**EAST BEDLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 3 March 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 7 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.

Malcolm Robinson (Bedlingtonshire Development Trust) advised that the prosed pavilion to be built in Gallagher Park had been put on hold. He advised that he had had a discussion with NCC regarding alternative proposals and that he had been advised to prepare an alternative plan and a business case. He enquired as to whether East Bedlington Parish Council would consider contributing towards the running costs of his proposals.

The Chair advised that the Parish had not been advised of any changes. He added that the Council was fully committed to the redevelopment of East Bedlington Centre and that there were no uncommitted resources available in the coming year. He also added that the Council would need to see details of the planned facilities and financial projections before any decisions could be made. The Clerks also advised that the Parish would need to fully consult with the community and that any future decision should take account of other developments proposed in Bedlington.

Keith Scantlebury (Chair of Burnside Estate Resident’s Group) raised concerns of resident’s regarding the opening of the learning hive. He produced minutes of a meeting with Bernicia on 6 March 2014 where assurances were given that the facility was for the sole use of the residents of Burnside Estate. Publicity recently distributed indicates that the facilities are for the whole of Bedlington. The Chair confirmed that when the Parish Council lodged its objection at Planning Committee a similar guarantee was given by the Bernicia representative to the planners. Unfortunately, however, this has not been included in the planning conditions. The Chair advised that the Burnside residents should have dialogue with Bernicia and perhaps look to join a national resident’s association body for further support.

**CO156/14 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

**Resolved**

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

**CO157/14 2.MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.**

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3 February 2015 be agreed as a true record.

**CO158/14 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

The Assistant parish Clerk referred to minute CO135/14 and advise that 3 Councillors had indicated that they wish to attend new councillor training.

**Resolved**

That the matters arising be noted.

**CO159/14 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & DISPENSATIONS**

There were declarations.

**CO160/14 5. POLICE REPORT**

PC Steve Nicklin advised that crime in general was down however, the monthly figures have been distorted by an escalating feud between two families culminating in an attempted arson attack ain Victoria Terrace and an injunction being put in place.

**RESOLVED**

**That the police report be received.**

**CO161/14 6. CORRESPONDANCE**

**RESOLVED**

1. **That the correspondence be noted.**

**CO162/14 7. CLERKS REPORT**

The Clerk referred to a number of items of correspondence which had arrived after the agenda had been issue. He advised that;

* Notification of a petition relating to the gap site next to Tesco in the market place in West Bedlington that had been received and that the petition would be open for signatures until 29, March 2015,
* A letter from the North East Combined Authority (NECA) had been received advising of a meeting that was to take place a County Hall, Morpeth on Friday 20th March and as there were limited places anyone wishing to attend needed to register. There was also an opportunity to submit comments in writing by Friday 27 March 2015.
* A members briefing note had been circulated by Northumberland County Council in relation to their Loose and Tethered Horses project, and finally
* That NCC had issued guidance on Purdah and the Clerk added that these principles were equally relevant to periods were no elections were taking place but more sensitive in the run up to the general election.

**RESOLVED**

1. **That the Clerks report be noted.**
2. **That the NECA correspondence be circulated electronically to members for individual comment**
3. **That the briefing note in relation to Loose and Tethered horses be referred to the Communications working group**
4. **That the guidance on Purdah be circulated electronically to members and that the contents of the guidance be noted.**

**CO163/14 8. INVOICES & PAYMENT VOUCHERS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Payment reference** | **Details** | **amount £** |
| V128 | Northumberland County Council – Christmas lights switch on & repairs | 497.14 |
| DD | BT | 102.40 |
| V129 | Generation Hire | 48.00 |
| V130 | R & L Keenleside Ltd -Electricity recharge | 320.71 |
| V130 | R & L Keenleside Ltd -Water recharge | 60.56 |
| V131 | NCC - SLA - 3rd Installment | 1579.20 |
| V132 | Northumberland County Council | 3961.26 |
| V133 | Andrew Thornton - Expenses | 112.50 |
| V134 | R Thornton - Expenses | 21.12 |
| DBB | Bank Charges | 10.81 |

**RESOLVED**

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

**CO164/14 9. FINANCIAL POSITION**

**RESOLVED**

**That the Council notes the cleared balance of £74210.20.**

**CO165/14 10. BANK RECONCILIATION**

**RESOLVED**

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

**CO166/14 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 £2,049.

**RESOLVED**

**That the forecast outturn be noted.**

**CO167/14 12. MATTERS FOR DECISION**

Members considered the following items;

12.1Anti-dog fouling campaign. Councillor Wallace referred to free campaign material from Keep Britain Tidy and suggested that the Parish obtain some material to reinforce the County Council’s efforts.

12.2 Invitation to consult on the future funding of subsidised bus services in Northumberland.

12.3 To determine a date and time for the next tri part meeting with NCC and West Bedlington Town Council.

**RESOLVED.**

**(1) That the Parish Council obtains free campaign material to be displayed on Council street furniture.**

**(2) That members respond individually in respect of subsidised bus services, and**

**(3) That the agreed meeting day is Wednesday at 5.00pm and that a date be agreed with NCC.**

**CO155/14 13. OUTSIDE BODIES**

**13.1** NALC - The Chair advised he had not been able to attend the Chairman’s training.

**13.2** East Bedlington Community Centre – The Clerk as one of the Council’s appointed trustees advised that an article had been published in the Newspost Leader regarding the Big Lottery award. He added that a further 2 telephone interviews had taken place both of which had been positive and work had commenced on clearing the upper floor.

**13.3 Friends of Gallagher Park**

Councillor Graham advised that the FOGP had been successful in obtaining funding from NCC for signage, however, there was a shortfall that needed to be found. He advised that the FOGP had not been notified or consulted regarding the provision of a pavilion being put on hold as advised by Malcom Robinson earlier in the meeting. The Clerk confirmed to the Chairman that the Parish Council had also not been consulted or notified.

13.4 Parish Liaison Working Group – The Chair provided a written report in respect of the County Council’s proposed changes to planning protocols in light of Deloitte’s recommendations.

**RESOLVED**

1. **That the delegate’s reports are received.**
2. **That the Clerk seek confirmation of NCC’s position regarding the provision of a pavilion in Gallagher park and that Mike Jeffrey be invited to give a presentation to Councillors.**

**AOB – None.**

**DATE & TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of East Bedlington Parish Council will be 6pm Tuesday 7th April 2015 at East Bedlington Community Centre.

Meeting Closed 7.30 pm.

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