

EAST BEDLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

PRESENT:

Councillors:

E. Dickson
D Graham
P Hedley
C Parker
A Stewart
A Wallace (Chair)
Nichola Hogarth
Joe Dobie
Andrea Innes

IN ATTENDANCE:

Parish Clerk and 8 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.

County Councillor Jeff Gobin referred to the minute CO44/15 in relation to the disqualification of a member for persistent absenteeism. He queried whether the Council could have taken a more conciliatory approach and this was a sentiment that was shared by Councillor Parker. In response the clerk advised that the Council had no discretion in the matter and that it was bound by the Local Government Act 1972 s85 (1) & (2).

Mrs Smith of Moorland Drive raised her concern in relation to cars being parked on the pavements which was causing her difficulty in accessing local shops, and of her fear of damaging vehicles with her motor scooter. PC Neal Nevins explained that it was not an offence to encroach on to the pavement although it was an offence to cause an obstruction. Members agreed that this was a common problem and one that could only be addressed by asking residents to be considerate and to park their cars on their drives whenever possible. It was agreed that an appeal for consideration should appear in the next parish magazine.

A resident from Bedlington Station raised a number of issues some of which were relevant to the parish council whilst others related to NCC responsibilities. The clerk requested that he document the issues and promised a full written response.

CO46/15 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received on behalf of Councillor A Watson, Assistant Clerk.

RESOLVED

That the apologies for absence be accepted.

Ch'n initials...

CO47/15 2.MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd June 2015 be agreed as a true record.

CO48/15 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Councillor Stewart referred to a letter that had been received from Wendy Reed (Make a noise for Bedlington) and the clerk confirmed that a written response had been made.

RESOLVED

That the matters arising be noted.

CO49/15 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & DISPENSATIONS

There were declarations.

CO50/15 5. POLICE REPORT

PC Neil Nevens advised that the new policing team for East Bedlington consisted of himself, Steve Nicklin, Wayne Turnbull and Bev Sellars. He advised that crime was up by 38%, including a slight increase in Anti- social behaviour and he referred to a speight of car crimes in the Stakeford area. Councillor Graham questioned the impact of transporting of offenders to the custody suite at Middle Engine Lane. In response PC Nevens replied that there was inevitably some policing time lost whilst transporting offenders but there was now a greater police presence in Bedlington as officers from other areas were now working out of Bedlington.

In response to a question from councillor Hedley, PC Nevens advised that operation "Sunshine" (involving the police checking that cars doors / locks on sheds were secure" was ongoing) which had generally been well received. The Chair thanked the police officers for their attendance and report.

RESOLVED

That the police report be accepted.

CO51/15 6. CORRESPONDENCE

The Chair referred to the schedule of correspondence and invited questions.

RESOLVED

That the correspondence be noted together with the proposed actions.

CO52/15 7. CLERKS REPORT

The clerk advised the following;

- Work on the new allotments had now been completed with all 3 new plots having been let
- Repairs to play areas at North Blyth and Heritage Gardens and Wembley Terrace were now complete.
- Hanging baskets and summer bedding would be in place by the end of the week.
- All allotment rents had now been collected with the exception of a small short payment.

The clerk advised that one allotment tenant at Cambois has been in breach of his tenancy agreement for the past 3 years and suggested that he write to the tenant in question advising that the council would not tolerate this in the future.

RESOLVED

(1) That the Clerks report be noted and that he write to the allotment tenant in question.

Ch'n initials...

CO53/15 8. . INVOICES & PAYMENT VOUCHERS

PAYMENT REFERENCE	DETAILS	AMOUNT £
35	Mr Mick Whitfield – Notice board East Sleekburn	115.00
36	Mr G Birch – ground maintenance	612.00
37	HFF Civil Engineering Ltd – ground work and fencing Cambois Allotments	3379.20
38	Northumberland County Council - payroll May	4622.22
39	Bernicia – land valuation re Allgood gap site	250.00
40	Community Lincs Insurance – Annual insurance	1439.31
DBB	Bank Charges	27.20
41	Mr Mick Whitfield – North Blyth play area	40.00
42	East Bedlington Com Centre (1/7/2015 - 30/9/2015) - Rent	1300.00

RESOLVED

That the schedule of invoices and payment Vouchers be approved.

