



**WEST BEDLINGTON  
TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 6th April 2017 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:** S Tyler.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Town Clerk S Young and 14 (Fourteen) members of the public.

**PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations for this meeting.

**OPEN SESSION**

- A resident asked if the Council would insert some pressure upon Northumberland County Council to bring outstanding projects with Bedlington to completion without any further delays.  
The Chair confirmed that senior Northumberland County Council officers had already been approached and that he was hopeful of some progress in the near future.
- A resident provided an update in relation to preliminary proposals for a community event "Bedlington Picnic 2017" and indicated that the event would require some financial support from the Town Council to come to fruition.  
The Chair advised that a proposal needed to be submitted as soon as possible for formal consideration of the Council at a future meeting.

**C052/17 - 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S Tyler.

**RESOLVED to accept the apologies of absence received.**

**C053/17 - 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017 are approved.**

**C054/17 - 3. MATTERS ARISING**

- Councillor Hogg - with regard to minute C041/17 7b provided additional information about the design of a new roundabout at the "Broadoaks" development.
- Councillor Robinson - with regard to minute C040/17 c "Services Committee Report" asked if any progress had been made in relation to new litter bins along with pathway from Hirst Head to Gallagher Park. Councillor Taylor (Services Committee Chair) was able to confirm that the Committee had agreed to provide one bin at the Hirst Head end of the pathway if the bin was

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not to be provided by Northumberland County Council because its location falls to be within Gallagher Park boundary. A request has been sent and a reply is awaited.

- Councillor Robinson - in relation to minute C039/17 advised that a video of the meeting was available for upload onto the Town Councils website.
- Councillor Robinson - in relation to minute C048/17 Residents Newsletter informed the Council that a number of residents were still to receive a copy of the latest newsletter. The Clerk confirmed he will contact the distributor for an update and report back to the Council.
- Councillor Robinson – in relation to minute C040/17 c “Services Committee Report” asked if any progress had been made in relation to the replacement of post mounted litter bins with ground mounted litter bins. Councillor Taylor (Services Committee Chair) was able to confirm that she and the Clerk had spent two mornings identifying and then communicating the proposed locations to Northumberland County Council.
- Councillor Hogg – in relation to minute C039/17 provided a further update from the most recent NCC South East Committee meeting about vehicular access at St Bennet Biscops School.

#### **C055/17 – 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Disclosures of interest were received from:

Councillor Dalton in relation to Agenda Item 7a – Expenses Claim

Councillor Hedley in relation to Agenda Item 12 – Planning Application Ref 17/00865/FUL

#### **C056/17 - 5. CHAIRS UPDATE**

The Chair provided updates on the matters summarised in Appendix E.

#### **C057/17 - 6. COMMITTEE / WORKING GROUPS**

- a. Finance and Governance – Councillor Robinson - No meeting.
- b. Events and Communication working group – Councillor Graham – No Meeting. Councillor Graham informed the Council that he was expecting proposals for Bedlington Picnic 2017 and Bedlington Street Fair 2017 very soon.
- c. Services Committee – Councillor Taylor provided a verbal update in support of the previously distributed draft minutes from the Services Committee meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017.

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

#### **C058/17 - 7. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION**

- a. **RESOLVED to approve Councillor Daltons claim for expenses in the sum of £43.20.**
- b. **RESOLVED to approve a proposal to fund the cost of newspapers for public reading at Bedlington Library.**
- c. **DEFERRED a decision in relation to a proposal to support and / or fund two solar speed signs at Nedderton Village.**
- d. **DEFERRED a decision in relation to entering into a NRSA Act Section 50 License Agreement for Vehicle Activated Signs at Hartford Bridge and Hartford Road Bedlington for further information.**
- e. **RESOLVED to accept and approve the quote for the watering of new turf at Meadowdale play area.**

#### **C059/17 – 8. CORRESPONDENCE**

**RESOLVED that all Correspondence, Consultations and Invitations (Appendix A) has been properly received and actioned.**

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#### **C060/17 - 9. COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVES ON EXTERNAL COMMITTEES**

- I. Town / Parish Liaison Committee (Councillor Robinson) – no meeting to report upon.
- II. NALC – (Councillor Dalton) – report circulated and verbal update provided.
- III. LMAPS now Community Safety Hub– (Councillor Hedley) – no meeting to report upon.
- IV. Northumberland In Bloom – (Councillor Hedley) – no meeting to report upon.
- V. Gallagher Park Steering Group – (Councillor Dalton) – no meeting to report upon.
- VI. Dr Pit Stakeholder Meetings – (Councillor Dalton) – email update distributed.
- VII. Bedlington Partnership – (Councillor Robinson) – no meeting to report upon.

