



**WEST BEDLINGTON
TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 9th August 2018 at 6.30 pm at Bedlington Community Centre, Bedlington.

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

COUNCILLORS NOT PRESENT: V Thompson.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk S Young, County Councillors Crosby, Robinson and Wallace and 12 (Twelve) members of the public.

PRESENTATIONS

There were presentations in support of their youth leisure proposals from Bedlington FC, Class On A Glass Ltd, (Agenda items 8a,8b,8c), and from Reiverdale Scout Group and Morpeth & District Cage Bird Society in support of their funding applications (Agenda items 14a and 14b).

OPEN SESSION

- A resident asked about the circulation of a “Friends of Gallagher Park meeting report” ahead of the Council meeting. The Chair advised that the report had been distributed by a resident for the information of other interested residents. The report was not endorsed by the Council or indeed part of any Council business.
- A resident expressed their dissatisfaction at the Councils resolution to fund the services of an Environmental Enforcement Officer for Bedlington as opposed to funding an “operative for handyman jobs”. The Chair advised that the procurement was subject Northumberland County Councils successful recruitment and that a trial period of 12 months provided an opportunity for the Council to evaluate the benefit of the role as opposed to committing to a permanent direct contract of employment for “an operative” which to date had not been proven to be a cost effective proposition.

C141/18 - 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence for this meeting were received from Councillor Thompson.

RESOLVED to note the apologies received.

C142/18 - 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS

RESOLVED that the minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council meeting of 12th July 2018 are approved as a true record of the meeting.

C143/18 - 3. MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Trimming in relation to Item 11 Appendix B - Clerks Report asked if arrangements had been made to convene a meeting of The Councils Finance and Governance Working Group. The Clerk replied

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that the matter was again on his report for the current meeting and that it was for the working group members themselves to arrange any working group meetings.

C144/18 – 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillor Hedley declared an interest in Agenda Item 13 Planning – Application ref 18/02677/FUL.

C145/18 - 5. CHAIRS UPDATE

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

C146/18 – 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.

C147/18 - 7. COMMITTEE / WORKING GROUPS

- a. Finance and Governance – Councillor Taylor - No meeting to report upon. Agreed to hold a meeting of the working group on Monday 20th August 2018 at 5.30pm.
- b. Events and Communication working group – Councillor Graham provided a brief verbal update on the enhanced Bedlington Street Fair 2018 and reminded members of the group that the next Events group meeting will take place on Friday 17th August 2018 at 3pm.
- c. Services Committee – Councillor Hogg - draft minutes from the Services Committee meeting held on 26th July 2018 were distributed. The Clerk was asked to make an addition to the draft minutes to reflect a resolution to procure an Environmental Enforcement Officer.
- d. Neighbourhood Planning Group – Councillor Hogg – provided a brief verbal update.

RESOLVED to accept all committee / working group reports

C148/18 - 8. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

- a. **Youth Leisure Provision 2018/19. RESOLVED to APPROVE** the proposal to provide Arts and Crafts workshops for children from Family Gateway at a cost of £320.
- b. **Youth Leisure Provision 2018/19. RESOLVED** to fund a proposal for children’s football coaching sessions from Bedlington FC at a cost of £750.
- c. **Youth Leisure Provision 2018/19. RESOLVED** to fund a proposal for children’s glass decorating classes from Class on a Glass subject to agreeing a programme and costs.
- d. **Event – Bedlington Halloween Event / Firework Display. APPROVED** in principle to provide an event on 3rd November 2018 subject to costs / budget approval.
- e. **Projects - Sports Centre Viability. RESOLVED** to invite the three local Northumberland County Councillors and Grays (Land agents) to informal discussions to initiate a sports centre project.
- f. **Mayoral Chains of Office.** This matter was **DEFERRED** to allow time for additional information and costs.
- g. **Councillor Delegates at meetings. RESOLVED** that the Council will be represented at the following meetings by:
 - i. The Fifth Annual Town and Parish Council Conference – Councillors Graham and Hedley.
 - ii. Joint NCC and Town/Parish/Community Councils – Councillors Hogg and Taylor.
- h. **Subscription Renewal – SLCC. RESOLVED** to renew The Clerks subscription to The Society of Local Council Clerks at a cost of £208.
- i. **Internal Controls. RESOLVED to APPROVE** the draft versions of:
 - i. Financial Risk Assessment and Management 2018/19
 - ii. Statement of Internal Controls 2018/19
 - iii. Internal Audit terms of reference 2018/19.
- j. **Standing Orders Revision. RESOLVED to APPROVE** the draft amendments to Standing Orders 3.2, 10.2 and 10.3.

