



**WEST BEDLINGTON
TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 8th March 2018 at 6.30 pm at Bedlington Community Centre, Bedlington.

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: C Taylor (Chair), D Graham, P Hedley, C Henderson, A Hogg, K Roach, V Thompson, M Trimming, J Tyler.

COUNCILLORS NOT PRESENT: All Councillors were present at this meeting.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk S Young, County Councillors Crosby, Gobin, Robinson and Wallace and 6 (Six) members of the public.

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations for this meeting.

OPEN SESSION

- County Councillor Gobin asked for some clarity in relation to Agenda Item 10h. The Chair was able to confirm that the agenda item was in relation to a report of a steering group meeting for a proposed Live Music Event at Gallagher Park in 2018.
- A resident notified the Council that the public seats on Red House Farm Estate were in a poor state of repair. The Chair advised that the Council, would inspect the seats and consider the extent of the remedial work needed.
- A resident raised their objection and concerns in relation to a proposal under Agenda item 8d – the video recording and distribution on YouTube of Town Council Meetings.

6.34pm End of Open Session

C041/18 - 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence for this meeting, all Councillors were present.

C042/18 - 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS

RESOLVED that the minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council meeting of 8th February 2018 are approved as a true record.

C043/18 - 3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the approved minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council meeting of 8th February 2018.

C044/18 – 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interest for this meeting.

Chairman's initials

C045/18 - 5. CHAIRS UPDATE

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

C046/18 - 6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATES

County Councillors Crosby, Robinson and Wallace provided brief verbal updates on some of the matters they have been dealing with over the last month. County Councillor Gobin provided a brief verbal update in relation to the Bedlington Live 2018 Steering Group meeting. The Chair thanked all County Councillors for their attendance.

C047/18 -7. COMMITTEE / WORKING GROUPS

- a. Finance and Governance - Councillor Taylor. No meeting to report upon.
- b. Events and Communication Working group – Councillor Graham gave a brief verbal update in relation to proposed dates for the 2018 Picnic Event and the 2018 Street Carnival.
- c. Services Committee – Councillor Hogg gave a brief verbal update in support of the draft Services Committee minutes distributed to members.
- d. Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – Councillor Hogg provided a brief verbal update.

RESOLVED to accept all committee / working group reports and updates.

C048/18 - 8. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

- a. **RESOLVED to ACCEPT and APPROVE the proposal to fund initial remedial works to repair the drainage at Red House Farm Estate / Westlea / Cemetery at a cost of £7,900.**
- b. **RESOLVED to APPROVE a proposal to renew Public Liability and Specific Asset Insurance from Inspire /Axa on a three year agreement.**
- c. **RESOLVED to APPROVE a proposal to commence a Schools Art / Bus Shelter project with the purchase and installation of double sided graphics on six bus shelters at a cost of £622.**
- d. **REJECTED a proposal for the video recording and distribution on YouTube of Town Council meetings.**
- e. **RESOLVED to APPROVE a proposal for the provision of a 2018 “Picnic” event at a cost of approximately £3,200.**

C049/18 – 9. CORRESPONDENCE

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

The Clerk highlighted to members the “Call for sites” consultation and its 12th March 2018 deadline.

C050/18 - 10. COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVES ON EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

Reports from Councillor Representatives

- a. Town / Parish Liaison Committee (Councillor Taylor) – no meeting to report upon.
- b. NALC – (Councillor Hogg) – no meeting to report upon.
- c. LMAPS now Community Safety Hub– (Councillor Hedley) – no meeting to report upon.
- d. Gallagher Park Steering Group – (Councillor Graham) – no meeting to report upon.
- e. Dr Pit Stakeholder Meetings – (Councillor Trimming) – no meeting to report upon.
- f. Humford Dam – (Councillor Hogg) – verbal report outlining the possibility of the formation of a “friends of” residents group in the future.
- g. Bedlington In Bloom – (Councillor Hedley) – no meeting to report upon.
- h. Bedlington Live 2018 Steering Group – (Councillor Taylor) – the Chair referred to the update submitted earlier under Agenda Item 5 Chairs Update.

