

**Minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held at Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington.
On Thursday 14th November 2024 at 6.30pm.**



PRESENTATIONS.

- None scheduled for the meeting.

QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL

- A member of the public raised the issue of the proposed new cycle way. He highlighted issues such as a 5mtr wide path rather than a 3mtr wide being proposed (which is the width in other areas), the loss of greenery, and under- utilisation. The Chair confirmed that any funding for Bedlington projects must be acceptable to residents. This issue is on the Agenda at point B 2c for further discussion and a formal decision.
- A member of the public raised the issue of when the new bus shelter will be installed at Choppington Road. The Clerk informed the meeting that it is scheduled for installation on 25th November.

PART A - ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

Min Ref		Attendance / Apologies and Declarations of Interests.	Determination
24/155		In Attendance	Councillors, Crosby, Hedley, Henderson, Hogg, Taylor (Chair), Thompson, D Wallace and R Wallace. Town Clerk S Young, Deputy Town Clerk G Turner and Assistant Town Clerk M McTeer. Seven (7) members of the public.
24/156	a.	Apologies for Absence. i. To receive and note any apologies for absence from Councillors. ii. To consider and determine any dispensations for absent Councillors.	i. Apologies for absence from Councillor Todd was NOTED. ii. There were no dispensations for absence for this meeting.
24/157	b.	Declaration of Interests. i. Unless already entered in the Council's Register of Members' interests, members are required to disclose any personal interest, (which includes any disclosable pecuniary interest), they may have in any of the items included on the agenda for the meeting in accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council on 12th July 2012. ii. To consider any requests for dispensations.	i. No declarations were declared. ii. No dispensations for this meeting.

PART B – MATTERS FOR DECISION

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS / SUMMARY OF DELEGATED DECISIONS

	Details of Meeting or Delegated Decisions	Determination
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24/158	a.	To agree and sign as a correct record the minutes of West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held on 10 th October 2024.	RESOLVED that the minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held on 10 th October 2024 are APPROVED as a true record.
24/159	b.	To discuss any matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting that are not included as agenda items.	There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 10 th October 2024.

2. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

		Matters for Discussion / Decision	Determination
24/160	a.	<p>Community Chest / Funding Requests. The Council are requested to discuss and decide upon funding requests from:</p> <p>i. Wag & Company North East Friendship Dogs. Details distributed to members.</p> <p>ii. St Bede's Primary school PTA for a financial contribution to assist with the continuation of The Jubilee Games. Details distributed to members</p>	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>i. Members unanimously approved a grant of £200 and to advertise this service in our Magazine to increase visits which could lead to increased funding</p> <p>ii. Members agreed to defer this application in order for the Clerk to contact all schools to ask if they are onboard with the proposal and to make the payment from the pupil fund.</p>
24/161	b.	<p>Finance</p> <p>i. 2025 -26 Budget and Precept Preparation. The Council are asked to consider and decide upon a proposal (in principle) to set aside funding within the new year's (2025 -26) budget for the provision of an event to commemorate VE 80th Anniversary.</p> <p>ii. Internal Audit Interim Report The Council are requested to NOTE the interim internal audit report distributed. There is no area of concern reported.</p>	<p>i. Members unanimously agreed to support a VE 80th Anniversary event.</p> <p>ii. Members received and noted the Internal Audit Interim Report</p>
24/162	c.	<p>Bedlington Walking and Cycling Consultation Members are requested to formulate the Council's response to Northumberland County Councils consultation re the proposed Bedlington Walking and Cycling Route</p>	<p>RESOLVED Members unanimously Objected to the project on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Width of the path 5mtrs should be 3mtrs. • Connectivity and location i.e. does not link areas to

