



**WEST BEDLINGTON  
TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 11th October 2018 at 6.30 pm at Bedlington Community Centre, Bedlington.**

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

**COUNCILLORS NOT PRESENT:** V Thompson, M Trimming.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Town Clerk S Young, County Councillor's Crosby, Robinson and Wallace, 8 (Eight) members of the public.

**PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations for this meeting. Apologies were received from West End First School.

**OPEN SESSION**

- A resident asked about improving the visibility of signs on the approach to the roundabout at the junction of Glebe Road and Schaulksmuhle Road, Bedlington. The Chair advised that this highways matter was the responsibility of Northumberland County Council and was able direct the resident to the local Northumberland County Councillor for the area.
- A resident asked about the potential for "slotting in" representatives of political parties into vacant seats on The Council. The Chair advised the law on how to fill vacancies on The Council was clear and did not provide for the "slotting in" suggested.

**C180/18 - 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence for this meeting were received from Councillors Thompson and Trimming.

**RESOLVED TO NOTE** the apologies received.

**C181/18 - 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018 are approved as a true record of the meeting.

**C182/18 - 3. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

**C183/18 – 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Councillor Crosby declared an interest in Agenda Item 14(b) Pupils Fund Rules.

Councillor Graham declared an interest in Agenda Item 14(b) Pupils Fund Rules.

Chairman's initials

#### **C184/18 - 5. CHAIRS UPDATE**

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

#### **C185/18 – 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.

#### **C186/18 - 7. COMMITTEE / WORKING GROUPS**

- a. Finance and Governance – Councillor Taylor – No meeting to report upon.
- b. Events and Communication working group – All items included within the current agenda.
- c. Services Committee – Councillor Hogg - Draft minutes from the Services Committee meeting held on 27th September 2018 were distributed.
- d. Neighbourhood Planning Group – Councillor Hogg – provided a brief verbal update and confirmed an informal meeting with a Neighbourhood Planning Consultant had been arranged for 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at 5pm.

**RESOLVED To ACCEPT** all committee / working group reports

#### **C187/18 - 8. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION**

- a. **Mayoral Chains of Office.** This matter was **WITHDRAWN** by the proposer Councillor Tyler.
- b. **Events**
  - i. **Approval of Spooktacular Event Budget – RESOLVED TO APPROVE** an event budget of £4,500 the shortfall in the events budget to be met from the unused budget set aside for the purchase of railings for The Trotter Memorial.
  - ii. **Date and Time of Christmas Lights Switch on Event. RESOLVED** the date of the Christmas Lights Switch on Event will be Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018.
  - iii. **Remembrance Service and Parade. RESOLVED** to fund the provision of tea / coffee / cake in Bedlington Community Centre at the termination of the Remembrance Service on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018. (Estimated cost to be no more than £200 to be met from Remembrance Budget and surplus of Job Fair budget).
  - iv. **2019 Meeting of the Town.**
    1. The Council **RESOLVED to DECLINE** a request to increase the budget for the Annual meeting of The Town to £500 for 2019.
    2. The Council **RESOLVED to APPROVE** a proposed buffet menu for the 2019 Meeting of The Town
- c. **Services – Christmas / War Memorial Lights.**
  - i. **RESOLVED to DECLINE** a quote for the supply of lights for War Memorial, Front Street West tree lights and St Cuthbert’s Church trees and steeple.
  - ii. **RESOLVED to DECLINE** a quote for the installation costs of lights supplied at i above.
- d. **Emergency Plan for Bedlington. This matter was WITHDRAWN by the proposer Councillor Hogg.**

#### **C188/18 – 9. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

#### **C189/18 - 10. COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVES ON EXTERNAL COMMITTEES**

- a. **Feedback**
  - I. Town / Parish Liaison Committee – (Councillor Taylor) – no report for this meeting.
  - II. NALC – (Councillor Hogg) – no meeting to report upon.
  - III. Gallagher Park Steering Group – (Councillor Graham) - no meeting to report upon.
  - IV. Bedlington In Bloom – (Councillor Hedley) – Written report circulated.

**RESOLVED to ACCEPT** the reports provided.

Chairman’s initials

**b. Election of Councillor Representatives to External Bodies / Joint Projects.**

- I. Board of Trustees of Bedlington Community Centre – **RESOLVED to ELECT** Councillor Crosby as The Councils representative upon the board of trustees.

**C190/18 - 11. CLERKS REPORT**

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

**C191/18 - 12. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS**

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

**C192/18 - 13. PLANNING**

**RESOLVED** to comment as per Appendix D.

**C193/18 - 14. COMMUNITY CHEST / PUPILS FUND APPLICATIONS**

**a. The Council are requested to consider the following funding applications**

- i. West End First School – Pupils Fund Application. **RESLOVED to APPROVE** the application in the sum of £1,530.
- ii. Northumberland CAN – Donation Request. **RESOLVED to DECLINE** the request.