C149/18 – 9. CORRESPONDENCE

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

C150/18 - 10. COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVES ON EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

a) Feedback

- I. Town / Parish Liaison Committee – (Councillor Taylor) – no meeting to report upon.
- II. NALC – (Councillor Hogg) – verbal update provided.
- III. Gallagher Park Steering Group – (Councillor Graham) - no meeting to report upon.
- IV. Bedlington In Bloom – (Councillor Hedley) – written reported circulated.

RESOLVED to ACCEPT the reports provided.

C151/18 - 11. CLERKS REPORT

RESOLVED to APPROVE the Clerks Report for this meeting (Appendix B).

C152/18 - 12. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

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

7.50pm Councillor Tyler left the meeting.

C153/18 - 13. PLANNING

- a. **RESOLVED not to make any comment in relation to any of the applications contained within the schedule for the meeting (Appendix D).**
- b. **RESOLVED to SUPPORT Northumberland County Councils Draft Local Plan.**

C154/18 - 14. COMMUNITY CHEST / PUPILS FUND APPLICATIONS

- a. **DEFERRED** a decision in respect of a donation to Northumberland Age UK to obtain additional information.
- b. **RESOLVED to APPROVE** a Community Chest application in the sum of £500 from Morpeth & District Cage Birds Society.
- c. **RESOLVED to APPROVE** a Community Chest application in the sum of £500 from Reiverdale Scout Group.

C155/18 - 15. RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

RESOLVED Councillor Hedley to provide a list of distributors for The Clerk to obtain quotes for distribution.

C156/18 - 16. POLICE REPORT

The Police report circulated was noted and accepted.

C157/18 – 17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Clerk – Local Transport Plan – to arrange an informal meeting with Northumberland County Council ahead of submitting the Councils priorities.

C158/18 - 17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED the next meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday 13th September 2018 at 6.30pm at Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington.

C159/18 – 23. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 8.18pm

Signed by the Chair

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

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

a) Correspondence:

Ref	From	Summary	Action
174/18	NALC	NALC Enews 10 July 2018	Noted and Circulated
175/18	Jigsaw	Northumberland Live posters	Noted and Circulated
176/18	Northumberland County Council	Local Area Council Meeting 18 th July 2018	Noted and Circulated
177/18	NALC	NALC Enews 17 July 2018	Noted and Circulated
178/18	NALC	NALC Freedom of Information – Code of Practice	Noted and Circulated
179/18	Northumberland County Council	A19 Closure Moor Farm Roundabout	Noted and Circulated
180/18	Northumberland County Council	Joint NCC and Town Council Meetings Oct 2018	Noted, Circulated And Added To Agenda
181/18	NALC	NALC Enews 24 July 2018	Noted and Circulated
182/18	Northumberland County Council	TTRO 106785861	Noted and Circulated
183/18	Northumberland County Council	TTRO 106815087	Noted and Circulated
184/18	Northumberland County Council	5 th Annual Town and Parish Council Conference.	Noted, Circulated And Added To Agenda
185/18	Northumberland County Council	Notice of By Election 27 th September 2018	Noted and Circulated
186/18	St Cuthbert's Church	Letter Of Thanks For Funding	Noted and Circulated
187/18	St Cuthbert's Church	Statement of Expenditure And Return of Surplus	Noted and Circulated
188/18	NALC	The Rural Economy July 2018	Noted and Circulated

b) Consultations:

Owner	Description	Where and When
NCC Planning	Draft Local Plan for Regulation 16 Consultation	4th July to 15 August 2018 Council's formal response via Clerk only.
NCC Licensing	Statement of Principles 2019-2022	Email licensing@northumberland.gov.uk no later than 12 noon on 14 th September 2018

c) Invitations:

Date	From	Description	Comments
		None For This Meeting	

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Appendix B – Clerks Report (Agenda Item 11).

Finance

Still to convene a meeting of the Councils Finance and Governance Group, one is needed as soon as possible. The agenda for the meeting should include a review of last year's financial position, together with a review of the Councils reserve policy and planned use of reserves for the forthcoming year(s).

Services

I have sent a PO for the new shelters on Schaulksmuhle Road, Bedlington – we will be advised when the work will start in due course.

Events and Communications – No Update

Projects – No Update

Admin

A By-Election will be held on Thursday 27th September 2018 to fill the Councillor vacancy.

I am on annual leave:

For 2 days 15th and 17th August 2018 – the office will be closed Wednesday 15th August and reopen on Monday 19th August 2018.

For 2 days 19th and 21st September 2018 – the office will be closed Tuesday 18th Sept 2018 and reopen Monday 24th September 2018

Appendix C – Schedule of Payments and Receipts (Agenda Item 13) Payment 1st July 2018 to 31st July 2018. All payment GROSS of VAT.

