**EAST BEDLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 3 February 2015, 6:00pm at East Bedlington Community Centre, Bedlington.**

**PRESENT:**

Councillors:

E. Dickson

J Dobie

D Graham

P Hedley

N Hogarth

C Parker

A Stewart

Alex Wallace

A Watson

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Parish Clerk, Assistant Parish Clerk and 4 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 referred to the adequacy of waste bins on Cambois links and renewed a previous request for additional provision. This led to a wider debate concerning dog fouling on the beach. Councillor Stewart commented on the cost of providing bins and the Assistant Parish Clerk stated that they had to be accessible for NCC workmen to empty them. The Chair referred to a neighbouring 2.6 mile stretch of beach at Blyth advising that this was closed to dogs during the summer and he suggested that the Council may wish to take similar action. The chair thanked the member of the public for raising the issue advising that this would be considered further at the environment working group.

**CO143/14 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received on behalf of Councillor Andrea Innes.

**Resolved**

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

**CO144/14 2.MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.**

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13 January 2015 be agreed as a true record subject to the correction of the spelling of Councillor Dickson’s name.

**CO145/14 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Councillor Stewart advised that Councillor Hogarth and he had attended the Choysez and had been impressed with the work they were undertaking with young people. He had also attended the Hope Church launch event which had sadly been poorly attended.

**Resolved**

That the matters arising be noted.

**CO146/14 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & DISPENSATIONS**

There were declarations.

**CO147/14 5. POLICE REPORT**

PC Steve Nicklin advised that there had been a 1.9% overall reduction in comparison to the previous year. He advised that there had been 31 recorded crimes during this calendar year including 11 burglaries and 7 assaults. Of these 9 crimes had been detected. He referred to a trend of thefts from motor vehicles that had been left unsecure in the Stakeford area.

**RESOLVED**

**That the police report be received and that the parish would highlight the issue in the next parish magazine.**

**CO147/14 6. CORRESPONDANCE**

Councillor Stewart referred to the administration arrangements in relation to the issuing and dissemination of agendas and minutes and also the timing of working group meetings.

Councillor Stewart referred to item 617 (NCC Proposed Budget) and requested the Clerk explain the impact on the Council’s budget due to withdrawal of Council Tax support grant. The Clerk explained that the Parish Council’s tax base had be cut by 24.2% and that Council tax Support Grant was meant to compensate it for this loss. He advised that the Parish was about £53,000 worse off than it would have been prior to the changes.

**RESOLVED**

1. **That the correspondence and the Clerks comments be noted.**
2. **That the administrative arrangements concerning agendas, minutes and timing of meetings be referred to the Planning and Corporate Strategy working Group.**

**CO148/14 7. CLERKS REPORT**

The Clerk advised that;

* the parish precept had been submitted,
* a meeting was to take place with Paul Jones regarding the public convenience, and
* he had attended a site meeting at Gallagher Park concerning the positioning of a new pavilion

**RESOLVED**

1. **That the Clerks report be noted.**

**CO149/14 8. INVOICES & PAYMENT VOUCHERS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Payment reference** | **Details** | **amount £** |
| V108 | Elveden – Christmas Tree | 489.60 |
| V109 | Parish Websites Ltd - | 300.00 |
| V110 | Hartford Catering – Buffet Christmas switch on | 160.00 |
| V111 | Generation Hire & Sale - Barriers | 39.43 |
| DD | BT | 103.94 |
| V112 | Clerks Expenses | 37.56 |
| V113 | Andrew Thornton - Expenses | 157.50 |
| V114 | Broxap Limited - seat for Selbourne play area | 861.60 |
| V115 | Blachere Illuminations – Christmas motifs | 1953.36 |
| V116 | East Bedlington Community Centre - Rent | 1300.00 |
| V117 | Alex Wallace - Chairs expenses | 77.40 |
| V118 | Northumberland County Council - payroll December | 3659.47 |
| V119 | ABS Ltd – print cartridges | 348.60 |
| DBB | Bank Charges | 16.57 |
| V120 | Mick Whitfield – installation of seat at Selbourne play area | 190.00 |
| DD | BT | 103.15 |
| V121 | Generation Hire & Sale - Barriers | 26.57 |
| V122 | R & L Keenleysides | 7.20 |
| DBB | Bank Charges | 18.93 |
| V123 | Blachere Illuminations – Christmas Tree dismantle & store | 759.78 |
| V124 | Northumberland County Council - payroll January 15 | 3745.98 |
| V125 | Northumbrian Water - Cambois Allotments | 194.81 |
| V125 | Northumbrian Water - East Sleekburn Allotments | 48.48 |
| V127 | Radio Northumberland – Christmas music | 75.00 |

