence, Consultations and Invitations (Appendix B) has been properly received and actioned.

C148/16 - 9. COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVES ON EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

- I. Town / Parish Liaison Committee (Councillor Robinson) – no meeting to report upon.
- II. NALC – (Councillor Dalton) – Two (2) reports circulated.
- III. LMAPS now Community Safety Hub– (Councillor Hedley) – report circulated.
- IV. Northumberland In Bloom – (Councillor Hedley) – report circulated.
- V. Red House Farm residents Group – (Councillor Hogg) – no meeting to report upon.
- VI. Joint Meetings with East Bedlington Parish Council – no meeting to report upon, to be removed.
- VII. Gallagher Park Steering Group – (Councillor Dalton) – no meeting to report upon.
- VIII. Dr Pit Stakeholder Meetings – (Councillor Dalton) – no meeting to report upon.
- IX. Bedlington Steering Group – (Councillor Graham) – notes meeting to report upon.
- X. Bedlington Partnership – (Councillor Robinson) – report circulated.

Resolved to accept all reports provided.

C147/16 - 10. CLERKS REPORT

Resolved to accept the Clerks report (Appendix C).

C148/16 - 11. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

Resolved to approve the schedule of payments and receipts (Appendix D).

C149/16 - 12. PLANNING

Resolved not to make any comment in relation to any of the applications contained within the schedule for the meeting (Appendix E).

Planning decisions are shown in Appendix F for information only.

Chairman’s initials

C150/16 - 13. COMMUNITY CHEST / PUPILS FUND APPLICATIONS

- **Bedlingtonshire Community High School - Resolved to DEFER a decision on the application to obtain further information.**
- **Schalksmuhle Society – Resolved NOT to award any funding in respect of the application.**

C151/16 - 14. RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

The Clerk outlined the reason for the delay in sending a draft to the printer and is hopeful that this will not impact upon the delivery schedule.

C152/16 – 15. POLICE REPORT

Resolved to accept the report submitted.

C153/16 – 16. FINANCIAL REPORT AND ANNUAL RETURN OF ACCOUNTS

- I. **Resolved to approve and accept the external auditor’s certification of the Annual Return of Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2016.**
- II. **Resolved to approve the financial report submitted.**
- III. **Resolved to accept the recommendation of the Councils Finance and Governance Working group to commit an additional sum of £2K from reserves to the purchase of additional festival lights.**

C154/16 17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business for this meeting.

C155/16 – 18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved the next meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday 10th November 2016 at 6.30pm at Bedlington Community Centre

The meeting closed at 8.00pm

Signed by the Chair

10th November 2016

Appendix A, B, C, D and E only Form Part of these minutes.

Chairman’s initials

Appendix A – Chairs Update (Agenda Item 5).

Chairman's update September 2016:

It took some doing but we finally managed to track down the lady officer from NCC who had come in and talked to Steven and myself about CCTV. Louise came back and this time with much firmer promises. The upshot is that we are going to get two cameras and I informed her where members had suggested as best sites within the central Townscape. These cameras will not be monitored 24/7, as was originally suggested, instead they have a 28 day memory hard drive built in which is operated and downloaded by WI-Fi. As is the camera direction and angles. We spoke at length about the protocols for us accessing any images which we might want to use if there had been some vandalism etc to our physical street assets. To give members an idea of how much these cameras cost, bearing in mind we had one member who wanted to buy new cameras off Screwfix for a few pounds each, these ones cost around £4K each and whilst they are not the cheapest option NCC considered they are by no means the most expensive one either. Taking them on ourselves, as some members indicated is fraught with legal and logistical problems as most can well imagine.

Markets meeting..... 27/09/2016. The meeting was convened by NCC who are doing a strategic review of all their markets. Present were, Councillor Alyson Wallace, Councillor Val Tyler, Councillor Simpson, Greg Gavin (Divisional Manager Neighbourhood Services), Neil Brown (Markets Manager) and myself. Greg took us through a presentation about the NCC current strategy for their markets, the current initiatives being a full strategy review, cashless payment system and teenage markets. I expressed our dislike of vehicles being allowed onto the market place in direct contravention to the conditions laid down when the THI work was done. Alyson and Val backed me up.