**RESOLVED to accept all reports provided.**

#### **C061/17 - 10. CLERKS REPORT**

**RESOLVED to accept the Clerks report (Appendix B).**

#### **C062/17 - 11. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS**

**RESOLVED to approve the schedule of payments and receipts (Appendix C).**

#### **C063/17- 12. PLANNING**

**RESOLVED not to make any comment in relation to any of the applications contained within the schedule for the meeting (Appendix D).**

Planning decisions are shown in Appendix F for information only.

#### **C064/17 - 13. COMMUNITY CHEST / PUPILS FUND APPLICATIONS**

No funding applications for this meeting.

#### **C065/17 - 14. RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER**

The Clerk confirmed he will contact the distributor for an update and report back to the Council.

#### **C066/17 – 15. FINANCIAL UPDATE**

**a. RESOLVED to approve The Annual Governance Statement (Section 1 Annual Return of Accounts).**

The Chair and Clerk then signed the return.

**b. RESOLVED to accept and approve the Financial Report submitted.**

#### **C067/17 - 16. ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TOWN 2017**

**RESOLVED that an informal meeting on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017 will include the introduction of Councillors.**

#### **C068/17 – 17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Councillor Hogg – requested to place on record his thanks to retiring Councillors Dalton, Dobie, Robinson and S Tyler for their service to the Council.

Councillor Hogg - next meeting agenda request – for discussion – Broadoaks Roundabout.

Councillor J Tyler – next meeting agenda request – for discussion – painting of railings at Glebe Road Bedlington.

Councillor J Tyler – thanked Councillors Dalton, Graham, Hogg, Robinson and Taylor for their service to the Council.

#### **C069/17 - 18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED the next meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday 11th May 2017 at 6.30pm at Bedlington Community Centre**

#### **C070/17 – 19. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 7.34pm

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Signed by the Chair

11th May 2017

**Appendix A, B, C, D and E only form part of these minutes.**

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

**a) Correspondence**

Ref	From	Summary	Action
94/17	Northumberland County Council	TTRO 107574	Noted and Circulated
95/17	Northumberland County Council	TTRO 108247	Noted and Circulated
96/17	St Cuthbert's Church	Reply to Advertising Policy Correspondence	Noted and Circulated
97/17	Bedlington Forum	Next meeting Agenda	Noted and Circulated
98/17	Northumberland County Council	TTRO 106015	Noted and Circulated
99/17	NALC	E News 7 March 2017 (Planning)	Noted and Circulated
100/17	NALC	E News 7 March 2017	Noted and Circulated
101/17	Pupils of Meadowdale Academy	Request for seats and bins	Noted, Circulated and Replied.
102/17	NALC	Survey of Councillors	Noted and Circulated
103/17	NALC	Parish Portal Update	Noted and Circulated
104/17	NALC	Code of Conduct Report	Noted and Circulated
105/17	Northumberland County Council	Area Committee South Agenda	Noted and Circulated
106/17	Northumberland County Council	British Heart Foundation Sponsor Walk Traffic Disruption	Noted and Circulated
107/17	Northumberland CVA	Ebulletin – Issue 70	Noted and Circulated
108/17	Northumberland County Council	TTRO 110198	Noted and Circulated
109/17	J C Barnraths	Request for Information about "Operative Position"	Noted, Circulated and Replied
110/17	Alan Fitzhenry	Bus Stop Information Query – Nr Former Ridge Farm Pub	Noted, Circulated, Forwarded to NCC and reply sent back to resident.
111/17	NALC	NALC News 14 March 2017	Noted and Circulated
112/17	Northumberland CVA	Funding Fair - Ashington	Noted and Circulated
113/17	Northumberland County Council	Mini Roundabout Morrison's Update	Noted and Circulated
114/17	NALC	Chief Executives Bulletin 9	Noted, Circulated and
115/17	NALC	Parish Elections	Noted and Circulated
116/17	Northumberland County Council	LOVE Northumberland Awards 2017	Noted and Circulated
117/17	NALC	Draft Minutes Meeting 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	Noted and Circulated
118/17	County Councillor Tyler	Copy email forwarded for info – Road Safety in Bedlington Town Centre idea from Mr McCabe	Noted and Circulated
119/17	NALC	NALC News 21 March 2017	Noted and Circulated
120/17	Bedlington Community Allotment	Plant Sale Week 27 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	Noted and Circulated
121/17	Northumberland CVA	Ebulletin – Issue 70	Noted and Circulated
122/17	Northumberland Wildlife Trust	Easter Events	Noted and Circulated
123/17	Bedlington Forum	Letter of thanks	Noted and Circulated
124/17	April Goodwin	Speeding in Nedderton	Noted, Circulated, Copy to NCC and added to current agenda.
125/17	Helena Unwin – Golding	Parish Councillor Survey	Noted and Circulated
126/17	Northumberland County Council	Initial Reply to 124/17	Noted and Circulated
127/17	NALC	NALC News 28 March 2017	Noted and Circulated
128/17	NALC	Website Portal Update	Noted and Circulated

