**EAST BEDLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 13 January 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 2 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.

An omission in the draft minutes of the previous meeting relating to those in attendance was brought to the attention of the Chairman.

Before opening the business the chair paid tribute to former Councillor Brian Richmond who had recently passed away. All members stood for a minutes silence as a mark of respect to Brian who had the distinction of serving the local community for over 40 years as a District and Parish councillor.

**CO135/14 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

**Resolved**

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

**CO136/14 2.MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.**

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd December 2014 be agreed as a true record subject to Councillors Stewart and Parker being added to those in attendance.

**CO137/14 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

With reference to minute CO/126/14 Councillor Stewart sought confirmation that the seat had been installed in Selbourne Terrace Play area and with reference minute CO/127/14 (V106) Councillor Graham sought clarification of the siting of a new bin. In reply the Clerk advised that the new seat had been installed at Selbourne Terrace and the new bin was located adjacent to the bus shelter near the Bank Top public house.

**Resolved**

That the matters arising be noted.

**CO138/14 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & DISPENSATIONS**

With respect to agenda item 7 (setting the Council tax precept) requests for dispensation were received from Councillors; A Wallace, D Graham, E Dixon, A Stewart, A Watson, C. Parker and N Hogarth.

**Resolved**

That all request for dispensation are accepted.

**CO139/14 5. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Members were requested to consider exclusion of the press and public from item 6 on the agenda as it contained confidential staffing issues.

**RESOLVED**

**That the press and public be excluded.**

**CO140/14 6. STAFFING**

The Assistant Clerk left the room for duration of this agenda item. The Clerk provided a written report and recommendations regarding future staffing requirements, recommendations of Finance Working Group and his proposals to meet the additional staffing required. Councillor Stewart referred to staffing issues experienced in neighbouring parishes and he suggested that a formal staffing panel be established.

**RESOLVED**

1. **That the Assistant Clerks hours are increased to 37hours per week with effect from1 March 2015.**
2. **That a staffing panel be established.**

**CO141/14 7. ANNUAL BUDGET & PRECEPT**

The Clerk provided a written report outlining the proposals of the Finance Working Group for the 2015/16 Budget. He outlined growth items totalling £45,430 that were attributable to loan repayments in connection with the Council’s contribution to East Bedlington Community Centre, staffing and festive lighting. He also provided details of non-recurring items including allotments and temporary accommodation totalling £16,850 and a further £10,000 that was need to increase the council’s reserves.

**RESOLVED**

1. **That the budget proposals be agreed.**
2. **That the Parish Precept be set at £173,845 representing £89.39 per Band D property.**

**CO142/14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Councillor Stewart referred to an opportunity for partnership working with a major developer and requested the clerk to arrange a meeting in conjunction with the local MP.

 **DATE & TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

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

Meeting Closed 7.40 pm.

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