The ways NCC are using to reinvigorate markets throughout the county were discussed; sadly not sure any will be suitable for Bedlington. Steven has the print out if anyone is interested.

The upshot was that Greg suggested Neil work with us in regard to the Bedlington Market and I proposed moving the market as a first step. That is again being looked at but this time it seems we have the support of Councillor Simpson who can make it happen whatever the officer says. Thanks to Alyson and Val for their help there!

Just had a meeting with Janice Rose (Economic and Inclusion Policy Manager) and Tony Kirsop who now oversees that in the SE of the County. Basically it's taken over Locality. I have to report a very positive meeting going off the gaping mouths when I explained the problems we have been having, trying to work with certain parts of NCC and the assurances we got that something will be done. As Janice said 'If NCC can't get the partnership right with the councils that want to be proactive and work with them then there is no chance when they want to work with the ones reticent to work in that way'. I think she was genuinely stunned by what I had to tell her.

So fingers crossed the relationship between NCC and ourselves should be about to be much improved.

I had a meeting with Gareth Davis, (Internal Communications and Branding Manager) and Mel Jackson who organised the Northumberland Live events in Bedlington and Blyth. I won't spoil their thunder as members have a meeting with them next week; suffice it to say that I said they needed to do it like that because this council makes decisions collectively. I hope as many members as possible attend.

Couple of further updates, firstly you will have seen the Xmas lights go up on the lamp post columns along Front Street. Christine and I had a meeting with Mark Kane the NCC lighting manager on Monday 3rd Oct where we said we are buying new units for Front Street this year and the best ones out of what's left we want to see used in other areas which have never had lights. He agreed and said it makes sense, also the tree lights have been inspected and are all OK for this year. On Wednesday 6th Oct, NCC started putting up our old lights on Front Street, so now they need to take them down and refit the new ones we have ordered! This from an authority trying to save money!

We have all seen the reply the Development Trust got back from their NCC Community Chest application. I think the wording is particularly misjudged to say the least. If the Trust were turned down because they wanted to help us in our play equipment replacement projects then that's political interference! I have had several exchanges about this and I

Chairman's initials

was told sorry if I was disappointed, well I wasn't disappointed I was disgusted some people can play political games when we are talking about disabled youngsters and their basic needs for inclusion! Suffice it to say we will make sure our disabled kids are well catered for!

Just on that, as everyone knows we have a recommendation tonight to award the contract for the new play equipment. After many months of work this is finally coming to the fore and as part of this I enquired if either Dr Pit or Humford might like our old equipment. That is being actively pursued at the moment. I have had some of our councillors say they would rather scrap our old equipment in light of that letter off NCC and whilst I can perfectly understand their frustration where we give about £50K's worth of equipment to NCC when they can't even fund a couple of bits of disabled play equipment for us through the Development Trust, I have to say we are bigger than that. We won't play that game we will do what Bedlington has always done, take it on the chin and get on with the job! (Must be that Ellington has much more deserving children seeing as they have just had their new play equipment funded through the same Community Chest! Sorry couldn't resist!)

I would like to thank Councillor Taylor, Councillor Dalton and Councillor Headley for their time and diligence when working on the working group assessing this commission. It's been quite concentrated as we imposed quite a tight timeline; however we now have a public recommendation and a council recommendation so well done to that group.

On to planning and members might have seen the new revised plans for the old School site. Well worth a look not least because of the absolute change in visage and materials now being used by Arch. At least we get that cracked wall redone and a widened footpath.

Speaking of planning.....Aston's Bar have now got their planning permission for their shutters in clear breach of planning guidance for our Conservation Area. I think it's fair to say now that the conservation area tag is basically worthless thanks to the woefully inadequate support off NCC Planners! * That was my understanding yesterday morning, yesterday afternoon I learnt that the application has been referred to committee so we still have a chance to influence the outcome, but let's not hold our breaths!