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129/17	iNorthumberland team	Newsletter March 2017	Noted and Circulated
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**b) Consultations - None for this meeting**

**c) Invitations**

Date	From	Description	Comments
18 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	NALC	Neighbourhood Planning Training Durham ALC	Booking direct to Durham ALC
30 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	NALC	Freedom of Information Workshop	Book through Iain Hedley NCC
1 <sup>st</sup> April 2017	Vets4Pets	1 <sup>st</sup> Birthday Party / Fun Day	Call In no booking required

## **Appendix B – Clerks Report (Agenda Item 10).**

### **Finance**

As per Finance update spending remains on target with the agreed budgets and use of reserves. We may have to transfer a sum of money from the Deposit Account to the Current Account depending on receipt of bills before receipt of the 2017/18 Precept payment.

In addition to the balance shown on the financial statement the Council will receive approx. £23.5K from its successful S106 application.

The Council's financial position remains strong and in line with all budgets and planned use of reserves (Please see breakdown of reserves).

### **Services**

#### **Allotments**

Awaiting the outcome of our application to register the long term leases with the Land Registry. Funding has been set aside as resolved to provide funding for future repairs.

#### **Play Areas**

Westlea - A couple of screws have worked loose on the "springer" equipment – I have arranged for the repair – a new litter bin is to be fitted at the play area imminently.

Meadowdale – the old signs have now been removed – seats have been fitted and new turf laid. A new litter bin is to be fitted imminently.

A small opening event has been arranged for dd/mm/yyyy – all are welcome to attend.

Update re opening times with NCC

Residents continue to complain about the noise and anti-social behaviour at or close to the play area. The Police have been informed and have responded positively.

The gates require a rubber pad to muffle the noise – Services Committee 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

### **Public Seats**

I am still awaiting design details for the enhanced war memorial planting – in the meantime the WW1 remembrance seats are in storage awaiting installation.

The seat on 20 Acre Field are to be fitted imminently.

### **Litter Bins**

Waiting confirmation from NCC that they have installed the new ground mounted bins in the locations requested. Once complete I will notify Vets4Pets and arrange for payment of the advertisement fee and agreement.

Straughans are to repair the newly installed bin at the car park entrance.

Work has started at resetting the heavy metal litter bins on Front Street that have been dislodged.

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## Grass Cutting

The first “boxed” cut of the grass along Front Street looks really well – perhaps consideration could be given to further cuts of this type in the future?

## Events and Communications

No proposals for either a Street Fair or a Picnic event to date.

## Projects

### Gateway Features

Awaiting the installation of the seat to accompany the gateway feature at North Ridge and quotes for the provision of the information lecterns.

### Sun Dial

A Heritage Statement is required to progress our planning application for the public sun dial – Im currently working on this.

