

EAST BEDLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 5th April 2016, 6:00pm at East Bedlington Community Centre, Bedlington.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

A Allman
E Dickson
J Dobie
A Douglas
K Grimes
D Graham
A Stewart
A Wallace (Chair)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Assistant Clerk, County Councillor Jeff Gobin and 6 members of the public.

OPEN SESSION

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present. He invited questions from the public which would be limited to 15 minutes.

A member of the public raised concerns regarding the potential closing of the Library and in particular she sought the Council's support to protect the fabric of the building which is the oldest property in Bedlington Station. Councillors present were receptive to the concerns and the Chairman referred to an earlier presentation made to the council by Paul Leo who advised that the council had no plans to close any of its buildings in Bedlington Station. He added if the situation were to change the Council would seek to offer support.

A resident reported a community concern regarding perceived rise in violent crime. It was reported that a police officer had interrupted a church service on 17th March to enquire if anyone had witnessed a violent assault. The incident had left many people upset and concerned. It was further reported letters had been delivered and door to door enquiries had taken place around St Johns but that there has been no feedback to the community by the police. It was reported that local people are worried by the rise in violent crime, youths in the area and criminal damage. As the parish council had not been made aware of the incident in question and it was not included in the police report it was agreed that the assistant clerk write the Bedlington Neighbourhood Inspector Trevor Oakley and seek clarification.

CO180/15 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Advance apologies had been received from Councillor Nichola Hogarth (work commitments). The clerk was on annual leave.

RESOLVED

That the apologies for absence be accepted

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CO181/15 2.MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st March 2016 be agreed as a true record.

CO182/15 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Councillor Stewart referred to the public session and advised that the concerns raised had been addressed in a Finance & General Purposes working group.

CO183/15 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations. Councillor Stewart reminded members that it was their responsibility to update their declarations of interest and to notify the monitoring officer at NCC as and when their circumstances changed. He also advised that members should be familiar with situations that may give rise to an "interest".

Councillor Douglas declared a personal interest in agenda item 13.1.

RESOLVED

That the declaration of interest be noted and that all members review their declarations of interest and familiarise themselves with the declaration of interests rules.

CO184/15 5. POLICE REPORT

A written Police report was circulated to members. It was noted that reported all crime was up on the previous year with the exception of ASB which had recorded a reduction of 28%. There was an additional note of concern regarding youth related disorder and thefts from garden sheds.

RESOLVED

That the Police report be noted.

CO185/15 6. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reviewed the schedule of correspondence providing brief comment on the subject matter and the proposed actions.

RESOLVED

That the correspondence be noted and that the proposed actions be agreed.

CO187/15 7. CLERKS REPORT

The assistant clerk provided a brief update advising that;

- The internal auditor John Ainsworth would be carrying out his audit on the 18th and 19th April
- The vacancy created following the resignation of Councillor Andrea Innes has been advertised. Should there be no call for an election the date from which a co-option can be considered is 14th April.
- Councillor Training on planning enforcement and section 106 agreements is scheduled to take place on 12th April at Choppington Welfare.

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- Councillors are invited to attend a Choysez open day next dates being 19th April or 17th May. Councillors should register their interest with the clerks who will co-ordinate the visit.
- A meeting has been arranged with Active Northumberland to discuss the arrangements for Northumberland Live in Gallagher Park.

RESOLVED

That the Clerks report be noted.

CO188/15 8. INVOICES & PAYMENT VOUCHERS

PAYMENT REFERENCE	DETAILS	AMOUNT £
V139	Total Business Group Ltd – photo copier	9.58
V140	Azure Garden Centre - pansies	576.00
V141	Browell Smith - legal costs	900.00
DD	BT - telephony	116.05
V143	Northumberland County Council - payroll Mar 16	4622.22
V142	Andrew Thornton - mileage expenses	146.25
V144	J A Tindale – mileage expenses	48.60
V141	Bank charges	13.60

RESOLVED

That the schedule of invoices and payment vouchers be approved.

CO189/15 9. FINANCIAL POSITION / BANK RECONCILIATION

The assistant clerk referred to the Bank reconciliation at appendix C and to the cleared balance at 23 March 2016.

