

## **EAST BEDLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015, 6:00pm at East Bedlington Community Centre, Bedlington.**

### **PRESENT:**

Councillors:

E. Dickson

J Dobie

D Graham

P Hedley

C Parker

A Stewart

A Wallace (Chair)

A Watson

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

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.

Mr A Douglas from Terrier Close referred to prescription drugs (believed to be tramadol) and beer cans that he had found discarded, on more than one occasion, in the cut that runs adjacent to Stead Lane Primary School. It was agreed that this matter would be reported to the Police by the Clerk and that the matter be raised by Councillor Paul Hedley at the next LMAPS meeting.

### **CO66/15 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received on behalf of Councillors Nichola Hogarth and Andrea Innes and also the Assistant Parish Clerk, Jenny Tindale.

### **RESOLVED**

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

### **CO67/15 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.**

### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th July 2015 be agreed as a true record.

### **CO68/15 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Councillor Graham referred to an issue that he had raised at the previous meeting in connection with a matter concerning West Bedlington Town Council. The Chair advised that information in Councillor Graham's possession was inaccurate but that it would be inappropriate to comment further as the matter was being investigated by NCC's Standards Board.

### **RESOLVED**

That the matters arising be noted.

### **CO69/15 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & DISPENSATIONS**

There were no declarations.

Ch'n initials...

## **CO70/15 5. POLICE REPORT**

There was no police report. However, Councillor Parker advised that he had reported a motor bike speeding incident in the locality of Moorland Cottages. Councillor Graham also referred to graffiti in Gallagher Park which was of a paedophilic nature and which needed to be removed.

### **RESOLVED**

**(1) That the Clerk should investigate the graffiti and report the matter to the Police.**

## **CO71/15 6. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

Councillor Stewart referred to item 683 (response to Signet Planning in relation to proposed development The Orchard at East Sleekburn) and proposed an amendment to read "Better quality Houses" rather than "Executive Type Houses", reflecting the Council's policy to encourage good quality affordable homes.

The Clerk referred to an additional item of correspondence that he had received from SENRUG outlining proposals to hold a series of meetings with residents who would potentially be affected by the reopening of the Ashington, Blyth and Tyne line. One such meeting was proposed for East Bedlington Community Centre.

### **RESOLVED**

**(1) That the correspondence be noted and that the proposed amendment to the Council's response to Signet be agreed.**

**(2) That the Council welcome SENRUG's proposal, encourage members to attend the event and to meet incidental costs if necessary.**

## **CO72/15 7. CLERKS REPORT**

The clerk provided a brief update advising as follows;

- That Councillor Stewart and he had reglazed the beach shelter at Cambois saving installation costs of approximately £400.00
- That work on emergency repairs to fencing at Cambois allotments had been commissioned and was due to commence.
- That the garden presentation night had taken place and had been a great success; he referred to the time and effort devoted by Councillors Graham, Dickson and Stewart in carrying out the judging.

### **RESOLVED**

**That the Clerks report be noted.**

Ch'n initials...

**CO73/15 8. INVOICES & PAYMENT VOUCHERS**

<b>PAYMENT REFERENCE</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>	<b>AMOUNT £</b>
V45	PlaySafety Ltd – Annual Inspections	561.60
V46	Hieghley Gate – summer bedding	490.00
DD	BT	104.52
V47	Northumberland County Council	276.00
V48	Councillor Alex Wallace	83.10
V49	Keenleysides - hardware	13.76
V50	Hags-SMP – play are repairs Heritage Gardens	1498.56
V51	HFF Civil Engineering Ltd – play area repairs – Wembley Terrace	540.00
V52	BDO LLP – external audit	480.00
V53	Andrew Thornton - mileage expenses	146.25
V54	Northumberland County Council - payroll July	4622.22
V55	Northumbrian Water – Cambois Allotments	210.28
V55	Northumbrian Water - East Sleekburn Allotments	44.52
V56	Society of Local Council Clerks - subscriptions	167.00
DD	Bank Charges	21.10
V57	Jenny Tindale - expenses	66.15
V58	Impact Work wear – high viz vests	41.98
V59	Bad Apples North East – Cambois fun day	295.00
V60	Mini Pony Hire – Cambois fun day	160.00
V61	Barry Mead – tile making Cambois fun day	45.00
V62	Birch Landscapes – grounds maintenance	2130.00
V63	R Thornton - clerk's expenses – polycarbonate Cambois beach shelter etc.	320.76
V64	Keenleysides - Hardware	11.53
V65	Glasdon – lamppost mounted bin inners	145.58
V66	J A Tindale - Expenses	46.03
DD	BT	108.74
V67	Northumberland County Council – 1st installment – floral display SLA	1613.94
V68	Radio Northumberland – Cambois fun day	75.00
V69	Hadrian Medical Services – First Aid – Cambois fun day	96.00
DBB	Bank Charges	12.20

**RESOLVED**

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

Ch'n initials...

**CO74/15 9. FINANCIAL POSITION**

**RESOLVED**

**That the Council notes the cleared balance as at 20 August 2015 of £105,096.72**

**CO75/15 10. BANK RECONCILIATION**

**RESOLVED**

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

**CO76/15 11. BUDGET REPORT**

The clerk referred to the budget report attached at Appendix E. He advised that the remaining contingency had increased to £12,160 which reflected revised projected spending for the remainder of the year. 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**

**That the budget report be noted.**

**CO77/15 12. APPROVAL & ACCEPTANCE OF THE ANNUAL RETURN 2014/15**

The Clerk advised that it was a statutory requirement to approve the annual return following external audit examination and advise the Council of any matters raised by the external auditor. He advised that no matters had been raised with the exception that a single box had not been ticked on the return confirming that the Council had no charitable trusts.