RESOLVED to seek a joint meeting with East Bedlington Parish Council.

RESOLVED to accept all reports and updates.

C051/18 - 11. CLERKS REPORT

RESOLVED to accept the Clerks report (details shown in Appendix B).

Chairman’s initials

C052/18 - 12. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

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

C053/18 - 13. PLANNING

No planning applications to comment upon for this meeting.

Note - recent notified planning decisions are shown in Appendix E for information only

C054/18 - 14. COMMUNITY CHEST / PUPILS FUND APPLICATIONS

- **RESOLVED to approve the Community Chest application from Bedlington Community Centre and award the sum of £500.**
- **RESOLVED to approve the Pupils Fund application from Whitely Memorial CF First School and award the sum of £1,500.**

C055/18 - 15. RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

RESOLVED that the deadline for submission of articles for the next edition of the resident's newsletter will be Thursday 12th April 2018.

C056/18 - 16. ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TOWN

The Clerk highlighted the poor response to the request for the contact details of potential Youth Support groups to attend the meeting and urged members to submit any details without delay.

C057/18 – 17. FINANCIAL UPDATE

RESOLVED to APPROVE the bank reconciliation dated 7th February 2018.

C058/18 – 18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Taylor – Golf Club development presentation.

Councillor Tyler – Art Project for Glebe Road subway.

Councillor Tyler – For Information Only – poor state of wall at Burdon Terrace.

Councillor Henderson – For Information Only– estate road gritting.

C059/18 - 20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED the next meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday 12th April 2018 at 6.30pm in Bedlington Community Centre.

C060/18 – 21. CLOSE OF MEETING

Signed by the Chair

12th April 2018

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

Chairman's initials

Appendix A – Correspondence, Consultations and Invitations. (Agenda Item 9).

a) Correspondence

Ref	From	Summary	Action
55/18	Northumberland County Council	TTRO 104208985 Park Avenue Bedlington	Noted and Circulated
56/18	Highways England	Scheduled closure of A1 in Northumberland	Noted and Circulated
57/18	NALC	NALC Enews 6 Feb 2018	Noted and Circulated
58/18	Northumberland County Council	Investment Plans For County Parks	Noted and Circulated
59/18	St Cuthbert's Church	Letter Of Thanks	Noted and Circulated
60/18	Northumberland County Council	TTRO 188165 Spine Road	Noted and Circulated
61/18	NALC	NALC AGM 2018 – Change Of Date	Noted and Circulated
62/18	Northumberland County Council	Local Area Meeting Agenda 20 th Feb 2018	Noted and Circulated
63/18	Northumberland County Council Pension Fund	Strain On The Fund	Noted and Circulated
64/18	Healthwatch Northumberland	Annual Survey And Drop In Sessions	Noted and Circulated
65/18	NALC	NALC Enews 20 Feb 2018	Noted and Circulated
66/18	NALC	Parish Council – Self Assessment Tool	Noted and Circulated
67/18	NALC	The Great British Spring Clean	Noted and Circulated
68/18	Keep Britain Tidy	The Great British Spring Clean	Noted and Circulated
69/18	Arch the Northumberland Development Company	Investing In Bedlington News Update	Noted and Circulated
70/18	Northumberland County Council	GetAbout Access Scheme Survey	Noted and Circulated
71/18	Community Action Northumberland	CAN Enews February 2018	Noted and Circulated
72/18	Citizens Advice Northumberland	Blyth Office Move	Noted and Circulated

b) Consultations -

Owner	Description	Where and When
Northumberland County Council Planning	Call For Sites	http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/localplan by 12th March 2018
Northumberland County Council	Post 16 Transport Consultation	www.northumberland.gov.uk by 2 nd April 2018

c) Invitations -

Date	From	Description	Comments
5 th / 6 th March 2018	LGA / NALC	Engagement Workshop	Venue - London

Appendix B – Clerks Report (Agenda Item 11).