Just been to the Northumberland Town and Parish conference and I've been told to keep this brief! Geoff Paul welcomed us and spoke about how Brexit would produce changes locally which we can't foretell. He then said the NE Devolution which was knocked back by essentially our southern cousins, is now being talked about by the three north of the Tyne Authorities, ours being one!

Arch gave a presentation followed by questions.....still waiting for mine to be answered.

Active then did their presentation but this time I got an answer....yes Active now deliver library services, and yes they get paid to do it. So I made the point that here we see devolved services which have gone with their budget.....First time anyone has admitted that!

We then had the medium term financial plan, and I asked about the £345M capital budget which has recently been agreed by NCC, where is the funding coming from and how are we paying it back? If you look at that printout I gave you some months ago you will see under contingencies.....£7M+ in 2019 and £12M+in 2020 that's the start of the repayments. I asked how long they would be on our revenue budget but I'm still waiting for that answer.....in my view about 35years not accounting for any interest rate increases.

Paul Jones then gave his update, basically £46M to save over the next 3 years with £12M to be saved this year.

Services are getting a £78M investment though although we might have seen most of that already.....ie £26M for the street lighting project.

Hope that brief enough for members!

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Appendix B – Correspondence, Consultations and Invitations. (Agenda Item 8).

a) Correspondence

Ref	From	Summary	Action
157/16	Greggs PLC	Future plans for Bedlington store.	Noted and Circulated
158/16	Northumberland County Council	Household Waste Recovery Centre opening arrangements – proposal approved.	Noted and Circulated
159/16	Bedlingtonshire Community High School	Funding request	Noted, Circulated and on current agenda.
160/16	Callum Martin	Letter of apology	Noted and Circulated
161/16	VSC Support Services	Ebulletin Issue 58	Noted and Circulated
162/16	Northumberland CAN	Enews September 2016	Noted and Circulated
163/16	NCC + County Councillor Wallace	Consultation letter Hartford Bridge	Noted and Circulated
164/16	Northumberland CVA	Job Vacancies	Noted and Circulated
165/16	Northumberland County Council	Area Committee – South – Notice of meeting and agenda 14 th Sept 2016	Noted and Circulated
166/16	W L Straughan & Son Ltd	August 2016 Newsletter	Noted and Circulated
167/16	NALC	Enews 7 th September 2016	Noted and Circulated
168/16	Northumbria Healthcare	Stakeholder Update	Noted and Circulated
169/16	NALC	Enews 1st October 2016	Noted and Circulated
170/16	Bedlington Community Allotment	Free Gardening Course	Noted and Circulated
171/16	NALC	Enews 14 th September 2016	Noted and Circulated
172/16	Northumberland County Council	MySreet Northumberland Mobile App	Noted and Circulated
173/16	Northumberland CVA	Ebulletin Issue 59	Noted and Circulated
174/16	NALC	AGM Update	Noted and Circulated
175/16	Bedlington Forum	Important dates	Noted and Circulated
176/16	Northumberland County Council	Revised Who's Who	Noted and Circulated
177/16	NCC Building Conservation Officer	Security Shutters on Front Street	Noted and Circulated
178/16	NALC	Enews Council Tax Referendums	Noted and Circulated
179/16	Northumberland Wildlife Trust	Forthcoming Events	Noted and Circulated
180/16	NALC	Enews 27 th September 2016	Noted and Circulated
181/16	Bedlington Community Allotment	Autumn Get Together 13 th Sept 2016	Noted and Circulated
182/16	NALC	AGM Update 2	Noted and Circulated
183/16	Bedlington Forum	Next meeting 17 th Oct 2016	Noted and Circulated
184/16	Northumberland CVA	Ebulletin Issue 60	Noted and Circulated
185/16	Civic Voice	Civic Update 30 th Sept 2016	Noted and Circulated
186/16	Bernicia	Reply re Parking Issues at Red House Farm Estate	Noted and Circulated

b) Consultations

Owner	Description	Where and When
NALC	Council Tax Referendums	To NALC by 20 th Oct 2016

c) Invitations

Date	From	Description	Comments
25 th Oct 2016	Northumberland Rape Crisis	Discussion – Street Harassment	Open to all
30 th Sept 2016	Bedlington Community Allotment	Mcmillian Coffee Morning	Open to all
13 th Oct 2016	Healthwatch Northumberland	AGM	Open to all
18 th Oct 2016	Northumberland CVA	AGM	Open to all

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Appendix C – Clerks Report (Agenda Item 10).