			<p>employment and local transport hubs etc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of trees and green spaces • Loss of wildlife • Safety of un-supervised children arriving/departing nearby school and playing 																
24/163	d.	<p>Bedlington Community Centre – Insurance Renewal</p> <p>The Council is asked to discuss and decide upon received insurance quotes for risks associated with its ownership of Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington, (Quote Comparison distributed to members - all risk covers are comparable).</p>	<p>RESOLVED It was unanimously AGREED to accept Club Insure Ltd Ecclesiastical Insurance as the providers for 2024/25</p>																
24/164	e.	<p>Planning</p> <p>i. Planning Applications – Where Comments Have Been Requested.</p> <p>The Council are asked to discuss and decide if it wishes to make any comments in relation to the Planning applications received for comment.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="301 996 1228 1720"> <thead> <tr> <th>Ref.</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Response Due Date</th> <th>Determination</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>24/02929/ADE</td> <td>Retrospective: Advertisement Consent for adverts erected on commercial premises displaying information and name of business with rolling shutters. Location 66A Front Street East Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5AB</td> <td>30th October 2024.</td> <td>Comment: Reiterate Shop Front Design Guide re: Shuttering.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24/03606/PRUTPO</td> <td>Tree Preservation Order Application - T1 Corsican Pine - remove lower scaffold limb. Location Pinegrove House 2 Bellingham Court Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5QS</td> <td>14th November 2024.</td> <td>No Comment</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24/03162/FUL</td> <td>Retrospective-Erection of 12 stables and 5 barns Land To South Of Hartford Drive Hartford Drive Hartford Bridge Northumberland NE22 6AJ</td> <td>5th November 2024.</td> <td>Comment: We would prefer the hedgerow to be on the Southern boundary</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Note: recent notified planning decisions and other planning applications (where comments have not been requested) are shown in PART C for information only).</p>	Ref.	Description	Response Due Date	Determination	24/02929/ADE	Retrospective: Advertisement Consent for adverts erected on commercial premises displaying information and name of business with rolling shutters. Location 66A Front Street East Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5AB	30th October 2024.	Comment: Reiterate Shop Front Design Guide re: Shuttering.	24/03606/PRUTPO	Tree Preservation Order Application - T1 Corsican Pine - remove lower scaffold limb. Location Pinegrove House 2 Bellingham Court Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5QS	14th November 2024.	No Comment	24/03162/FUL	Retrospective-Erection of 12 stables and 5 barns Land To South Of Hartford Drive Hartford Drive Hartford Bridge Northumberland NE22 6AJ	5th November 2024.	Comment: We would prefer the hedgerow to be on the Southern boundary	
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24/165	f.	<p>Working Groups / Committees (items for decision or discussion).</p> <p>1. Any Recommendations from Working Groups for decision by full Council.</p>	<p>None for this meeting</p>																

		2. Any Other Items from Working Groups) – The Working Group Chair will feedback to the Council any other items discussed, any ongoing and future matters been worked upon by the working group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The trip to Blackpool was very successful ii. The Christmas Lights Switch-On event will take place on 30th November iii. The Magic of Christmas afternoon will take place on 9th December
24/166	g.	Bank Reconciliation The Council are asked to APPROVE a checked bank reconciliation of £17,623.50 as of 31 st October 2024 and a Deposit Account Balance of £411,100.39 as of 31 st October 2024, together with a CCLA account balance of £25,000.	The Bank Reconciliations were APPROVED by members.

PART C – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION OR TO BE NOTED

Matters for Information or To Be Noted												
24/167		RESOLVED to NOTE Section's a, b, and c. Note section f is not part of the agenda and is included for information only.										
	a.	Chairs Update and any Reports from External Meetings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Chair will make any relevant announcements and provide updates to members. ii. To receive feedback from Councillors from any external meetings since the date of the last Council meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Chair informed the meeting that the Remembrance Day Parade was well received and the number of residents turning out for the event was amazing. ii. The service held on 11th November was also well received and the children from our schools were exceptional whilst reading out their poetry. The BBC were in attendance and featured The Chair and Cllr Crosby on Look North. iii. Virgin Radio has contacted us saying that Jane Middlemiss would love to come and switch-on the Christmas lights (remotely via a large screen). Unfortunately, we don't think this would be a good idea as it was too short notice for this year's event. i. Nothing for this meeting. 									
	b.	Consultations. <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 30%;">From</th> <th style="width: 40%;">Description</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Details</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>None For This Meeting</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		From	Description	Details	None For This Meeting					
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	c.	Invitations. <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">From</th> <th style="width: 35%;">Event</th> <th style="width: 40%;">Response Details</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Ashington Male Voice Choir</td> <td>Christmas Concert 2024 at St Cuthberts Church Bedlington 14th December at 3.00pm.</td> <td>Invitation to The Mayor – Cllrs Taylor and Henderson to attend.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Northumberland Citizens Advice</td> <td>Annual Public Meeting Thu 5th December</td> <td>Replies via link embedded in email invitation.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		From	Event	Response Details	Ashington Male Voice Choir	Christmas Concert 2024 at St Cuthberts Church Bedlington 14th December at 3.00pm.	Invitation to The Mayor – Cllrs Taylor and Henderson to attend.	Northumberland Citizens Advice	Annual Public Meeting Thu 5th December	Replies via link embedded in email invitation.
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24/168

d.

Schedule of Payments and Receipts.

Details of payments and (receipts) to be noted since last Council update. All payments gross of VAT.

