**EAST BEDLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 4th November 2014, 6:00pm at East Bedlington Community Centre, Bedlington.**

**PRESENT:**

Councillors:

Alex Wallace

P Hedley

N. Hogarth

J Dobie

1. Watson

E. Dickson

D Graham

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Parish Clerk, Assistant Parish Clerk and 3 members of the public and 2 PCSO’s.

**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.

There were no questions raised. The Chair referred to the absence of Councillors Allan Stewart and Colin Parker. He advised that Councillor Stewart was in hospital recovering from an operation and that Councillor Colin Parker’s wife had also taken ill and had been admitted to hospital. He spoke on behalf of all members in wishing them speedy recoveries.

**CO100/14 MOTION TO VARY THE ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The Chair moved a motion to vary the order of business to allow item 5 (Police Report) to be given as the first item of business in order to allow the officers present to return to their duties.

**RESOLVED.**

**That the order of business be amended.**

**CO101/14 5. POLICE REPORT**

PCSO Dave Johnson and PCSO Wayne Turnbull referred to their written report and provided an update on the current crime statistics. They reported that 2 penalty tickets had been issued for the setting off of fireworks and advised that Blyth and Cramlington policing teams would in future be controlled from Bedlington.

**RESOLVED**

**That the police report be noted and the officers be thanked for their attendance.**

**CO102/14 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received on behalf of Councillors A. Stewart, C. Parker, A Innes and A Watson (late arrival to the meeting).

**Resolved**

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

**CO103/14 2.MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.**

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th October 2014 be agreed as a true record.

**CO104/14 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None.

**CO105/14 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & DISPENSATIONS**

No declarations applicable to the business to be conducted.

**CO106/14 6. CORRESPONDANCE**

There were no questions raised.

**RESOLVED**

**That the correspondence be noted.**

**CO107/14 7. CLERKS REPORT**

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

* Two new seats had been installed at the War Memorial at Cambois and a further seat was on order for Selbourne Terrace play area.
* Ian Lavery MP had been confirmed as the guest of honour to switch on the Christmas lights on Friday 28th November. Stead lane choir had also confirmed and Ian Hennerby would be liaising with the High School. The Christmas tree was scheduled for delivery on 12th November.
* A meeting had taken place with Barry Mead to discuss a heritage project centred on the Waggon Way / Iron Works / Bedlington Heritage trail.
* NCC had advised that the deadline date for setting the 2015/16 parish precept was 2nd February 2015 and that the council’s provisional tax base for 2015/16 was 1944.73.
* Two panes of glass had been damaged at Cambois beach shelter and this had been reported to the police.

The clerk also advised that alternative arrangements would be required for wreath laying due to both Councillors Stewart and Parker being unable to perform these duties.

**RESOLVED**

1. **That the clerks report be noted.**
2. **That Councillor Paul Hedley be delegated to lay wreaths at Cambois War Memorial on Sunday 9th (11am) and Tuesday 11th November (11am).**
3. **That Councillor Joe Dobie be delegated to lay the Council’s wreath at Belington on Sunday 9th November (3pm).**

**CO108/14 8. INVOICES AND PAYMENT VOUCHERS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Payment reference** | **Details** | **amount £** |
| V79 | J A Tindale - Expenses | 50.14 |
| V80 | Alex Wallace | 98.40 |
| V81 | Cllr Allan Stewart | 120.00 |
| DBB | BT | 103.94 |
| V82 | Northumberland County Council | 1579.20 |
| V83 | Northumberland County Council | 434.00 |
| V84 | R & L Keenleyside | 55.14 |
| V85 | Birch Landscapes | 648.00 |
| V86 | Northumberland County Council - payroll October | 3659.47 |
| V87 | Northumbrian Water - Cambois Allotments | 194.81 |
| V87 | Northumbrian Water - East Sleekburn Allotments | 49.64 |
| V88 | Mrs J Muter | 989.46 |
| DBB | Bank Charges | 13.15 |
| V89 | HFF Civil Engineering | 720.00 |
| V90 | Artis Consulting Ltd | 600.00 |
| V91 | Broxap Limited - seats for war memorial | 1488.00 |
| V92 | Taylor Design Partnership | 4725.60 |
| V93 | Choysez | 250.00 |
| V94 | Air Ambulance | 50.00 |

