**EAST BEDLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 7 April 2015, 6:00pm at East Bedlington Community Centre, Bedlington.**

**PRESENT:**

Councillors:

E. Dickson

J Dobie

D Graham

P Hedley

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.

There were no questions or comments from the public.

**CO168/14 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received on behalf of Councillors Andrea Innes; Nichola Hogarth and Terry Johnstone.

**Resolved**

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

**CO169/14 2.MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.**

**Resolved**

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

**CO170/14 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Councillor Hedley referred to the concerns raised by the Burnside Estate Residents Group recorded in the public session discussion. Councillor Stewart advised that he had visited the estate and confirmed that the residents’ concerns would appear to be justified in terms of acceptable living conditions, attitude and competence of the contractors and health and safety of the site. A meeting of residents had been held unfortunately Bernicia declined to attend the meeting. County Councillor Val Tyler had offered to collate the residents’ concerns and present the issues to Bernicia. It was noted that the social landlord refused to recognise the Residents Group and had indicated that they will only communicate with tenants/house owners on a 1-1 basis. Councillor Graham indicated that emergency services vehicles were also experiencing difficulties accessing the Burnside Estate and suggested that the Council write to Bernicia in support of the residents.

Councillor Graham requested progress on minute CO167/14 relating to anti dog fouling literature. The assistant clerk advised that some posters had been received however Keep Britain Tidy have advised that they are out of stock of other items. She advised that an attempt would be made to procure stock from NCC Animal Welfare.

**Resolved**

That the matters arising be noted.

**CO171/14 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & DISPENSATIONS**

There were declarations.

**CO171/14 5. POLICE REPORT**

No report received

**CO172/14 6. CORRESPONDANCE**

Councillor Stewart referred to item 642 regarding correspondence from the Pensions Regulator and to changes in the law regarding pensions. The clerk advised that at this stage the requirement was to register a contact person for information and that he had nominated himself. Councillor Wallace referred to 646 request for retrospective planning permission – it was noted that the business had been allowed to operate for some 3 years.

**RESOLVED**

**That the correspondence be noted.**

**CO173/14 7. CLERKS REPORT**

The clerk confirmed that the allotment rent demands had been issued and there had been a steady response from plot holders paying rents. He added that the planned clearance work at Cambois Allotments had been completed and the roadways resurfaced. It was envisaged that this will create a further 4 allotment plots. The clerk confirmed that the flower beds had now been planted with spring bedding plants. He had also arranged grass cutting in all the play areas prior to the Easter break, the library corner and Station Walk. He confirmed that once again the Council had set the lowest precept in the newly established parishes in South East Northumberland. He advised that the internal auditor would be auditing the accounts on the 23rd and 24th April and that closing balances stood at £71,000.

He confirmed that meetings had taken place with Banks Group PLC who had intimated that they would welcome funding requests for Cambois and East Bedlington each circa £5K. He also confirmed that the Community Centre had been successful in a bid to CISWO and had been awarded £48,500 towards the refurbishment of the Centre. Thanks were noted to Councillor Stewart for his support with this grant. The clerk also read out a letter from Mike Jeffrey and offered his apologies for not attending in person. Councillor Graham proposed that the council take up Mr Jeffrey’s offer and record their views on the location of the facilities in writing.

**RESOLVED**

1. **That the Clerks report be noted.**
2. **That the Clerk write to Mike Jeffrey and confirm to Northumberland County Council the views of the Parish with regards to the development of a pavilion/ facilities on Gallagher Park.**

**CO174/14 8. INVOICES & PAYMENT VOUCHERS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Payment reference** | **Details** | **amount £** |
| V135 | Thorburn Preservation | 500.00 |
| V136 | Uk Office Direct | 152.03 |
| DD | BT | 102.42 |
| V137 | Ian Ballance | 210.00 |
| V138 | East Bedlington Community Centre | 20.00 |
| V139 | Northumberland County Council - payroll March | 4606.18 |
| DBB | Bank Charges | 9.48 |
| V140 | Uk Office Direct | 254.38 |
| V141 | Andrew Thornton - Expenses | 56.25 |
| V142 | Graeme Finn | 30.00 |
| V143 | R Thornton - Expenses | 29.76 |
| V144 | J A Tindale - Expenses | 59.85 |

**RESOLVED**

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

**CO175/14 9. INCOME RECEIVED**

**RESOLVED**

**That the schedule of income be approved**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Rec 077 | East Bedlington Community Centre | 2014.08 |
| Rec 073 | K Balmer - Plot 528 (2015/16) | 62.40 |
| Rec 074 | K Slesser - Plot 505 - 2015/16 | 62.40 |
| Rec 075 | Allgood Allotment Association  | 385.00 |
| Rec 076 | J Proudlock - Plot 490 - 2015/16 | 62.40 |

