



**WEST BEDLINGTON  
TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 8th September 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, J Tyler.

**COUNCILLORS NOT PRESENT:** J Tyler, S Tyler.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Town Clerk S Young and 9 (Nine) members of the public.

**PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations for this meeting.

**OPEN SESSION**

- A resident brought to the Council's attention the ongoing parking issues at Red House Farm Estate.  
The Chair informed the resident that the Council would write to Bernicia Homes to make them aware of residents' concerns.
- A resident asked if a safety barrier could be fitted on the road / path side to prevent children running out onto Choppington Lane when using the footpath alongside the Dr Pit Allotments and Chester Court Nursing Home.  
The Chair was able to advise that Northumberland County Council were already aware of the situation and the Council would enquire with regard to any progress.
- A resident asked if the Council could help with regard to the trade refuse bins at the front of the Tesco development.  
The Chair advised that he would take the matter up with Arch.
- A resident asked if the Council had any plans to purchase the old NCC Office site on Front Street West, Bedlington.  
The Chair advised that the Council had not discussed the possibility of a purchase.

**C123/16 - 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

**Resolved to accept the apologies for absence received.**

**C124/16 - 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS**

**Resolved that the minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> August 2016 are approved.**

Chairman's initials

### **C125/16 - 3. MATTERS ARISING**

Councillor Hogg in respect of minute C120/16 planning consent for Advertising Hoarding in Bedlington Market Place asked if there had been any update.

Councillor Taylor provided an update to the effect that planning permission was not required only consent and although it had not been sought to date it would be provided retrospectively.

### **C126/16 – 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

There were no disclosures for this meeting.

### **C127/16 - 5. CHAIRS UPDATE**

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

The Chair also informed the meeting of the impending litter pick organised by Christine Healy which is due on Wed 21st at 6.00pm, meeting at Bedlington Community Centre.

### **C128/16 - 6. COMMITTEE / WORKING GROUPS**

- a. Finance and Governance – No Meeting to report upon.
- b. Events and Communication working group – Councillor Graham provided a verbal update in relation to feedback about the Bedlington Street Fair and also informed the meeting that a Community Defibrillator training session by the North East Ambulance Service was to be held in Bedlington Community Centre on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016 starting at 6pm and that everyone welcome to attend.
- 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 25<sup>th</sup> August 2016. Members of the Councils Play Area refurbishment project were reminded that evaluation of the tenders received was required before the deadline date of 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016. Tenders and scoring sheets are available from the Clerk.

**Resolved to accept all committee / working group reports**

### **C129/16 - 7. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION**

- a. **Resolved to re-elect Councillor Taylor as Deputy Chair (Deputy Mayor).**
- b. **Resolved to include a request for Crime and Policing issues within the next residents' newsletter – Councillor Hedley to provide details.**
- c. **Withdrawn – through lack of marketing and insufficient ongoing communication from the provider.**
- d. **Resolved to approve the payment of The Clerks annual subscription to SLCC.**
- e. **Resolved – Councillors Robinson and Taylor will attend The Third Annual Town & Parish Council Conference on behalf of West Bedlington Town Council.**
- f. **Resolved that Councillor Taylor together with The Clerk will purchase new Christmas lights in line with the approved budget.**
- g. **Resolved to purchase a 30 foot Christmas tree for Bedlington Market Place.**
- h. **Resolved to procure a Christmas Lights Switch on Event in line with approved budgets and Councillor Graham will lead on obtaining suitable proposals.**

### **C130/16 – 8. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Council were informed of the following correspondence:

Ref	From	Summary	Action
142/16	The Craft Hive	Bedlington In Bloom	Noted and Circulated
143/16	Planning Enforcement	Update Untidy Land at Rear of Market Tavern	Noted and Circulated

