**EAST BEDLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a Meeting held on Tuesday 7th October 2014, 6:00pm at East Bedlington Community Centre, Bedlington.**

**PRESENT:**

Councillors:

Alex Wallace

Colin Parker

P Hedley

A Stewart

N. Hogarth

J Dobie

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Parish Clerk, Assistant Parish Clerk and 3 members of the public.

**OPEN SESSION**

The Chair welcomed all present. He explained that the open session was their opportunity to raise questions and make comments in connection with the business to be conducted as they were excluded from doing so once the business had commenced.

A member of the public questioned whether a bus shelter might be provided near the junction of Brock Lane and the Cambois Bypass The Clerk advised that this could cost between £8,000 - £10,000 and that a similar request for a shelter in Bedlington Station had been turned down on the basis of cost/benefit to residents. It was also established that there was no official bus stop or footpath leading to the proposed site. General consensus was that the council could not consider a shelter due to the reasons outlined above.

However, this opened a wider discussion regarding bus services through East Sleekburn and the chair advised that NCC was looking at ways to provide additional / alternative transport for the village.

**CO083/14 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received on behalf of Councillors A Innes and D Graham.

**Resolved**

**That the apologies for absence be accepted.**

**CO084/14 2.MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.**

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2 september 2014 be agreed as a true record.

**CO085/14 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Councillor Allan Stewart referred to minute CO079/14 and suggested that Ian Lavery MP should be invited to perform the official switch on of the Christmas lights.

**RESOLVED .**

That Ian lavery MP be invited to switch on the Christmas lights.

**CO086/14 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & DISPENSATIONS**

No declarations applicable to the business to be conducted.

**CO087/14 5. POLICE REPORT**

**RESOLVED**

**There was no police report.**

**CO088/14 6. CORRESPONDANCE**

The clerk referred to item 597 (Bedlington Leisure meeting) advising that he had attend and had received the minutes earlier that day which had been circulated to members.He also advised that an invitation had been received from Miller Homes requesting consultation regarding their proposals for 60 dwellings at Church Lane. It was pointed out that this development was in West Bedlington and that the parish would have no influence over the planning decision.

**RESOLVED**

**That the correspondence be noted and that the invitation from Miller homes be declined.**

**CO089/14 7. CLERKS REPORT**

The Clerk provided an update on significant issues and advised the following;

* A notice board had been installed at Cambois Allotments.
* Three vacant plots at Cambois allotments had been allocated.
* Play areas had been topped up with play bark, two new swings installed in Jennings Field and repairs to swings carried out at Wembley Terrace
* An autumn newsletter had been issued that contained several pages commemorating the centenary of World War I.

**RESOLVED**

**That the clerks report be noted.**

**CO090/14 8. INVOICES AND PAYMENT VOUCHERS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Payment reference** | **Details** | **amount £** |
| V61 | J A Tindale - expenses | 25.00 |
| V62 | Society of Local Council Clerks | 184.00 |
| V63 | The Play Practice (Scotland) Ltd | 804.00 |
| V64 | R & L Keenleysides | 510.28 |
| V65 | R Thornton - Clerks Expenses | 310.41 |
| V66 | Hartford Catering | 60.00 |
| V67 | Andrew Thornton - Expenses | 135.00 |
| DD | BT | 102.19 |
| V68 | Trinity Youth | 179.00 |
| V69 | SENRUG | 10.00 |
| V70 | Birch Landscapes | 2100.00 |
| V71 | R & L Keenleyside | 67.92 |
| V72 | HAGS - SMP | 388.08 |
| V73 | M Doherty | 347.50 |
| V74 | Northumberland County Council - payroll sept | 3659.47 |
| V75 | East Bedlington Community Centre | 6300.00 |
| V76 | Greenbarnes Ltd | 309.64 |
| DD | Bank Charges | 21.79 |
| V77 | Play bark & Play Surfacing LLP | 2498.40 |
| V78 | Ian Ballance | 122.50 |