CO57/15 9. INCOME RECEIVED

2/6/29th June/2015	Various allotment rents	184.80
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RESOLVED

That the schedule of income be approved

CO58/15 10. FINANCIAL POSITION**RESOLVED**

That the Council notes the cleared balance as at 30 June 2015 £119,731.16.

CO59/15 11. BANK RECONCILIATION**RESOLVED**

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

CO60/15 12. BUDGET REPORT

The clerk referred to the budget report attached at Appendix E. He advised that the remaining contingency was shown at £9,400. This did not include savings on loan repayments that had been budgeted for as this may be needed to fund expenditure associated with the funding arrangements for East Bedlington Community Centre.

RESOLVED

Ch'n initials...

That the budget report be noted.

CO61/15 13. MATTERS FOR DECISION

RESOLVED

That;

- 13.1 Emergency repairs to fencing at Cambois allotments be approved in the sum of £875.00.
- 13.2 NCC Town and Parish Conference to be held on 24 September 2015 at West Hartford Fire Station be noted as an open invitation that all members could attend
- 13.3 Councillor training organised by NALC during June be noted.
- 13.4 That Planning training for members and officers be noted and that those wishing to attend should advise the clerk.
- 13.5 A decision regarding the purchase of land adjacent to Allgood Terrace allotments be deferred pending receipt of the independent valuer's report

CO62/15 14. WORKING GROUPS

- 14.1 Allotments & Environment Working Group 3rd June 2015

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the working group be accepted.

CO63/15 15. OUTSIDE BODIES

(15.1) Friends of Gallagher Park – Councillor Graham provided an update referring to the cost of signage and the locating of the pavilion. He also advised that Active Northumberland were now taking over the lead on the project from Mike Jeffrey.

(15.2) NALC – Councillor Wallace advised that there had not been a meeting and therefore nothing to report.

(15.3) East Bedlington Community Centre – The clerk provided an update advising that the Centre had received a visit from Big Lottery's funding officer involving a site inspection and a 4 hour interview. The Centre had also responded to a number of queries raised by the Lottery's capital advisor. He advised that both communications had been positive and that a decision was expected on 17th August 2015. Should this be a positive outcome it would then need to be "rubber stamped" by the All England Lottery Committee as the amount was in excess of £500,000.

(15.4) Bedlington Forum – The Chair invited Brian Oliver (Chair of Bedlington Forum) to give a report. Brian reported that he had sort guidance regarding NCC's new planning protocols, in particular the number of objections required to trigger a committee decision. The Chair advised that there was no specific number and that the decision on whether to refer to planning committee would be taken by Karen Ledger (Head of Planning) and the Case Officer. He advised that concerns could be raised by any ward councillor and that this arrangement ensured that the process was not compromised by a councillor being a member of the planning committee or him/her having a prejudicial interest in the planning decision. Brian also advised that a meeting with Ian Lavery had taken place to discuss the regeneration of Bedlington Conservation however, he had been unable to progress the setting up of a conservation advisory group due to the illness of NCC's Dr Burgess.

(15.5) Parish Liaison Working Group – Nothing to report

RESOLVED

That the reports of delegates and the Chair of Bedlington Forum be noted.

Ch'n initials...

CO64/15 16. CASUAL VACANCY LGA 1972 s86

The clerk referred to a casual vacancy that had occurred and he referred to a schedule of members attendances that had had been distributed. In response to a question from Councillor Stewart he outlined the process for filling the vacancy. He reminded members of the rules regarding attendance and the law in relation to persistent absenteeism.

RESOLVED

That;

- (1) The schedule of Councillors attendances be received,**
- (2) The declaration of a casual vacancy be noted.**

CO65/15 19. AOB

There were no other urgent items of business.

DATE & TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of East Bedlington Parish Council will be a parish Council Meeting to be held at 6.00pm Tuesday 1st September 2015 at East Bedlington Community Centre.

Meeting Closed 7.30 pm.

Signed by the Chairman: Date:

Ch'n initials...