West Bedlington Town Council - Council Meeting Thursday 13th October 2016

Services

Litter Bins –

Awaiting a delivery address from Northumberland CC for 40 ground mounted bins.

Repairs to bins on Front Street have been requested.

Allotments

No further progress to report

Bus Shelters

Nothing to report

Public Seating

New seat at Red Lion is to be installed next week /week after and existing seat moved to Westlea.

Play Areas

Preferred supplier has been selected – see agenda.

Repairs have been order in accordance with agreed response to ROSPA annual inspection report.

Environmental

All current painting projects have been completed.

Communications

The autumn edition of the resident's newsletter was due to go to the printers on Friday 7th October 2016 for delivery week commencing 31st October 2016 due to I.T issues this will now go asap.

General

The office suffered an I.T meltdown over the weekend and beginning of this week, which has resulted in a number of matters been delayed or cancelled. Effectively the hard drive holding all of the Councils record fell over with no alternative route into the records via back up files. Happy to report the issue has now been resolved. The I.T consultant reported that the Councils backup system was robust and did not need to be changed – although a different problem did prevent access to the backup temporarily. I have requested the I.T consultant to add some remote access for me (in an emergency). A couple of major things which suffered as a result of the loss of I.T - The resident's newsletter submission has been delayed and public notices for tonight's agenda could not be sent to the mailing list or added to the Councils website for which I apologise.

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**Appendix D – Schedule of Payments and Receipts (Agenda Item 12) Payment 1st Sept 2016 to 30th Sept 2016.
All payment GROSS of VAT. (Agenda Item 11).**

Payee	Amount	BCC	Bloom	Description
Talk Talk Business	35.10			Telephone + Internet
Michael Doherty	781.00			Bus Shelters + Litter Bins
Keenleysides	26.40			Paint
Northumberland County Council	(107,207.00)			Precept Payment – 2 nd Half Year
SLCC	187.00			Membership Subscription
HMRC	(8,839.71)			VAT Refund
Northumberland County Council	2,706.75			Payroll Costs
Michael Doherty	285.00			Litter Bins
Northumberland County Council	(5,755.00)			Funding Contribution for Litter Bins
Foxora Ltd	130.00			Website Hosting
BDO LLP	480.00			External Audit

Appendix E – Planning Applications Received for Comment. (Agenda Item 12).

Ref.	Description	Response Due
16/03047/DISCON	Discharge of Condition 3 (Detailed Landscape Planting Plan) for Planning Permission 09/E/00548/FUL - Erection of a steel portal building for a riding arena and a outdoor area for schooling horses Bedlington Lane Farm Hartford Road Bedlington NE22 6AA	18 th October 2016
16/03062/DISCON	Discharge of condition 6 (materials) to application application 13/02951/FUL Land South West Of Spring View Cottages Spring Park Bedlington Northumberland	14 th October 2016
16/03159/DISCON	Discharge of Conditions 11 (Contamination) and 26 (Play Provision) of planning application 15/01080/OUT Land East And South East Of Blue House Farm Netherton Road Bedlington Northumberland	13 th October 2016
16/03468/BT	Removal of Phone Box 01670822143 Next To No 1 Westlea Bedlington Northumberland	21 st October 2016

Appendix F - Planning decisions notified to WBTC by NCC - Information Only

Ref.	Description	Decision
16/02885/FUL	Proposed rear extension Location 12 Whitsun Gardens Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5BE	Granted
16/01758/REM	Reserved Matters Application in relation to application 15/01080/OUT Location Land East And South East Of Blue House Farm Netherton Road Bedlington Northumberland	Granted

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