**RESOLVED**

**That the schedule of invoices and payment vouchers be approved.**

**CO091/14 9. INCOME**

**RESOLVED**

**That the Council notes income received of £187.20 in respect of allotment rent and second half year precept of £71,305.00.**

**CO092/14 10. FINANCIAL POSITION**

**RESOLVED**

**That the Council notes the cleared balance at 30th September 2014 of £114,802.15.**

**CO093/14 11. BANK RECONCILIATION**

**RESOLVED**

**That the bank reconciliation up to 31st August 2014 be approved.**

**CO094/14 12. BUDGET REPORT**

**The Clerk referred to key budget heads advising that most were fully committed. He advised that the forecast outturn reflected the fact that the council would not need to borrow £350,000 to help finance the renovation of the Community Centre in the current year. However, the outcome of the Community Centres stage 2 lottery bid could still have a significant impact on the Council’s year end balances and the 2015/16 budget. He advised that the Council’s projected year end balances would be circa £60,000 and that £4,400 remained in the current year’s contingency budget.**

**RESOLVED**

**That the clerks budget report be noted.**

**CO095/14 13. CASUAL VACANCIES FOR 2 COUNCILLORS**

The clerk advised that two expressions of interest had been received to fill the 2 vacant positions on the Council. He read out a short resume received from Andy Watson (who unfortunately was working away and therefore unable to attend in person) and also invited Mr Eddie Dickson (who was in attendance) to introduce himself and provide similar details. Both candidates were then formally nominated by Councillor Allan Stewart and seconded by Councillor Colin Parker.

**RESOLVED**

**That Mr Andy Watson and Mr Eddie Dickson are co-opted on to the Council subject to completion of acceptance of office, signing up to the Council’s code of conduct and completion of their declarations of interests .**

**CO096/14 14. SMALL GRANTS & DONATIONS**

**RESOLVED**

1. **That an annual donation of £250.00 be awarded to Choysez.**
2. **That a donation of £50.00 be awarded to the Great North Air Ambulance.**

**CO097/14 15. MATTERS FOR DECISION**

**15.1 Relocation and replacement of waste bin outside 14, Glassey Terrace.**

**RESOLVED**

1. **That the existing (lamppost mounted) waste bin outside 14, Glassey terrace be removed and replaced with a free standing bin to be located in the vicinity of the bus shelter nearby.**

**CO098/14 16. OUTSIDE BODIES**

**Delegates Reports**

16.1 NALC – The Chair referred to his written report which had been circulated and invited questions. He referred to a revised formula for calculating NALC subscriptions that would take cognisance of those council’s most affected by the non Passporting of Council Tax support. The clerk advised that there would be an increase of approximately £30.00.

16.2 Parish Liaison Working Group - The Chair referred to his written report and emphasised the value of these meetings referring a recent conference where 100 parish officials had attended. He also referred to a statement made by NCC leader, Grant Davey at the South East Area Meeting where he had assured the meeting that council tax support would be passported in 2015/16 if he was allowed to do so.

16.3 East Bedlington Community Centre – the Clerk in his capacity as trustee provided an update. He advised that a decision on the Centres Stage 2 Lottery bid and a second bid to Garfield Weston were expected before Christmas. The Assistant Parish Clerk also advised of a bid which had been made to the Police Crime Commissioners fund.

16.4 Friends of Gallagher Park – There was no report as the Council’s delegate (Councillor David Graham) was on holiday.

In addition the Clerk circulated notes of a Joint Meeting between East / West Bedlington and Northumberland County Council. Referring to East Bedlington’s Parish Plan, he had suggested that if that all three organisations tabled their strategic priorities then this would help identify key areas for joint working. Notwithstanding this the meeting had agreed upon 5 broad areas for potential joint working between the councils. The clerk expressed slight concern that the minutes of the meeting portrayed NCC as a mediator rather a strategic partner.

**RESOLVED**

**That the delegates reports are noted.**

**CO099/14 17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**None.**

**DATE & TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of East Bedlington Parish Council will be 6pm Tuesday 4th November 2014 at East Bedlington Community Centre.

Meeting Closed 7.40 pm.

Signed by the Chairman: …………………. Date: ………………………………………...