

## **EAST BEDLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015, 6:00pm at East Bedlington Community Centre, Bedlington.**

### **PRESENT:**

Councillors:

E. Dickson  
J Dobie  
D Graham  
P Hedley  
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.

Carol Fyfe asked the Council if they were aware that the Library is the oldest building in East Bedlington. The Chairman thanked her for the information.

### **Question & Answer Session – Bedlington Town Centre Plan**

Paul Leo, Head of Strategic Estates, Northumberland County Council gave an overview of NCC's proposals for the Bedlington Town Centre. It was acknowledged that the proposed demolition of the existing council offices and investment in co-locating customer services with the Library and possibly a chemist would secure the workforce and offer longer hours of access. Mr Leo advised that many of the councils 'assets' inherited following LGR were in fact liabilities, inefficient buildings requiring a great deal of money to run and maintain which would be better spent elsewhere. He confirmed that the council had no plans to close the library in Bedlington Station or the Open Learning Centre. He indicated that he would like to see greater connectivity with the two buildings which would help improve the financial viability. He did raise concerns regarding the condition of the Boxing Club and inferred that alternative accommodation would need to be sourced in the long term.

### **CO8/15 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

### **RESOLVED**

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

### **CO9/15 2.MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.**

### **RESOLVED**

That Councillor Colin Parker be added to the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7 April 2015 and that they be agreed as a true record.

Ch'n initials...

**CO10/15 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Councillor Graham enquired as to whether there had been any further communication from Mike Jeffrey in connection with the proposed pavilion in Gallagher Park. The Assistant Clerk advised that there had not been any further meetings.

**RESOLVED**

That the matters arising be noted.

**CO11/15 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & DISPENSATIONS**

There were declarations.

**CO12/15 5. POLICE REPORT**

No report received

**CO13/15 6. CORRESPONDANCE**

In response to a number of questions raised in connection with correspondence received the clerk advised as follows;

Item 648 – The clerk referred to the invitation that had been received regarding joining a social media site (Bygone Bedlington) and advised that any members using such sites did so as individuals and should make it clear that they are not speaking for the Council. He advised that if such groups wished to engage with the Council then they had the opportunity to attend the monthly parish meetings.

Item 653 – With reference to the replacement of cradle swings at heritage gardens he advised that a site visit had taken place and a decision made to replace the components as part of the council's annual maintenance.

Item 655 – That Council staff would be observing the 2 minutes silence to mark VE day.

**RESOLVED**

**That the clerk write to Mr Krzyzowski declining the invitation to join his social network but advising that they would be welcome to put their view forward at parish council meetings.**

**CO14/15 7. CLERKS REPORT**

The clerk advised the following;

- 1) Allotment rents had been collected with the exception of 2 plots
- 2) Three new allotments were to be created at Cambois
- 3) The waste land at Allgood Terrace was owned by Bernicia and he would be approaching them to progress the matter.

**RESOLVED**

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

**CO15/15 8. ANNUAL ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS 2014/15**

**RESOLVED**

**That the annual financial statements be approved and the chair authorised to sign section 1 of the Audit Commission's Annual Return**

Ch'n initials...

**CO16/15 9. INTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT****RESOLVED**

That the Council receives the Internal Auditors report, implement the recommendations therein and to note the completion of section 4 of the Audit Commissions Annual Return.

**CO17/15 10. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT****RESOLVED**

That the Council approves the Annual Governance Statement and authorise the chair to sign part 2 of the Audit Commissions Annual Return.

**CO18/15 11. INVOICES & PAYMENT VOUCHERS**

<b>PAYMENT REFERENCE</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>	<b>AMOUNT £</b>
1	HFF Civil Engineering Ltd	3120.00
1	HFF Civil Engineering Ltd	1008.00
2	Watsons Haulage LTD	220.00
3	East Bedlington Community Centre	6300.00
4	Thorburn Preservation	1000.00
5	Blachere Illumination	999.36
6	Information Commissioner	35.00
7	MW Design	1356.00
8	Greenbarnes LTD	515.98
9	Alex Wallace	103.80
10	Shades of Green Garden Centre Ltd	500.00
11	Northumberland County Council	4627.54
12	Muckle LLP	600.72
13	Watson Skip Hire	220.00
14	Northumbrian Water	165.56
15	Northumbrian Water	34.31
16	Wadds Ltd	236.26

Ch'n initials...

**RESOLVED**

That the schedule of invoices and payment Vouchers be approved.

**CO19/15 12. INCOME RECEIVED**

**RESOLVED**

That the schedule of income be approved

10/4/2014	Precept - half year	86,617.50
Various	Allotment Rents	1,800.60

**CO20/15 13. FINANCIAL POSITION**

**RESOLVED**

That the Council notes the cleared balance as at 30 April 2015 £138,330.02

**CO21/15 14. BANK RECONCILIATION**

**RESOLVED**

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

**CO22/15 15. MATTERS FOR DECISION**

- 15.1 Electronic distribution of Agendas and Minutes
- 15.2 Decision as to whether to respond to NCC Street Trading consultation
- 15.3 Invitation to hold an open public meeting to hear the concerns of resident's regarding the lack of facilities

**RESOLVED.**

- (1) That the clerks circulate agendas, minutes and agenda items electronically to those councillors who are on email and provide a hard copy on attendance at meetings.
- (2) That the Parish Council does not respond to the NCC Street Trading Consultation
- (3) That the Clerks respond detailing the existing opportunity to attend full council meetings and provide information on the annual assembly

**CO23/15 16. WORKING GROUPS**

**16.1 Allotments & Environment Working Group 27 April 2015**

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the working group be accepted.

**CO24/15 17. STAFFING PANEL**

Councillor Stewart referred to staffing issues that had occurred at neighbouring authorities and that a mechanism needed to be put in place to deal with staffing matters including disputes and disciplinary matters.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) That a staffing panel be established to consist of 3 members
- (2) That terms of reference be drafted in conjunction with the Clerk and submitted for approval by full council next meeting proper

Ch'n initials...

**CO25/15 18. FENCING OF NEW ALLOTMENTS AT CAMBOIS**

**RESOLVED**

- (1) That Members waive financial regulation 11.1(1) and the quotation of £2,816 to erect external and partition fencing be accepted**
- (2) That the works be carried out as soon as possible to maximise the rental income.**

**CO26/15 19. AOB**

**DATE & TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of East Bedlington Parish Council will be the Annual Assembly Meeting held at 6.00pm Tuesday 19th May 2015 at East Bedlington Community Centre.

Meeting Closed 7.40 pm.

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

DRAFT

Ch'n initials...