Payee	Amount £. p	Description	Notes
North East Regional Employers Organisation	150.00	Job Advertisement	
Reay Security Ltd	809.64	CCTV Charges	
Reay Security Ltd	432.00	Play Area Opening and Closing	
Smart Office Systems Ltd	19.20	Printer Costs	
Google One Drive	15.99	Annual Subscription	
Blackpool Tower Eye	1,739.00	Event Tickets	
Viking Payments	29.42	Stationary	
Blackpool Tower Eye	462.00	Event Tickets	
CCLA Deposit Fund Interest	-88.22	Interest From Investment	
1p Mobile	30.00	Mobile Phone	
Blackpool Tower Eye	-132.00	Ticket Refunds	
Charmain Hamilton	2,000.00	Christmas Lights Switch On Event Management and Santa Giveaways	
Viking Payments	124.80	Chair	
Reay Security	83.04	CCTV Charges	
Charmain Hamilton	1,170.00	Blackpool Coach and Lunches	
Talk Talk Business	59.42	Telephone + Internet	
Northumberland County Council	5,112.97	October Payroll	
Northumberland County Council	-3,000.00	Grant Payment Received – BCC Lift	
Ashington & District Male Voice Choir Grant 24/140	300.00	Community Chest Award	
Blackpool Tower Eye	163.00	Event Tickets	
Amazon	28.96	Tape For Remembrance	
Reay Security	83.04	CCTV Charges	
Service and Disabled Lifts Ltd	6,755.40	BCC Lift Deposit	
Smart Office Systems Ltd	954.00	New Printer	
Smart Office Systems Ltd	49.24	Printer Costs	
Station Entertainments Ltd	150.00	Remembrance PA	
Wireless Logic Limited	539.14	CCTV Sim Card Charges	
Northumberland County Council	26,077.31	Annual SLA Costs	
DL Maintenance & Repair	204.42	Bus Shelter Repair	
HMRC	-4,286.03	Vat Reclaim	
Charmain Hamilton	7,350.00	Christmas Lights Switch On Event Costs	
Transfer In from Deposit Account	-10,000.00	Internal Bank Account Transfer	

Members received and approved the Schedule of Payments and Receipts listing

24/169	f.	<p>Planning decisions notified to West Bedlington Town Council by Northumberland County Council.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Ref.</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Decision</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>24/02773/FUL</td> <td>Single story extension over garage, double story extension to side of property, single story extension to back of property. Location 1 Dunstanburgh Close Hazelmere Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6NA</td> <td>GRANTED</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24/02959/FELTPO</td> <td>Tree Preservation Order: T1 - Fell one Rowan tree Location Grass Verge South Of Greenside Fairway Rise Hartford Hall Estate Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6AG</td> <td>PERMIT</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Members noted the above planning decisions.</p>	Ref.	Description	Decision	24/02773/FUL	Single story extension over garage, double story extension to side of property, single story extension to back of property. Location 1 Dunstanburgh Close Hazelmere Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6NA	GRANTED	24/02959/FELTPO	Tree Preservation Order: T1 - Fell one Rowan tree Location Grass Verge South Of Greenside Fairway Rise Hartford Hall Estate Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6AG	PERMIT
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24/170	g.	<p>Police Report. The next scheduled regular report is for the December 2024 meeting.</p>									
24/171	h.	<p>Matters for Information Only Any matters pertaining to the Council, that members would like to bring to the attention of other members and residents. For Information only no proposals or voting on these matters.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Councillors – Any matters for information only – nothing at this time. Town Clerk – Governance - advance notice of impending bank charges from January 2025. Services - Repairs to play equipment awaiting spare parts from suppliers. Bus Shelter Choppington Road awaiting installation date from supplier. War Memorial, Market Place Seats and Welcome Train complete. Office closure – advance notice the office will be closed on 25th December 2024 to 2nd January 2025. <p>Members noted the information items above.</p>									
24/172	i.	<p>Date of Next Meeting. The next scheduled meeting of the Council will be on Thursday 12th December 2024 at 6.30pm in Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington. The agenda for this meeting to be issued on Wednesday 4th December 2024. Members noted the date of the next Town Council meeting.</p>									

PART D – EXEMPT BUSINESS.

That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

	Matters for Discussion / Decision / Information	
24/173	There is no exempt business for this meeting.	

24/174	<p>Close of Meeting. The Chair closed the meeting at 7.40 pm</p>
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WEST BEDLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL - COUNCILLORS:

Bill Crosby, Paul Hedley, Cath Henderson, Adam Hogg, Christine Taylor, Victoria Thompson, Jayne Todd, Di Wallace, and Russ Wallace.

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