**CO176/14 10. FINANCIAL POSITION**

**RESOLVED**

**That the Council notes the cleared balance of £71,059.73 as at 31 March 2015**

**CO177/14 11. BANK RECONCILIATION**

**RESOLVED**

**That the bank reconciliation statement for the period ending 28 February 2015 be approved.**

**CO178/14 12. MATTERS FOR DECISION**

Members considered the following items;

12.1Establishment a Youth Parish Council

12.2 Participation in the Liber Teas event – to celebrate 800 years since the signing of the Magna Carta

12.3 Establishment of the Parish Council as a learning destination for the Children’s University

12.4 Christmas Switch on date Friday 27 November 2015

12.5 Cambois Summer Fair – Saturday 1 August 2015

12.6 NAC Seminar – Safeguarding and preparing for the Care Act – Scarborough 10th – 12th April 2015 - £295+vat – Accommodation £60 per night.

**RESOLVED.**

**(1) That the Parish Council work with Bedlington Community High School to establish a Youth Parish Council**

**(2) That the Parish Council becomes a learning destination for the Children’s University.**

**(3) That the agreed Christmas Switch on date is Friday 27 November 2015**

**(4) That the agreed Cambois Summer Fair date is Saturday 1 August**

**CO179/14 13. OUTSIDE BODIES**

**13.1 NALC** - The Chair circulated a written report

**13.2 East Bedlington Community Centre** – The Clerk as one of the Council’s appointed trustees advised that the business plan has been reviewed by the funding officer and approved as an acceptable standard. He added that the project had been successful with its bid to CISWO and had been visited by CISWO board members, Vince Clements and Dennis Murphy. A meeting has been held with the architect to review the capital development plan and a draft will be submitted on 13 April for review by the Capital Officer. He advised that a meeting had been held with a VAT consultant to ensure that the complexities of VAT regulation and potential liabilities were properly understood.

**13.3 Friends of Gallagher Park** Councillor Graham advised that there was nothing to report other than the AGM would be held on 13 April 6.30pm at East Bedlington Parish Council Office.

**13.4 Parish Liaison Working Group** – It was reported that there had been no meetings.

**RESOLVED**

1. **That the delegate’s reports are received.**
2. **That the Trustees of East Bedlington Community Centre are invited to attend the Parish Council meetings.**

**CO180/14 14. WORKING GROUPS**

**14.1 Finance Working Group 11 March 2015**

**14.2 Communications and Community Liaison Working Group 16 March 2015**

**14.3 Planning & Corporate Strategy Working Group 19 March 2015**

**14.4 Allotments & Environment Working Group 23 March 2015**

**RESOLVED**

**That the minutes of the working groups be accepted.**

**Meeting adjourned at 18:49**

The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow the Chairman of Bedlington Forum to give a brief report on its latest meeting.

**Meeting reconvened at 18:53**

**CO181/14 15. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Members considered the exclusion of the press and public from agenda item 16 due to its confidential nature and commercial sensitivity.

**RESOLVED**

**Council resolved to exclude the press and public during agenda item 16**

**Chairman moved suspension of standing orders for 15 minutes to conclude the business.**

**CO182/14 16. EAST BEDLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE – FUNDING STRATEGY**

Members considered a report of the Responsible Financial Officer and recommendations made by the Finance Working Group.

**RESOLVED**

1. **That the Council approves the funding strategy as presented in the report.**

**(2) That it provides a guarantee of the funding that is being sought and expected to be received from smaller funders e.g. Banks, NCC and the Community Foundation. Such guarantee to be given under the proviso that if the Parish Council needs to meet a shortfall then this will be reflected in the amount of annual donation made to the Community Centre.**

1. **That the Council confirms its capital, revenue and other commitments to the project by way of a partnership agreement with East Bedlington Community Centre.**

**CO183/14 17. AOB**

Councillor Stewart referred to incidents at neighbouring parishes and the need for a staffing panel to which such matters could be referred. Councillor Watson expressed an interest in sitting on such a panel if it were created. There was general consensus that this issue should appear as an agenda item on the next full Council meeting.

 **DATE & TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of East Bedlington Parish Council will be the Annual General Meeting held at 5.30pm Tuesday 5th May 2015 at East Bedlington Community Centre. This will be followed by a Parish Council Meeting at 6pm.

Meeting Closed 7.45 pm.

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