Finance

A finance update is included within the current agenda for the Councils current financial position.
A final internal audit is scheduled for Friday 2nd March 2018.

Services

New signs for the revised opening times at Meadowdale play area have been fitted and I have already advised the school.

Events and Communications

I have set a distribution date for the next Residents newsletter of 14th May 2018
The deadline for complete articles is Thursday 12th April 2018 – no extension. However if you have ANY articles ready don't delay sending them in.

Chairman's initials

Projects

The Sun Dial project continues to throw up unexpected issues, the latest been the potential to have to reapply for planning consent.

Admin

Easter is early this year and falls on the financial year end. Please note the following revisions to the office opening times

Thursday 29th March to Monday 2nd April 2018 inclusive – the office is closed.

Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th April 2018 – the office is open. The Council agenda for the scheduled meeting on 12th April 2018 will be sent on 4th April 2018.

Thursday 5th April 2018 to Wednesday 11th April 2018 inclusive – the office is closed.

Thursday 12th April 2018 the office will be open.

Usual office hours resume on Friday 13th April 2018.

Appendix C - Schedule of Payments and Receipts (Agenda Item 13) Payment 1st January 2018 to 31st January 2018.

All payment GROSS of VAT.

Payee	Amount	BCC	Bloo	Dr Pit	Description
Smart Office Systems Ltd	44.72				Printing Costs
Smart Office Systems Ltd	7.20				Replacement Toner
Talk Talk Business	37.14				Telephone + Internet Hosting
R Watson Newsagents	78.00				Public Newspaper at Library
D & M Fencing	144.00				Removal + Storage of Xmas Tree
DL Maintenance & Repair	220.00				Bus Shelter Repairs
Northumberland County Council	2,723.01				December Payroll Costs
Northumberland County Council	2,723.01				January Payroll Costs
Northumberland County Council	26,748.6				Festive Lighting Charges
Northumberland County Council	6,633.22				Charges For Service Level

Appendix D – Planning Applications Received for Comment. (Agenda Item 13).

Applications Received for comment by the Council from the Planning Authority

Ref.	Description	Response Due
	None For This Meeting	

Other Applications.

Ref.	Description	Response Due
	None For This Meeting	

Any applications / Consultations received after the issue date of this agenda, where the expiry date for observations would not allow the Council to wait to consider and submit any observations at its next scheduled meeting - None

Appendix E – Chairs Update (Agenda Item 5).

A very busy time since our last meeting with a number of meetings in my Friday diary and apologies for the length of this update in advance.

- Fri 16th 2 Events meetings – to outline availability for support for our events – Brett Turner and Colin Patterson

Chairman's initials

- 20th Feb – LAC – A good meeting with the highlight being a presentation to outline the Bedlington town centre development. A good attendance of local residents with plenty of opportunities to ask questions – the biggest revelation of the night was that work is scheduled to start in **August 2018** which is great news. I have to add that while at the hairdressers last week and I was specifically asked if the development was going ahead, it seems there is a problem with social media going into overdrive and misleading people with posts relating to reduced funding, etc., my response is to reiterate the messages from the meeting, work will start in August to transform our town centre and we need to ensure that when new business moves into the town we fully support them along with our existing businesses because if we don't they will move out!!
- 18th Feb – Services – Draft Minutes are available
- 23rd Feb – I had 5 meetings today.
 - Tony Gribben NCC liaison - unfortunately he was delayed so it's been rearranged
 - Morrison's Champion – I met with Stacy who wants to help us out, Morrison's are very keen to support local initiatives and have supported the Picnic with 100 food /sweets bags for kids, Stacy is keen to drive forward and has offered us support for this year's event as well as others.
 - Russ Wallace – Grit Bins – following my update last month, Russ contacted me as he had also received requests from residents for more grit bins and suggested we pool our resources to enable us to provide more bins, I will be putting this on the next Services agenda for discussion/agreement.
 - Northumberland Live – I'll go into this later
 - Events Meeting – to set dates for our Picnic (30th June) and Street Fair (25th August)
- 7th March – Golf Club Presentation – I was invited to attend a presentation at the Golf Club last night to see what they are aspiring to do to improve the club and expand the facilities they currently provide. Everyone will have heard GC members recently voted to sell the ground currently utilised for the driving range, this is due to the issues they are experiencing with the new housing located at the bottom of their range, so by relocating the range and disposing of this ground they can raise funding to reinvest in the club. Their intention is to enhance the club house and develop a new driving range. This is in the early stages of development so I've asked them to attend the next full council meeting to give you all the full presentation so you can have answers to all your questions. I would just like to add I was really impressed by their plans but appreciate there may be a down side which will be more housing on the current driving range, I don't want us to comment or discuss this not there will be a presentation and planning application to come so we can address our issues then. So I'll finish this by reiterating how impressed I was with the improved facilities which have the potential to add to our leisure offering for the town.