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144/16	Northumberland CVA	Volunteer Recruitment Fair 14.9.2016	Noted and Circulated
145/16	Healthwatch Northumberland	Summer Newsletter	Noted and Circulated
146/16	Northumberland Wildlife Trust	Summer Event	Noted and Circulated
147/16	Northumberland County Council	Community Regeneration Team	Noted and Circulated
148/16	NALC	Bulletin – National Developments	Noted and Circulated
149/16	Northumberland CVA	Job Vacancies	Noted and Circulated
150/16	NALC	Enews 24 <sup>th</sup> August 2016	Noted and Circulated
151/16	NALC	Enews Planning Supplement	Noted and Circulated
152/16	NCC	Bedlington Steering Group Update	Noted and Circulated
153/16	NALC	Enews 30 <sup>th</sup> August 2016	Noted and Circulated
154/16	2522 (Bedlington) Squadron ATC	Letter of Thanks	Noted and Circulated
155/16	Bedlington Salvation Army	Letter of Thanks	Noted and Circulated
156/16	Bedlington Salvation Army	Summer Club 2016	Noted and Circulated

West Bedlington Town Council has been requested to give their opinion on the following consultations:

Owner	Description	Where and When
NCC	Use of Advertising Boards (A Boards and Sandwich Boards).	14 <sup>th</sup> October 2016
NCC	Hartford Bridge Refurbishment and Road Closure	Asap to NCC
NCC	Public Spaces Protection Order for the Control of Dogs	Asap to NCC

The following invitations have been received:

Date	From	Description	Comments
6 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2016	Locality	Regional Meeting	Circulated to members
Tba	2522 (Bedlington) Squadron ATC	Open Evening	Mon or Thurs Evenings

**Resolved that all correspondence, consultations and invitations have been properly received and actioned.**

#### **C131/16 - 9. COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVES ON EXTERNAL COMMITTEES**

##### **a). Feedback from Councillor Representatives on external committees**

- Town / Parish Liaison Committee (Councillor Robinson) – no meeting to report upon.
- NALC – (Councillor Dalton) – no meeting to report upon
- LMAPS now Community Safety Hub– (Councillor Hedley) – no meeting to report upon
- Northumberland In Bloom – (Councillor Hedley) – report circulated.
- Red House Farm residents Group – (Councillor Hogg) – no meeting to report upon.
- Joint Meetings with East Bedlington Parish Council – no meeting to report upon.
- Gallagher Park Steering Group – (Councillor Dalton) – no meeting to report upon
- Dr Pit Stakeholder Meetings – (Councillor Dalton) – report circulated.
- Bedlington Steering Group – (Councillor Graham) – notes previously circulated.

**Resolved to accept all reports provided.**

**b). Resolved to appoint Councillor Robinson as the Councils representative on Bedlington Partnership.**

#### **C132/16 - 10. CLERKS REPORT**

**Resolved to accept the Clerks report – Appendix A.**

#### **C133/16 - 11. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS**

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

#### **C134/16 - 12. PLANNING**

Ref.	Description	Response Due
16/02885/FUL	Proposed rear extension Location 12 Whitsun Gardens Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5BE	12th September 2016.

**Resolved not to make any comment in relation to 16/02885/FUL**

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Planning decisions are shown in Appendix C for information only.

**C135/16 - 13. COMMUNITY CHEST / PUPILS FUND APPLICATIONS**  
**Resolved not to make a donation to CAN.**

**C136/16 - 14. RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER**

The Clerk reminded Council members of the final date for submission of news articles for the Autumn Residents Newsletter - 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

**C137/16 – 15. POLICE REPORT**

There was no Police report for this meeting.

**C138/16 – 16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Councillor Graham – Remembrance Sunday.

**C139/16 – 16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Resolved the next meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday 13th October 2016 at 6.30pm at Bedlington Community Centre**

Signed by the Chair

13<sup>th</sup> October 2016

**Appendix A, B and D Form Part of these minutes.**

**Appendix A –**

West Bedlington Town Council - Council Meeting Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2016

**Agenda Item 10 - Clerk Report**

**Services**

Litter Bins –

The Council has resolved to provide new bins (20 Acre Field and Willow Vale Choppington Lane)

In addition the Council would like to rationalise the existing post mounted litter bins with larger capacity ground mounted litter bin. The Council is hoping to hear very shortly of the outcome of County Council Small Claims award which will provide the funding for all of these intended renewals. As part of the funding

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arrangement new ground mounted bins will also be provided at The Cemetery, on North Ridge and at the entrance to the Hazelmere estate.

I have already secured a very competitive quote for all the bins required.

As soon as all the funding is confirmed I will order the bins immediately.

#### Allotments

I have been informed that Mr Hetherington is no longer the Secretary of the Dr Pit Allotment Association. I have contacted Mr David Banks from the National Association of Allotments again to see how the new lease can be progressed.