**RESOLVED**

**That the Annual Return 2014/15 be approved and that the external auditors report be noted.**

**CO78/15 13. SMALL GRANTS & DONATIONS**

Member's considered the following small grant applications;

- 13.1 Football Fun
- 13.2 Friends of East Meets West

The Chair also referred to local appeal to raise funds towards a huge vet's bill which had been incurred to save the life of a much loved Shetland pony that had provided rides at various community events over a number of years. Unfortunately, the Council did not have the legal powers to make a donation, however, the Chair had made a personal contribution and he sign posted members as to how they could make similar donations if they wished.

**RESOLVED**

**That the following grants be awarded;**

- (1) Football Fun £50.**
- (2) Friends of East Meets West £300.**

**CO79/15 14. MATTERS FOR DECISION**

- 14.1 Purchase of land adjacent to Allgood Terrace Allotments - £20,000 + legal fees £460.

**RESOLVED**

**That the Council does not proceed with the purchase.**

Ch'n initials...

## **CO80/15 15. WORKING GROUPS**

15.1 Allotments & Environment Working Group 13th July 2015.

15.2 Planning & Corporate Strategy 30<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

The Chair referred to the minutes of the Planning & Corporate Strategy working group and in particular the possibility of sponsoring one or two young people to complete the tall ships experience, believed to cost in the region of £1,000 each.

The Clerk advised that to make such payments the Council would have to rely on Section 137 LGA 1972 and that certain conditions had to be met and that he would look into this further.

### **RESOLVED**

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

## **CO81/15 16. OUTSIDE BODIES**

(15.1) **Friends of Gallagher Park** – Councillor Graham advised that no further meetings had taken place. The Clerk referred to the latest Gallagher Park Steering Group Meeting. He advised that consultants had been used to provide at cost benefit analysis of options for positioning of the proposed new pavilion. However, it was evident that the consultants brief did not take into account the requirement for 80 car parking spaces that had been identified in the original consultant's report. The Clerk advised that NCC's proposed siting of the new pavilion would take up an area equivalent to approximately 20 car parking spaces leaving space for approximately 20 vehicles. In addition, no business plan had been produced making it difficult to assess whether the new pavilion would be fit for purpose or financially sustainable.

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

(15.3) **East Bedlington Community Centre** – The clerk provided an update advising that the Centre's Stage 3 submission had been recommended for approval by the panel which met on 12<sup>th</sup> August. As previously advised it was now a case of waiting for the final approval of the All England Lottery Committee which would meet on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2015.

(15.4) **Bedlington Forum** – The Chair invited Brian Oliver (Chair of Bedlington Forum) to give a report.

Brian provided an update following the Forum's most recent meeting advising as follows;

- Although Bedlington was acknowledged as a conservation area it did not have Article 4 status similar to that held by Alnwick, Berwick and Morpeth. This could only be granted by the Secretary of State and without this a Conservation Advisory Group would serve little purpose.
- Bus Stops had been discussed for Shalksmuhle Road
- Arch had agreed to maintain the former Tesco site
- With reference to Gallagher Park members of the forum had decided to back NCC's proposals as the alternative could be the loss of funding.

The Chair thanked Brian for his report and advised that Councillor Alyson Wallace had submitted proposals to NCC's LTP for bus stops which now required lay-bys.

(15.5) **Parish Liaison Working Group** – The minutes of the Town & Parish Liaison Working Group together with agenda items for the meeting to be held on 3 September were circulated in advance of the meeting. The Chair referred to NCC's Medium term Financial Plan which required £1.61m savings to be made from the Waste PFI and Household Waste Recovery Centre budget over the next 2 years. This potentially could lead to the closure of some HWRC's and or reduction in opening hours. In order to avoid these measures NCC would be introducing charges (W.E.F. 14 September) for the Ch'n initials...

disposal of soils, rubble and plasterboard (which are technically not household waste).

Members took cognisance of surveys that had been carried out in North Yorkshire and Cornwall where similar charges had been introduced, these had shown an initial increase in fly tipping but a reversion to previous lower levels after 6 months. Notwithstanding this members were conscious of the high levels of deprivation in East Bedlington and therefore feared that studies carried out elsewhere may not be indicative of the impact that the introduction of such charges would have in the Parish.

It was also noted that NCC were only obliged to clear fly tipping in public places and not on private land.

**RESOLVED**

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

**CO82/15      SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

The Chair moved suspension of standing order 1(b) in order to allow conclusion of the business.

**RESOLVED**

**That the duration of the meeting be extended to 8:15pm.**

**CO83/15      17. CASUAL VACANCY**

The clerk outlined the process for filling the vacancy and advised that he had received a written expression of interest from former Councillor Allan Douglas who was then formally nominated by Councillor Allan Stewart and seconded by Councillor Paul Hedley. The Chair then invited any other nominations from the floor. As no further nominations were forthcoming the Chair invited Allan to address the members with reference to the reason why he wished to be considered and the contribution that he felt he could make to the Council, before putting his nomination to a vote.

**RESOLVED**

**That Allan Douglas be co-opted on to the Council.**

**CO84/15      18. AOB**

County Councillor Jeff Gobin referred to Cambois Fun Day, Cambois Gala and Bedlington Fair stating that the organisers of these events should be congratulated. The Clerk also referred to the recent BEDFEST music festival and BEDROCK which had taken place earlier in the year both of which had been organised by Colin Patterson. Finally, Councillor Graham announced that 6 brass bands would be performing in Atlee Park on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) That the Parish Council formally acknowledge the hard work and achievements of all the organisers of the above events which was helping to raise the profile of the area.**
- (2) That the upcoming event in Atlee Park be noted.**

**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 6<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at East Bedlington Community Centre.

Meeting Closed 8.05 pm.

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

Ch'n initials...