To recap on a Northumberland Live

I was voted as our representative on the Northumberland Live Steering Group and attended the first meeting which was very cordial and the agreement was reached to issue the invitation to tender from all interested parties, this was done via NCC's Procurement Team who managed the whole process.

The second meeting of the Steering Group was arranged following receipt of two submission from interested parties who had submitted their tender for the event. The meeting convened at EBPC at 1.30 attendees were, Nigel Walsh, NCC Janine from Procurement, County Councillors Jeff Gobin, Malcolm Robinson, Bill Crosby, Russ Wallace, Ron Thornton EBCP Clerk and myself.

Chairman's initials

Janine outlined the procurement process and Ron commenced the discussion, we then continued on to the scoring mechanisms and one applicant edged into a very slight lead at which point we were over an hour into the process and Ron stated on behalf of EBPC that they would only work with one of the applicants.

To be honest, we were all shocked at this statement as this was up until that point a very cordial, open and fair assessment of both candidates. Unfortunately, following this disclosure a very heated discussion ensued and due to the disagreements between some Steering Group members the meeting broke down.

I wrote to Nigel Walsh to express my dismay at this turn of events as we were all and are still really keen for this event to go ahead.

To find a resolution, to this issue I asked Steven our town clerk if he would be willing to oversee the successful candidate, should EBPC be unavailable and much to his credit he agreed.

At the point in writing this I have now received a letter from NCC explaining that as the Steering Group has to all intents and purpose irretrievably broken down NCC have discontinued the procurement exercise and advised that WBTC may wish to put an event on of this nature, this is something I will take to our events Committee to discuss as I feel very strongly that Bedlingtonshire should have a live music event this summer.

To say I'm disappointed at this turn of events is an understatement, but will work with our events team, NCC County Councillors and EBPC to see what can be salvaged.

I would also add that all the County Councillors present have the opportunity to add to my brief during their updates.

Lastly, and sadly, I must let you all know that it's the final Bedlington Forum Meeting on Monday 19th March, to be held at the Salvation Army, I know it is with deep regret Brian and Margaret Oliver will wind up this very valued group. I have gotten to know them both really well over the last four years and value their support and friendship, and would like to pay tribute to their dedication in filling the gap between NCC, the Town Council and various local interest groups. We are still hopeful someone will step forward to continue on but if not, please accept my personal thanks and that of WBTC for the sterling work you have done and the support you have given to the whole of Bedlington as a community, you will be really missed and we hope to continue to see you at our Council meetings as interested residents.

Christine

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

Ref.	Description	Decision
17/03486/REM	Reserved matters application for access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for four dwellings with integral and detached garaging relating to planning permission 15/01174/OUT (as amended 05/02/18) Location Land North Of Quarry House Nedderton Village Northumberland	GRANTED
17/04327/FUL	Replace high timber boundary fence with high steel fencing. Location East Allotments Ridge Terrace Bedlington Northumberland	REFUSED
17/04572/FUL	Single storey side extension Location 12 Durham Close Hazelmere Bedlington NE22 6NB	GRANTED

Chairman's initials