### BCC Public Toilets

BCC have decided that they do not wish to sign up to the County Councils “Your Welcome Scheme”. This will not impact of the provision of the toilets for the public which will be available as proposed.

## Elections

A reminder to all Councillors that they remain in office until midnight of Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

The Chair and Deputy Chair remain in office until the appointment of a new Chair. (Meeting scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> May 2017).

## General

As previously advised I plan to work on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April to complete the annual accounts, annual return and arrange a sign off with the internal auditor.

The office will be closed over Easter – Good Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2017 to Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

## Appendix C – Schedule of Payments and Receipts (Agenda Item 11) Payment 1st Jan 2017 to 31st Jan 2017.

### All payment GROSS of VAT.

Payee	Amount	BCC	Bloom	Description
Northumberland County Council	2,706.75			Payroll Costs
Information Commissioner	35.00			Annual Registration
Malcolm Wilkinson	63.00			Internal Audit
Haggs-Smp Ltd	160,815.97			Play Area Project
Haggs-Smp Ltd	420.00			Post Installation Safety Check Check
Northumberland County Council	10,174.80			Service Level Agreement
DL Maintenance & Repair	705.56			Bus Shelter Repairs
Viking Payments	125.19			Postage Stamps
Talk Talk Business	34.74			Telephone + Internet
Northumberland County Council	97.50			Planning Application Fee
Bedlington Community Centre	200.00			Room Hire – Jobs Fair
Bedlington Community Centre	24.50			Jobs Fair Refreshments
Bedlington Community Centre	3,750.00			Office Rent
Azure Garden Centre			118.08	Plants + Compost
Bedlingtonshire Development Trust	800.00			New Terrier Bench

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

Applications Received for comment by the Council from the Planning Authority.

Ref.	Description	Response Due
17/00755/VARYCO	Removal of condition 9 (Ground gas - validation and verification) pursuant to planning permission 15/03266/FUL to allow the removal of a gas report Location Lidl Schalksmuhle Road Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6BP	6th April 2017
17/00725/FUL	Proposed rear extension and internal refurbishment to existing bungalow Location 30 Oakapple Close Bedlington Northumberland NE22 7LL	11th April 2017
17/00836/FUL	Proposed garden room Location 4 Windsor Court Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5PB	11th April 2017
17/00865/FUL	Proposed alteration and extension to an existing detached dwelling to include a double storey extension to the side, a new entrance porch, and a single storey rear extension, as well as associated landscaping. Location 15 Shields Road Hartford Bridge Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6AN	11th April 2017

Other Applications.

Ref.	Description	Response Due
	None for this meeting	

## Appendix E – Chairs Update (Agenda Item 5).

Chairs FINAL Update!

Just to keep everyone bang up to date:

As everyone knows, after the site visit at St Bennet's entrance last month where NCC and the school said there was now no problems there was another meeting called and the people attending that meeting though otherwise!

Well there has been another meeting and things have transpired quite quickly now to include all schools affected by the traffic on the B1331.

A list of actions and priorities has been drawn up and the main principles are carrying out the agreed arrangements.

Next I had a meeting with Ray Weallans and Mike Jeffries, with Christine and Steven too, about our SLA, especially opening and closing paly areas etc. It seems there is a job just been advertised for a NCC operative to cover Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. This should give enough latitude to get some gates and doors at least open during normal day time irrespective of the day of the week it is.

I also boned them both about the bins in front of our Locomotive in Attlee Park. Ray knew nothing about it but rang up as we were sitting and got it on the list of things to do.

As this is our last meeting and certainly mine, I would also like to mention something which I maybe didn't previously for whatever reason but which some members need to realise.

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I was told by a senior member of a political group that some of our projects were being spiked because we didn't have an allegiance to that party. I find that abhorrent and the very definition of the word 'corrupt!' However, as hard as I fought it, and Steven can bear testament, I feel I do need to make apologies to residents. They certainly don't need to suffer because of the political non-alignment of this council. That shouldn't be the way it works however the reality is somewhat different!