Payee	Amount	BCC	Bloo	Dr Pit	Description
Front Street News And Post Office	97.35				Newspapers For Public Library
Churchill Security Ltd	691.20				Picnic Event
Choppington Parish Council	197.99				Personal Safety Camera
The Vicar and Churchwardens St Cuthberts Church	500.00				WW1 Commemorative Service
WATbus	175.00				Picnic Event
Playsafety Limited	214.20				ROSPA Safety Report
Nixon Hire	540.00				Picnic Event
Tony Kearman	(150.00)				Picnic Income
Turners Funfairs	(100.00)				Picnic Income
Talk Talk Business	37.14				Telephone + Internet
The Poppy Apeal	18.50				Wreath For Remembrance
Zen Internet Ltd	16.78				Domain Subscriptions
The Salvation Army	590.00				Youth Leisure Provision
Whitehead & Low LLP	460.00				Allotment Lease Registration
Bedlingtonshire Golf Club	740.00				Youth Leisure Provision
WL Straughan & Son Ltd	(500.00)				Street Event Sponsorship
SALTo Arts Productions	7,946.49				Street Event
Footprints On The Moon	800.00				Youth Leisure Provision
Michael Dougherty	420.00				Painting Public Seats
Mick Whitfield Building Services	150.00				Public Seat Repairs
D & M Fencing	78.00				Play Area Fence Repair

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Appendix D – Planning Applications Received for Comment. (Agenda Item 15).

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

Ref.	Description	Response Due
18/02329/OUT	Outline application for construction of 16 new dwellings and associated amenities (All Matters Reserved) Location 7C Netherton Lane And Land To The East And South East Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6DP	20th August 2018
18/02677/FUL	Proposed alterations and extensions to existing dwelling to provide increased residential accommodation including two storey extension to the side elevation and alterations to the entrance lobby Location 15 Shields Road Hartford Bridge Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6AN	20th August 2018
18/02549/FELTPO	Tree Preservation Order application to remove T1 (Horse Chestnut) and T2 and T3 Lime to allow access to site west of trees Location Land South East Of 1 The Croft The Croft Nedderton Village Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6BA	21st August 2018

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 for this meeting.

Appendix E – Chairs Update (Agenda Item 5).

Mayors Update Thursday 9th August 2018

A number of meeting this month including the following:

13th July – Alan Fish from Bedlington football club

Neil Snowdon from NCC regarding traffic calming

Ian Aspinall from NCC Youth – for potential Youth clubs provision

15th July – Armistice Celebrations at St Cuthbert’s Church

19th July – Greys, regarding our gifted ground on Nedderton Road

20th July – Mr Keith Dalton, regarding the Meeting of the Town in 2019

26th July – Services

27th July – Neighbourhood Plan Meeting

7th August – Stephen Cleminson – Christmas lights renewal

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Tesco site, very topical on social media, I have contacted Richard Wearmouth and the plans are in place, there is some final dotting of i's and crossing of t's but we are just about good to go, so I'm expecting to see movement on there in the next couple of weeks.

Request for financial assistance, the opportunity to enhance the BMX track at Gallagher Park has arisen due to the club being given £45,000, unfortunately this is approximately half of what they need so they need to fund raise the rest. The level of improvements to the track would elevate it to competition standard with the nearest one being in Hartlepool and we currently have local children travelling there to use that track. My view is that we have 4 County Councillors and two Town or Parish Councils as well as NCC who own the park and Friends of Gallagher Park, it would be a shame if we couldn't all put in just over 5k each to get this off the ground.

Following a vacancy left by the resignation of Councillor Kathleen Roach it would seem we have been forced down the by-election route by 10 members of the public who obviously think its ok to waste the best part of 10K on holding this election when a co-option would have sufficed and would have cost nothing but time. As a resident I obtained a copy of the list of residents who requested the by-election and I was stunned to see the name of one of our own town councillors on there. It is the democratic right for members of the public to request a by-election however, the elections officer has confirmed that this is the first request for one in Bedlington since 2009. I still stand by my comments that party politics do not belong in town councils but here we are again its wormed it's way in by the few hard liners and its influencing how we at West Bedlington will spend our budget, unbelievable!!!

Finally, I will be meeting with Keith Grimes the new Chair at East Bedlington Parish Council for a cup of coffee and a chat. We are neighbouring Councils and I'm hoping to build relationships between the two councils and where possible identify some joint working initiatives going forward. I'll just add that Keith is also very keen for us to work in partnership, so we'll see what the future holds.

Christine

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

Ref.	Description	Decision
18/01778/FUL	Proposed front, side and rear extension, alterations and improvements (as amended 12/06/17) Location 70 Windsor Gardens Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5SY	GRANTED
18/01392/COU	Change of use - B1,B2,B8 car sales/workshop to D2 and A3 health and fitness studio with deli Location Unit 2 Vulcan Place Garage Vulcan Place Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5DL	GRANTED
18/01841/FELTPO	Tree Preservation Order. Fell 2 Sycamore trees. Location 11 Hallwood Close Nedderton Village Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6BG	GRANTED

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