**b. “Pupils Fund” Rules. RESOLVED to DECLINE** the proposal to include Stead Lane School within the eligibility rules for the Pupils Fund.

**C194/18 - 15. RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER**

The Clerk confirmed that additional pages had been purchased to facilitate the Neighbourhood Plan Consultation.

**C195/18 – 16. ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL REPORT**

**2017/18 Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR). RESOLVED to ACCEPT** the external auditor’s certification of The Annual Return of Accounts for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017. There were no matters that required the issuing of a separate additional issues report.

**C196/18 – 17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Councillor Henderson – For information only informed the Council that she had been approached by a number of residents in relation to the poor smell from “agricultural muck spreading”.

**C197/18 - 18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED** the next meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday 8th November 2018 at 6.30pm at Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington.

**C198/18 – 23. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 7.45pm

Signed by the Chair

8th November 2018

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

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

**a) Correspondence:**

Ref	From	Summary	Action
218/18	NALC	Enews 4 September 2018	Noted and Circulated
219/18	Friends Of Gallagher Park	Minutes and Action Points From 3 Sept Meeting	Noted and Circulated
220/18	Northumberland County Council	A1 Closure Stannington to Seaton Burn	Noted and Circulated
221/18	Northumberland County Council	A193 Front Street West Highways Proposal	Noted, Circulated and added to agenda Services 27 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2018
222/18	NALC	Enews 11 September 2018	Noted and Circulated
223/18	NALC	NALC Briefings & Training Autumn 2018	Noted and Circulated
224/18	Northumberland County Council	Notice of Local Area Council – 19 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2018	Noted and Circulated
225/18	NALC	External Audit September 2018	Noted and Circulated
226/18	Cramlington Town Council	Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan Consultation	Noted and Circulated
227/18	Highways England	Improvements Schemes in Northumberland	Noted and Circulated
228/18	Northumberland County Council	Changes To Refuse Collection Routes	Noted and Circulated
229/18	NALC	NALC AGM 29 Sept 2018	Noted and Circulated
230/18	Northumberland County Council	TTRO 106785861 Hartford Road Bedlington	Noted and Circulated
231/18	Northumberland County Council	Notice of Poll 27 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2018	Noted, Circulated and Displayed.
232/18	PKF Littlejohn LLP	Notice of Conclusion of Audit	Noted, Circulated and Displayed
233/18	Northumberland County Council	TTRO 106785861 Extension Hartford Road Bedlington	Noted and Circulated
234/18	NALC	Enews 25 September 2018	Noted and Circulated
235/18	NALC	Town & Parish Council Liaison Group 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2018	Noted and Circulated
236/18	Community Action Northumberland	CAN Enews September 2018	Noted and Circulated
237/18	NALC	External Audit Update	Noted and Circulated
238/18	Northumberland County Council	Declaration of Result of Poll	Noted and Circulated
239/18	Northumberland County Council Planning Team	Reply re undue delay in determining App 17/04454/OUT	Noted and Circulated
240/18	NALC	NALC 2018 AGM Draft Minutes	Noted and Circulated
241/18	NALC	Enews 3 October 2018	Noted and Circulated
242/18	Northumberland County Council	Country Park Volunteers	Noted and Circulated
243/18	NALC	Town & Parish Council Liaison Group	Noted and Circulated

**b) Consultations:**

Owner	Description	Where and When
Northern Gas Networks	Stakeholder Engagement Survey	Open To All – Online Survey
Northumberland County Council	Council Tax Support Scheme	Open To All – by 2 Nov 2018 <a href="https://form.northumberland.gov.uk/form/auto/ctax_consultation">https://form.northumberland.gov.uk/form/auto/ctax_consultation</a>

**c) Invitations:**

Date	From	Description	Comments
25 <sup>th</sup> Sept 18	Northumberland CVA	SE Northumberland VCS Networking Meeting	Open To All

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**Appendix B – Clerks Report (Agenda Item 11).**

**Finance**

No update re Finance – I will distribute a financial report with the next meeting agenda.

Need to start thinking about next year’s budget and any future projects NOW!

Consider if The Council could raise income as part of the budget proposal.

**Services**

Bus Shelters – Graffiti on panels at Willow Vale reported and cleaned on the same day – thanks to NCC Colin Green

Litter Bins – The litter bins at North Ridge and Hasop Way have had their covers removed and will need to be replaced.

**Events and Communications**

Halloween and Christmas Events are on the current agenda.

Need to review Event procurement and set dates / times of events earlier and plan sooner.

Autumn Newsletter – first draft will be distributed to members for proof reading etc.

**Projects**

Sun Dial – Planning application approval has been received – Tony Moss is calling in to see me tomorrow to progress.

CCTV – Met informally with Reay Security last Friday I have another informal meeting with 24/7 Cover tomorrow.

School Art in Bus Shelters – I will be collecting some Art Work from West End School next week!