#### Bus Shelters

The painter has now applied name transfers to most of the repainted bus shelters and the extension to the concrete foundation to the shelter near Chester Court has been completed.

#### Public Seating

New seats at Hartford Bridge and Red Lion have been agreed and I will order these at the same time as the litter bins to save delivery costs.

#### Play Areas

Invitations to tender for the refurbishment of both play areas have been sent on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2016. All 4 of the markets leading suppliers have indicated an intention to tender. The deadline for submissions is 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

#### Environmental

The painter is well underway with the painting of the railings in the Market Place and all the litter bins along Front Street.

#### **Communications**

The autumn edition of the resident's newsletter is due to go to the printers on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016 for delivery week commencing 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016.

The website hosting is due to transfer to Foxora Ltd on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

#### **General**

The Clerk is away on holiday Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016 to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2016

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**Appendix B – Schedule of Payments and Receipts (Agenda Item 12) Payment 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016**  
**All payment GROSS of VAT.**

Payee	Amount	BCC	Bloom	Description
Talk Talk Business	33.00			Telephone + Internet
Sleekburn Welding Ltd	630.00			Bus Shelter Repairs
Smart Office Systems Ltd	7.20			Printer Toner
W L Straughan & Son Ltd	300.00			Grass Cutting for Picnic Event
J Smith & Sons	1,140.00			Repairs to Swings
Victoria Thompson	69.95			Goods for Picnic Event
Zen Internet Ltd	4.79			Internet Hosting
Playsafety Limited	205.80			ROSPA Inspections
Victoria Thompson	154.64			Goods for Picnic Event
Nedderton and Bedlington WI	(20.00)			Picnic Event Donation
Dial A Car	(20.00)			Picnic Event Donation
Make a noise 4 Bedlington	(20.00)			Picnic Event Donation
2522 (Bedlington) SQN Air Training	437.00			Community Chest
Bedlington Community Centre	105.00			Street Fair Room Hire
Northumberland County Council	2,706.75			Payroll
Zurich	2,401.36			Insurance
Community Works	6,525.00			Street Fair
Carnival Rides	(2,500.00)			Street Fair Donation
Community Works - Rent from Fair	(715.00)			Street Fair Rental Income
Viking Payments	46.85			Stationary
Sleekburn Welding Ltd	90.00			Bus Shelter Repair

**Appendix C - Planning decisions notified to WBTC by NCC - Information Only**

Ref.	Description	Decision
16/01516/FUL	Proposed single storey extension to form garage and bathroom with quad pitch roof to replace existing flat roof Location 17 Rosalind Avenue Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5BA	Granted
16/00511/VARYCO	Variation of condition 8 (Removal of Hedges) relating to planning permission 14/04261/VARYCO - Variation of condition 15 from application 13/02080/FUL (Erection of 33 dwellings with associated highways and landscaping infrastructure) (As Amended) Location Land North Of Slaley Court Bedlington Northumberland	Granted
16/01878/FUL	Resubmission of application 16/00643/FUL - Side extension to an existing house to form two bedroom house. Location 47 Alfred Avenue Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5AZ	Granted
16/02347/FUL	Proposed double garage with single flat accommodation replacing existing garage and outhouses Location Four Acres Hartford Road Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6AQ	Granted
16/02402/FUL	Proposed single storey extension to front to provide additional Lounge. Location 27 Nottingham Court Hazelmere Bedlington NE22 6PE	Granted
16/01814/CCD	Proposed single storey extension to Early Years building to form toilets, changing room and meeting room Location Bedlington West End First School Ridge Terrace Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6EB	Granted
16/02176/FUL	Proposed extension to existing garage (as amended 09.08.16) Location 19 Court Road Bedlington Northumberland NE22 7LD	Granted
16/02175/FUL	Change of use of main house and agricultural building to C2 use - (residential institution children's home for children and young people with emotional and	Withdrawn at the

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	behavioral difficulties). Location Meadow View Farm Choppington Road Choppington NE62 5TJ	Applicants request.
16/01798/ADE	06.07 Advertisement Consent for erection of signage and flags to facilitate sales centre (as amended 06.07.2016) Location Land East And South East Of Blue House Farm Netherton Road Bedlington Northumberland	Granted

## APPENDIX D – Chairs Update (Agenda Item 5)

### Chairman's update August 2016:

Firstly in my last update I mentioned that wall at the side of the Church Hall development. Well I have a bit more information now thanks to Councillor Taylor. The only planning permission that site has is the original permission the Planning Appeals inspector granted, what I have been told is going to happen there is at odds with that permission. Of course as we are well aware variations to planning permissions are just a back door tactic of developers getting their own way so I expect to see variations for that site listed soon. Every chance I get I will be mentioning that dangerous wall.