In response to a question from Councillor Graham the Clerk advised that invoices paid to Generation Hire were in respect of the barriers around the Christmas tree.

**RESOLVED**

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

**CO150/14 9. FINANCIAL POSITION**

**RESOLVED**

**That the Council notes the cleared balance of £80,324.36.**

**CO151/14 10. BANK RECONCILIATION**

**RESOLVED**

**That the bank reconciliation statement for the period ending 31 January 2015 be approved.**

**CO152/14 11. BUDGET REPORT**

The Clerk provided an update on the 2014/15 probable outturn advising that budgets that would not be utilised had be returned to contingencies which now stood at just over £3000.

**RESOLVED**

**That the forecast outturn be noted.**

**CO153/14 12. MATTERS FOR DECISION**

Members considered the following items;

**12.1** Nalc road show 26 March 2015 – Bedlington Community Centre

12.2 Training & Development Seminar – Harrogate – Engaging with the Public & Chairmanship skills – 27th Feb – 1st March 205 – Cost £295 + Accommodation £120.00

12.3 Parish & Town Council Training – Chairman 26th February – Stannington Village Hall £5 per person – New Councillor Training – Tuesday 10 march – Uniun Enterprise Building Pegswood - £5 per person all sessions 6 – 8pm

12.4 Gallagher Park – proposed pavilion positioning options

**RESOLVED.**

**(1) That the NALC roadshow on the 26 March 2015 at Bedlington Community Centre be noted and that anyone wishing to attend should notify the Clerk.**

**(2) That the training and development seminar at Harrogate be not attended.**

**(3) That members wishing to attend parish and town clerk training should advise the Clerk.**

**(4) That NCC’s Mike Jeffrey be requested to give a briefing to the Council on the proposed siting of the new pavilion.**

**CO154/14 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

The Chair moved to suspend standing orders to allow the business of the meeting to be completed.

**RESOLVED**

**That standing orders be suspended to allow a further 15 minutes to complete the business.**

**CO155/14 13. OUTSIDE BODIES**

**13.1** NALC – The Chair advise that he had no NALC report but that he would be attending a Parish Liaison Working Group meeting where future arrangements for planning would be discussed.

**13.2** East Bedlington Community Centre – The Clerk as one of the Council’s appointed trustees advised that the Community Centre would shortly be issuing a press statement following the award of £10,000 by the Big Lottery to progress the Capital bid. He thanked the members on behalf of the trustees for their commitment and he advised that they would be given deserved recognition in the publicity material issued to the media.

**13.3 Friends of Gallagher Park**

Members debated at length the positioning of the proposed new pavilion, lack of availability to the general public and in particular access to toilet facilities.

The Chair suspended the meeting for a brief period to allow representatives from Bedlingtonshire Development Trust and Bedlington Forum to contribute to the debate.

**RESOLVED**

1. **That the delegate’s reports are received.**

**DATE & TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of East Bedlington Parish Council will be 6pm Tuesday 3rd March 2015 at East Bedlington Community Centre.

Meeting Closed 7.45 pm.

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