**Admin**

With budget planning loaning – a pay review should be carried out

**Appendix C – Schedule of Payments and Receipts (Agenda Item 13) Payment 1st Sept 18 to 30th Sept 18.  
All payment GROSS of VAT.**

Payee	Amount	BCC	Bloom	Dr Pit	Description
Bibby Factors For BC Shelters	10,782.00				New Bus Shelters
Eventcover Productions Ltd	1,400.40				Event Security – Street Fair
Nixon Hire	840.00				Portable Toilets – Street Fair
Viking Payments	105.35				Postage Stamps
Northumberland County Council	250.00				Road Closure Costs – Street Fair
Northumberland County Council	(121,148.50				Precept – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Payment
Statex	217.20				Printing – Street Fair
Talk Talk Business	37.14				Telephone + Internet
Northumberland County Council	(114.00)				Refund – Planning Application
Everbrite for NALC Training	10.00				Councillor Training
Sea Drift Design	(25.00)				Income – Street Fair
Front Street News And Post Office	100.00				Newspapers – Public Library
Mick Whitfield Building Services	460.00				Litter Bin + Seat Relocation
PKF Littlejohn LLP	720.00				External Audit Fees
Northumberland County Council	1,976.55				Environmental Enforcement
SALTo Arts Productions	1,439.00				Street Fair

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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	Decision
18/03117/FUL	Agricultural workers dwelling including access and amenity space Location Land South Of Burnt House Farm Netherton Colliery Northumberland	16th October 2018	<b>COMMENT</b> The proposed development lies outside of the settlement boundaries.

Other Applications.

Ref.	Description	Response Due	Decision
17/02012/OUT	Outline Planning Permission with all matters reserved for the erection of two dwellings Location Land West Of 62 Station Road Station Road Stannington NE61 6NN	Local Area Council - Cramlington, Bedlington & Seaton Valley (Planning Only) - Netherton Social Club 1A Netherton Lane Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6DP at 5pm on 17 October 2018.	NO COMMENT

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

Welcome to WBTC monthly meeting, apologies that I wasn't able to attend the last meeting but thank you to Councillor Hogg for stepping into the breach.

Firstly I would like to talk about the election, there was speculation and numerous rumours about this election, the facts are a vacancy on the town council arose and during the term these are normally but not always filled via co-option. However, in this case 10 local residents exercised their democratic right to request a by-election. A co-option is where the council advertise a vacancy and people who live within the surrounding vicinity put in an application to fill that post, the full council would normally carry out an informal interview and if they are lucky enough to get more than one candidate the Council members will then vote and the successful candidate joins the council, simple and straightforward and minimal cost to the town. Following the departure of Councillor Kathleen Roach we thought that's what would happen, however 10 local residents supported by the Labour Party decided that they would like a by-election and secured 10 local signatures, I was challenged for allowing Dawn Crosby (not my decision) to stand and I have been accused of forcing the by-election by not allowing the Labour candidate a free pass to take up the seat (again not my decision) left by the outgoing Labour councillor, in my opinion we have seen democracy in action at the request of the Labour Party but with maximum cost to the town.

So on that note I would like to formally congratulate Councillor Dawn Crosby and welcome her to West Bedlington Town Council, there's lots to be done so you'll be very busy. Finally, before I move on I would like to pay tribute to Viv Mather, the other candidate who stood in the by-election, I've met Viv on several occasions and chatted to her when she knocked on my door to canvass my vote. We had a lengthy discussion

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mostly about national issues which I found very confusing as she was standing for a town council post, however, I appreciate her interest and have issued an invitation should she wish to be involved in any of our events, Neighbourhood Plan etc., our door is open.

The Tesco site, I'm disappointed at the lack of movement on the site, August has been and is long gone, September gave us an update but little in the way of movement, I've asked Russ Wallace the County Councillor for Bedlington Central to get some further info and get this out with fixed dates so we can see some activity sooner rather than later.

Neighbourhood Plan – questionnaire in our Newsletter please complete

Events - Coming up

**Halloween**, this year we are at the Cricket Club in Bedlington, on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November,

Our Service of **Remembrance** will be held on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November, this is the centenary year

**Christmas** is looming fast and we will be holding our Christmas lights switch on, on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 4 pm, during this day both St Cuthbert's Church and the Community Centre in Bedlington have Christmas Markets on so there will be plenty of activity on the street.

*Christine*

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

Ref.	Description	Decision
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 (as amended 13/08/18) Location 15 Shields Road Hartford Bridge Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6AN	GRANTED
18/01658/REM	Reserved matters application for approval of details of Access, Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale in respect of Phase B and the Infrastructure and Access Phase of the development as shown on the phasing plan. Location Car Park Vulcan Place Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5DN	GRANTED
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	WITHDRAWN
18/02696/FUL	Proposed 0.8m fence upon shared front boundary Location 8 Edinburgh Drive Hazelmere Bedlington NE22 6NY	GRANTED
18/02712/FUL	Rear ground floor extension to kitchen and dining room and sun lounge Location 16 Barley Grove Broadoaks Bedlington NE22 6BT	GRANTED

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