Also another titbit about planning permission. Seems NCC need but don't have planning permission to put their advertising posters up across the road. However the planners whilst agreeing that permission should have been sought, as it has been in other towns, it's a case of NCC giving themselves permission so don't anyone hold their breath!

I have also had quite lengthy correspondence regarding the last Town Parish Council NCC liaison meeting. I questioned why there wasn't anything on the agenda where I could bring up the problems we are having with NCC not getting back to us regarding projects we want to see achieved. At first my intent was misunderstood but after spelling it out I was told to make representations through NALC? I declined that kind offer citing the fact that as we directly commission services off NCC and have SLAs with them I would expect the company we are buying those services off to have the gumption to deal directly with their customers! That seemed to have ruffled feathers and I now have a meeting with the directors I wanted to speak to!

Just to give a flavour of the type of problems we are having, and I have met with the appropriate line managers of each department to bring these to their attention, the misplaced lamp posts, lamp posts not finished or fitted correctly, our intention to have 'Welcome to Bedlington' lamp post banners up along Front Street for the fair!!!!!!!, all lamp posts painted in our Town colours within the conservation area and outwards towards our new gateway features once they get installed, permission off NCC technical services so we can get on with installing our new heritage based gateway features, the possibility of bollards around our Market Place to stop cars using it as a car park, double yellows around the nail because right at that pinch point they don't have double yellows???, a price for the relocation of the Trotter Memorial, a robust response to anyone fly posting on the roundabout, being able to commission properly for the likes of new paths.....to name a few!

I can't go off this topic before mentioning Ray Weallans because he came to our last services meeting and went away with a list of things we asked him to look into or see if he could get done for us. By and large he did exactly that and I wanted to thank him for his diligence.

I think this typifies what we are talking about, because I am making a special announcement thanking Ray for essentially doing his job. Whilst I don't want to take anything away from Ray I think it does highlight the way we are treated by other departments within NCC where we don't hear anything from them again. This will be the crux of the conversation I will be having soon with Geoff Paul and Janice Rose.

Chairman's initials

Getting back to the Liaison meeting itself, I have given the following for Steven to hand around members, but I think the public need to know as well because I can see these things impacting onto precepts very soon.

After the usual introductions and preliminary meetings items where the chair left no one under any misapprehension as to her feeling about having a regional Mayor thrust upon her or the fact that the wrong decision had been reached under the Brexit referendum we were given a quick report about the Devolution taking place across the North East.

There are 7 Councils who were asked to be part of this. The main item of contention is that it depended on there being an elect Mayor. 6 Councils eventually agreed with only Gateshead not agreeing with the Mayoral suggestion. Gateshead is now being called a 'non-conforming authority' whatever that means? I suspect it means they are being included even though they disagree with the principle aim. There has to be 2 bills passed, one for the Mayor and the other for the powers this devolved authority and mayor will have. The second part of that is going out to consultation, maybe not the type of consultation many are expecting, it's only the technical aspects of what is already in place which will be open for suggestion. All this needs to be done 6 months before an election is called and they want the election next May, same time as ours for cost implications.

We are being told Gov have underwritten all funding obligations they and the EU have towards our region until 2020. No one is saying what might happen after that but please be aware it's the same time local government will get a very much reduced grant from central government and its expected things like being able to keep non domestic rates will compensate for that reduction. Can't see that being good news for the likes of Bedlington but that's why we have gone to great lengths to get our Town Council budget into shape!