We have many projects outstanding and because they have been agreed they carry their own budgets along with them but we haven't seen them fulfilled because of what I can only assume is this dirty tricks campaign. Waiting over 9 months for someone to say yes officially to something which had already been agreed, time and time again having meetings about being allowed to get on with projects but not getting the documentation needed, asking to buy services off NCC but never getting them quantified .....just some of the things I'm talking about, the list is quite long!

It's not all like that and there are many decent reliable people within NCC, my advice, when you find them cherish them!

I would like to take a minute to say a few words about the last couple of years and pay tribute to the people who have made it possible for this Town Council to outperform and it is outperforming without a shred of doubt.

First I would like to say thanks to Councillor Hogg for doing an exceptional job identifying and cataloguing our assets in our asset register. We now know what is where and in what condition it is in.

Next Councillor Dalton, who for two years has been our NALC representative. With meetings on weekends it must have been a chore to get to them all but you did, so thanks.

Councillor Hedley, always there to go to exceptional meetings as our representative when no other councillor was prepared to go and already our BIB and LMAPS representative. Thank you for the many hours you have given this council.

Next Councillor Graham. What can we say about Councillor Graham, Chair of our events group! I will say one thing.....we might not always appreciate what Councillor Graham has said regarding eventing, allotments etc but I think time has shown he was more often correct in what he was saying and was only trying to safeguard this council. Also his insight into making events sustainable financially and bringing in outside sponsors deserves a pat on the back, so well done to you too!

Next Councillor Taylor. Christine is our only co-opted councillor and has shown since day one she was going to make her own mind up about things. Taking on the role of chair of services I think she has grown into the position and put a huge amount of her own time and efforts into the role. She is certainly running it with aplomb these days!

Councillor Dobie, what can we say about Joe? I hope Joe has felt he has been a valued member of the council he might not say much but when he does..... he is meant!

Councillor Jim Tyler, should have been the patriarchal figure to our council but with illness etc causing him to miss so many meetings it is surprising how many he still managed to get to.

Finally Councillor Simon Tyler. 12 months as mayor, 12 months as éminence grise. Don't suppose we will ever see eye to eye but I did think one of two of his suggestions and initiatives were valuable, with his Pupil's Fund being the singular best concept.

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One final person who needs our thanks is Steven, thrust into the limelight in such an undignified fashion yet taken up the challenge with composure and sangfroid; I think he has been the rock which this council and each member have used from time to time. Thank you for your undoubted professionalism and the help you have given me: but please get to grips with a calendar, it's not that hard to understand!

So a council of many parts, some working with each other, others pulling in different directions, arguments, quarrels, insinuations and skulduggery, or to put it another way a microcosm of contemporary life, which is all a council can really hope to be!

Good luck to the next people sitting here and especially the new chair whoever that may be!

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

Ref.	Description	Decision
17/00124/FUL	Extension of existing ramp and installation of new shopfront and air conditioning condensers Location Bedlington Library Glebe Road Bedlington NE22 6JX	GRANTED
17/00402/FUL	Demolition of detached garage and erection of two storey side, single storey rear extension & porch to front Location 37 Augustus Drive The Chesters Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6LF	GRANTED
16/04669/FUL	Single storey rear extension Location 47 Millfield Court Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5EP	GRANTED
17/00488/ADE	Advertisement consent for re-branding external sign work Location Morrisons Choppington Road Bedlington NE22 6LA	GRANTED
17/00287/FUL	Proposed two storey side extension Location 13 Millfield Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5DY	GRANTED
16/03905/CCM	Extension to site used for composting of horse waste and green waste Location Land West Of Bedlington Lane Farm Hartford Road Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6AA	GRANTED
16/03601/FUL	Change of use for agricultural land to Class D1 (Non-residential Institutions) and erection of training room facilities (as supplemented and amended by information received 11.01.2017, 18.01.2017, 25.01.2017 and 21.02.2017) Location Burnt House Farm Netherton Road Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6AZ	GRANTED
17/00416/FUL	Proposed conversion of garage to habitable room with mezzanine floor and raised ridge line Location 14 South Farm Nedderton Village Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6BH	GRANTED
17/00484/FUL	Proposed demolition of existing conservatory and reconstruction of single storey extension to the rear and with additional works to the front of the property by extending the lounge Location 46 Featherstone Grove Hazelmere Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6NU	GRANTED

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