

## **EAST BEDLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

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

### **PRESENT:**

Councillors:

E Dickson

J Dobie

D Graham

P Hedley

A Innes

A Stewart

A Wallace (Chair)

A Watson

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Parish Clerk; Assistant Clerk, County Councillor Jeff Gobin, PC Dave Johnson and CSO Wayne Turnbull 2 members of the public.

### **OPEN SESSION**

The Chair welcomed all present extending his good wishes to all for the forthcoming festive season. On a more sombre note he referred to Councillor Parker's wife, Lorna, who had passed away only a few days after Colin himself. The Chair allowed a few moments for members to silently reflect on their lives.

Before moving to open session the Chair took the opportunity to celebrate East Bedlington Community Centre's successful Lottery bid for £845,715 and he congratulated the trustees, funders and members (past and present) for their efforts. County Councillor Jeff Gobin also added his congratulations to those involved.

In response the Parish Clerk, on behalf of the Centre's trustees, extended his sincere thanks to the Parish Council, Councillor Gobin and other funders for their support without which a successful Lottery bid would not have been possible. He added that the trustees working in partnership with the parish and other providers now had the opportunity to significantly improve people's lives through activities in the Centre.

There were no questions from the floor.

### **CO116/15 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received on behalf of Councillor A Douglas (sickness) and Councillor N Hogarth (work commitments)

### **RESOLVED**

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

Ch'n initials...

## **CO117/15 2.MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.**

### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015 be agreed as a true record.

## **CO118/15 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no matters arising.

## **CO119/15 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & DISPENSATIONS**

There were no declarations.

## **CO120/15 5. POLICE REPORT**

PC Dave Johnson reported that crime overall in the locality had increased, however this was due to changes in the recording procedures and all crimes are now individually recorded. PC Wayne Turnbull provided an update on crime statistics and the force wide domestic violence campaign.

### **RESOLVED**

That the report be noted.

## **CO121/15 6. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Chair referred to the schedule of correspondence declaring an interest in item 744 and invited questions. In connection with item 744 (Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Policy) Councillor Watson queried the procedure for submitting comments. The assistant clerk advised that in this instance he should respond directly as there was insufficient time to formulate a Council response. Councillor Stewart referred to items 739 (NECA meeting) and 746 (TCPA and Crown Estates seminar) providing brief feedback on both events.

Finally, the Chair referred to item 748 (England Coastal Path) and the invitation to attend public meetings in the area.

### **RESOLVED**

**(1) That the correspondence be noted and that the proposed actions be agreed.**

**(2) That Councillor Hedley represent the Council at the England Coastal Path meeting at Dave Stephenson Centre, Blyth on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.**

## **CO122/15 7. CLERKS REPORT**

The clerk provided a brief update advising as follows;

- Discussions had taken place with Lesley Strickland (Active Northumberland Tall Ships Co-ordinator).
- The vacant position on the Council had been advertised
- A draft sub- lease had been prepared by Browell solicitors between the Parish Council and East Bedlington Community Centre

### **RESOLVED**

**That the Clerks report be noted.**

Ch'n initials...

## CO123/15 8. INVOICES & PAYMENT VOUCHERS

PAYMENT REFERENCE	DETAILS	AMOUNT £
102	Birch Landscapes – grounds maintenance	612.00
103	Northumberland County Council - payroll November	4622.22
104	Total Business Group Ltd - photocopier	11.15
105	West Bedlington Town Council – selection boxes	60.00
106	R Thornton - Clerk's expenses	54.10

### RESOLVED

That the schedule of invoices and payment Vouchers be approved.

## CO124/15 9. FINANCIAL POSITION

### RESOLVED

That the Council notes the cleared balance as at 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015 of £164,124.59.

## CO125/15 10. BANK RECONCILIATION

### RESOLVED

That the bank reconciliation statement for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015 be approved.

## CO126/15 11. BUDGET REPORT

The clerk referred to the budget report attached at Appendix D. He advised that the projected Balances at the year-end would be significantly more than budgeted for at around £125,000. The main reason for this was the delayed start of the Community Centre restoration works.

### RESOLVED

That the budget report be noted.

## CO127/15 12. MATTERS FOR DECISION

12.1 Appointment of Councillor Trustee to East Bedlington Community Centre.

### RESOLVED

That Councillor Andrea Innes be appointed as Councillor Trustee for East Bedlington Community Centre.

## CO128/15 13. OUTSIDE BODIES

(13.1) **Friends of Gallagher Park** – Councillor Graham advised that no meetings had taken place since the previous meeting. However, a meeting was scheduled to take place the following week.

(13.2) **NALC** – The Chair advised that no meetings had taken place.

Ch'n initials...

(13.3) **East Bedlington Community Centre** – The clerk advised that construction work was likely to start in February 2016 and that the last session for user groups would be on 31 January. He advised that the parish still had the option to rent the adjacent premises and that this was the most likely outcome. He advised that a number of tasks needed to be completed before construction works could commence including setting up a separate trading arm, VAT registration, legal formalities and the evaluation and awarding of the contract.

(13.4) **Bedlington Forum** – Brian Oliver advised that there was nothing new to report.

(13.5) **Parish Liaison Working Group** – the chair advised that no meetings had taken place with the next scheduled for January 2016.

**RESOLVED**

**That the delegate's reports be noted.**

**CO129/15 14. EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC**

Members are requested to consider the exclusion of press and public for the remainder of the business due to these items concerning staff conditions of service and confidential financially sensitive information.

**RESOLVED**

**That the Public & Press be excluded from the remainder of the business.**

**CO130/15 15. REVIEW OF STAFFING**

The Clerk and Assistant Clerk declared personal and pecuniary interests for this agenda item and left the room.

Councillor Stewart presented the minutes of the Staffing Committee held on 28 October 2015 and provided a report on the findings of its review of staffing.

**RESOLVED.**

**That recommendations (1 to 4) under Staffing Committee minute SC004/15 be approved by the Council.**

**CO131/15 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

The Chair moved suspension of standing order 1(B) in order to allow an additional 15 minutes to conclude the business.

**RESOLVED**

**The motion was carried unanimously.**

**CO132/15 16. FORWARD STRATEGY – 2016/17 ONWARDS**

The Clerk presented an indicative budget for 2016/17 based on the recommendations of the Finance Working Group that had taken place on 25 November 2015. He also provided a schedule of projects (identified during the visioning exercise) with rough cost estimates.

Ch'n initials...

**RESOLVED.**

- (1) That the maximum Council Tax for 2016/17 be restricted to £2.25 for a Band D property.**
  
- (2) That the minimum amount to be retained as reserves for 2016/17 be set at £115,000.**
  
- (3) That a decision on the 2016/17 Parish Precept, growth in service provision, capital spend and funding of non-recurring expenditure be deferred until detailed project costs are available and discussions with Dean Jackson (NCC) have been concluded.**

**CO133/15 17. AOB - None**

**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 5<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at East Bedlington Community Centre.

Meeting Closed 7.45 pm.

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

Ch'n initials...