Mention was made of the huge economic benefit devolution will have for us. As I had read all the reports before the meeting commenced I asked given that in the next Brexit report we are being told about a huge potential loss of funding, will the financial benefit in this economic upsurge be the same, less or more than that being forecast as a negative impact of Brexit. I was told they couldn't answer so I pressed them more about this economic benefit. Seems one aspect is that the region is applying for a funding put of 1.1 billion pounds. That's great and so if we look at the £450M which is in the next report and might be under threat from EU funding and take that way from the 1.1 Billion and then add in the monies we won't now be paying into the EU.....

Course all that has changed now as the majority of the other authorities have now agreed with Gateshead and only three now agree with having a Mayor, ours being one of them. This is probably now off the cards for the foreseeable future because it really was an Osborn project but it was part of the meeting I was delegated to go to so I felt obliged to include it in the report.

Next item was Brexit and its impact onto local government, namely NCC, written by Geoff Paul, Director of planning and the economy.

I read the report which has been given to members and though it must have been written by the economic advisers for the Remain campaign? I will leave member to make their own minds up but when questioned about some of the details we were told no one knows what's going to happen really.

There are some items which need to be repeated, that £450M worth of EU funding going up to 2020 is actually 50% guaranteed and the UK government have been asked to underwrite the remainder if its cut.

We were assured NCC are working hard on a strategy for this but it will take a few years to work through.

One statement which is worth repeating is that the top 10 regional companies are all foreign owned. We have just seen the likes of Nissan stating their requirements.

Chairman's initials



The next agenda item was about the Town/Parish conference listed for 13<sup>th</sup> Oct.

A suggested agenda was given and there are a couple of very interesting agenda items. First the Role of Arch and Active Northumberland. Secondly the medium term financial plan of the County Council and thirdly dealing with freedom of information requests.

Given the second item discussion took place about likely future impacts of NCC cost cutting. We were told NCC would probably stop all non-statutory services and even cut down some statutory service deliveries! This would inevitably lead Town and Parish councils to have to pick up the pieces and pay for any of these services they wanted to be retained in their areas.

I suggested they had to make any such services of real value on a costed basis to the likes of ourselves. If we look to take on extra service provision not only would it have to be something residents wanted but it has to demonstrate best value as well and that wasn't my experience with NCC costs! Seems we need to consider economies of scale NCC can bring and the depth of the service they offer. That's going to be an ongoing debate as more Parishes' are now coming around to my way of thinking and demanding value for money.

As to the first question if anyone is unclear as to the role of Arch or Active Northumberland I will be more than happy to rely the questions at this meeting!

Last up was an update off NALC. Key aspects were:

The relationship with NCC.

Free training for smaller parish councils.

More specific training after next May.

AGM 1<sup>st</sup> October. Some discussion took place whether it was Bomarsund Welfare or Choppington Welfare, its now been confirmed as Bomarsund.

In Dec there will be training events for clerks only.....about Purdah.

Any larger councils with over £250K precept or 6,000 residents can deal with National ALC. 9 Northumberland Parish's already do.

Finally,

I know the Development Trust have now applied for funding to help us with our Play equipment costs after we accepted their kind offer to help. I believe they have already applied for funding in the region of 10% of our full budget! Fingers crossed they get it on our behalf.

Speaking of play equipment, Steven and I opened the tender documents last night all at the same time as we had said would be done in our offer. Didn't go through any, that's the job of the appropriate subcommittee, but I did look at the presentation pictures and there are some exciting suggestions on offer. Members will remember we asked the play equipment companies to base their suggestions and estimates on the responses we got back to our questionnaires where we asked about activities which would be preferred rather than bits of equipment. I think that was the right way to blatantly use these professional companies and their expertise to suggest what bits of equipment best suit whatever activity.

Chairman's initials

While we are tentatively talking budget I can now say we have just been officially told we have the funding I negotiated with Councillor Johnson. This concerns our waste bin replacement project and we now have all the funding necessary to replace all post mounted bins and the two seats in the West. We can crack on with that now although there is still a little more funding to determine for the rest of our bins in Central and Park wards. Also please be aware we have made a commitment to Councillor Johnson to consider some support for his traffic signs at Hartford Road if they ever get off the ground. That in light of what we have received off him!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Councillor Taylor for all the time and effort, over and above, she has put in recently. The tendering document for the new play equipment was all down to her and the timescale where I was pushing to bring it in ASAP, she has made it happen. So thanks very much for your hard work I doubt that many of the rest of us could have done it so professionally!

Chairman's initials