RESOLVED

That the Council approves the bank reconciliation and notes the cleared balance as at 23rd March 2016 of £138,484.60

CO190/15 10. FORECAST OUTTURN 2015/16

The assistant clerk referred to the forecast outturn report that had been circulated in March by the clerk and advised that there was no change in the expected outturn.

RESOLVED

That the forecast outturn be noted.

CO191/15 11. WORKING GROUPS

11.1 Finance & General Purposes.

The Chair referred to the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes working group which Ch'n initials...

had been circulated to members. The meeting proposed several recommendations to matters to be discussed elsewhere in the agenda and made recommendations referring to minute CO157/15, with the clerk having first taken professional advice on the matter from the Monitoring Officer.

RESOLVED

That the Council;

- (1) Be reminded of the need to declare personal interests and understand the importance of keeping Declarations of interest up to date and also be reminded of the penalties for failing to do so.**
- (2) Members be aware of the perceptions of the wider community and be mindful before taking part in any activity or debate where it may be perceived that they have a personal and pecuniary interest.**
- (3) That members take up Councillor training opportunities.**
- (4) That a letter be sent to Paul Hedley explaining the outcome.**

CO192/15 12. MATTERS FOR DECISION

(12.1) Request from Barnesbury Cycle Club for Council to apply for and pay for planning permission to build a “pump track” in Gallagher Park. Councillor Graham reported that it is his understanding that work has already started on this feature. The assistant clerk referred to the recommendation of the Finance & General Purposes working group “that the clerks be tasked with obtaining further information and that the matter be deferred to the next working group. Members agreed that as there was unsubstantiated and conflicting information, that deferment would be the best course of action.

(12.2) **Approve the lease of 15 Station Street** –members were reminded that the parish council will require alternative accommodation during the refurbishment of East Bedlington Community Centre. The lease will be for six years with a three-year break clause. The matter had been fully debated by the Finance and General Purposes working group. Councillor Douglas added that the parish was expanding its operations and the building could prove to be a key acquisition to further growth. Councillor Douglas moved approval and councillors were all in agreement.

RESOLVED

That

- (i) Barnesbury Cycle Club application be deferred pending receipt of further information.**
- (ii) That the Council approve the lease of 15 Station Street for a period of six years and authorise the Clerk to sign all agreements appertaining to this matter.**

CO193/15 13. OUTSIDE BODIES

(13.1) East Bedlington Community Centre – the assistant clerk reported that the lease between Sleekburn Estates and the Parish Council and the lease between the Parish Council and the Community Centre had now been signed and exchanged. Following submission of tenders 2 contractors were still in contention and that there is a preferred contractor. A meeting has taken place with Sleekburn Estates to resolve minor issues of access to the rear of the property. Will be submitted by the QS to Big Lottery who will then need to formally agree that the works can start. It is hoped that the successful contractor can be mobilised following 3 weeks’ notice.

(13.2) Bedlington Steering Group – the assistant clerk reported that the Clerk had been

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unable to attend the last steering group meeting and Arch were yet to release an official statement. He had attended the public exhibition which appeared to have been very successful. A further meeting has been scheduled for 26th April. The Chairman referred to comments made by the Town Champion Dean Jackson, who had reported that all the comments and aspirations gathered from the public meetings regarding redevelopment in Bedlington would be analysed by Northern Architecture who would then report back to Arch.

- (13.3) NALC – The Chairman circulated a written report there were no questions.
- (13.4) Gallagher Park – Councillor Graham had previously circulated minutes of a meeting held in March, he also commented on a subsequent meeting held on 4th April where he reported the “Friends” had expressed concern of that work has already started on the “Pump Track” and that they had not been consulted or given any information regarding the proposed Northumberland Live event to be held in the park in July.
- (13.5) Bedlington Forum – The Chairman suspended the meeting to allow a report to be given by the Chair of Bedlington Forum.

Meeting resumed at 19.20

CO194/15 14. AOB

- (14.1) Councillor Dickson raised his concerns regarding obstructive parking in East Sleekburn Village. Information was given on the appropriate department that is authorised to properly act on his concerns.

DATE & TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of East Bedlington Parish Council will be the Annual Parish Meeting followed by a Parish Council Meeting to be held at 6.00pm Tuesday 3rd May 2016.

Meeting Closed 7:25 pm.

Signed by the Chairman: Date:

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