**RESOLVED**

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

**CO109/14 9. INCOME**

**RESOLVED**

**That the Council notes income received of £62.40 in respect of allotment rent and Vat recovery of £6428.18.**

**CO110/14 10. FINANCIAL POSITION**

**RESOLVED**

**That the Council notes the cleared balance at 31st October 2014 of £99,783.22.**

**CO110/14 11. BANK RECONCILIATION**

**RESOLVED**

**That the bank reconciliation up to 30th September 2014 be approved.**

**CO111/14 12. BUDGET REPORT**

The clerk provided an update on the probable outturn for 2014/15 advising that there was now only £2,900 remaining in contingencies**.**

**RESOLVED**

**That the clerk’s budget report be noted.**

**CO112/14 13. SMALL GRANTS & DONATIONS**

The finance champion, Councillor Nichola Hogarth referred to a request for a donation from Legacare (a registered charity based in Newcastle) whom provided free legal services to terminally ill people. Councillor Graham referred to a similar service which was being promoted by the local hospitals and suggested that the Council may wish to support one of these in preference. In light of this information the clerk suggested that the item be deferred until more information was to hand.

**RESOLVED**

1. **That a decision on a donation to Legacare be deferred.**

**CO113/14 14. MATTERS FOR DECISION**

**None.**

**CO114/14 1. OUTSIDE BODIES**

**Delegates Reports**

15.1 NALC – The Chair referred to changes in the system of awarding council tax benefit and the withdrawal of Council Tax Support from Parish Council’s which had impacted significantly on the parishes with the greatest levels of deprivation. He advised that NALC subscriptions had previously been based on a formula of a fixed charge and an incremental amount based on the number of residents in the parish. However, the formula is now based on the tax base which will go a small way in offsetting the impact of NCC’s decision.

15.2 East Bedlington Community Centre – the Clerk in his capacity as trustee provided an update. He advised that a stage 2 telephone interview had been undertaken and as a result of which some additional costs identified and he referred to the closed agenda item 17. A decision on the stage 2 bid was now anticipated within 2-3 weeks. The Assistant Parish Clerk also advised of a bid which had been made to the Police Crime Commissioners fund that had been successful.

15.3 Friends of Gallagher Park – Councillor David Graham provided an update. He advised that Active Leisure were now seeking funding for changing room and toilet facilities. He also advised of a tidy up initiative which was to take place on Saturday 15th November and volunteers were welcomed. Councillor Graham also advised that he was a delegate for Bedlington Forum but rather than give a report himself he requested the chair to allow Brian Oliver (Chair of Bedlington Forum) who was in the audience to give the report.

**RESOLVED**

**That the delegate’s reports are noted.**

**CO115/14 16. MOTION TO VARY THE ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The Chair moved a motion to vary the order of business to allow the Chair of Bedlington Forum to address the meeting before Any Other Business and taking a vote to go into closed session to consider item 17 on the agenda.

**RESOLVED**

**That the order of business be varied and that the meeting be adjourned to allow the Chair of Bedlington Forum to address the meeting.**

**CO116/14** Brian Oliver, Chair of Bedlington Forum advised that due to the reorganisation of local policing teams that the holding cells at Bedlington Police Station would no longer be used, with all offenders being relocated to Middle Engine Lane, North Tyneside. He questioned the practicalities of this and advised that the Forum would be writing to Vera Baird expressing their views. Mr Oliver also referred to a number of issues affecting Bedlington Front Street, and he welcomed the intervention of Ian Lavery MP. The Chair thanked Brian Oliver for his informative update.

**CO117/14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**None.**

**CO118/14 EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED**

**That the press and public be excluded from agenda item 17 on the grounds of the subject matters confidential nature & commercial sensitivity.**

**CO119/14 FUNDING REQUEST FROM THE TRUSTEES OF EAST BEDLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE.**

The Clerk advised that a request had been received from the Community Centre Trustees requesting further funding towards the restoration costs of the Community Centre. He provided a written report which outlined the need for the additional funds and the potential risks and benefits that needed to be considered.

**RESOLVED**

**That the Council approves the additional funds requested as detailed in the clerk’s report.**

**DATE & TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of East Bedlington Parish Council will be 6pm Tuesday 2nd December 2014 at East Bedlington Community Centre.

Meeting Closed 7.45 pm.

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