

EAST BEDLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 7th June 2016, 6:00pm at East Bedlington Community Centre, Bedlington.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

A. Allman
E. Dickson
D Graham
K Grimes
A Stewart
Alex Wallace

IN ATTENDANCE:

Parish Clerk, Assistant Parish Clerk, County Councillor J Gobin, PC Neil Nevens and 6 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.

A member of the public commented on the absence of bin liners and inappropriate use of the bins by dog owners at some of the Council play areas. In response the clerk referred to the minutes of the previous meeting and to the recent Allotments and Environment Working group. He advised that a new bin was to be placed in the play Area in Jennings field. However, the play areas at Northfield and Wembley are due to be decommissioned in the near future and therefore temporary solutions would be implemented.

A second member of the public referred to the 2 new bus stops that had been provided by NCC and asked whether there were plans to create a new footpath to access these. The Chair advised of alternative proposals and allowed County Councillor Jeff Gobin to give an update. That Chair added that he did not consider that the new bus stops were in a safe location and should be reviewed.

A third member public questioned the council's agenda that would potentially see the decommissioning of the skate facility in Jennings Field. In response the Clerk advised that the facility was obsolete, not being used for the purpose intended and was attracting anti-social behaviour. He added that if the facility was not maintained but accessible then the Council could be liable for any injuries incurred.

There were no public questions.

CO23/16 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received on behalf of Councillors Nichola Hogarth (work/family commitments); Andy Watson & J Dobie (Holidays). Councillor Allan Douglas (illness).

RESOLVED

That the apologies for absence be accepted.

CO24/16 2.MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3 May 2016 be agreed as a true record subject to Councillors Allman and Grimes be added to the list attendees.

CO25/16 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

CO26/16 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & DISPENSATIONS

There were declarations of interests.

CO27/16 5. POLICE REPORT

PC Nevens provided an update on the recent increase in Youth Related ASB. He advised that there was a core group of 6 individuals and that 2 ring leaders had been arrested and charged with a number of offences. He added that a number of home visits had been carried out in conjunction with Bernicia and NCC community safety staff. He also advised that he was applying to North Tyneside Court for a Criminal Behaviour Order (the first of its kind in Bedlington) in respect of one individual who lived on the Kings Road estate. PC Nevens also advised that he had approached Mike Kelsey (Northumberland Youth Service) for engagement on their part and he referred to high Viz patrols including police on horseback. Finally, PC Nevens thanked the Council for their prompt action in removing the bus shelters on Palace Road which had had an immediate impact.

RESOLVED

That the police report be noted.

CO28/16 6. CORRESPONDANCE

The chair referred two items of correspondence which were marked as agenda items but had been missed of the items for decision. These related entering a free parish magazine competition and attendance at the NAC conference in Southport.

Councillor Graham referred to item 835 concerning the ruling by the monitoring Officer in relation to declarations of interest and referred back to the resignation of Councillor Paul Hedley and his own disappointment with the way things had been handled. After lengthy debate it was acknowledged that mistakes had been made which needed to be learned from to allow the Council to move forward.

The Clerk advised that he had written to all Councillors advising them of the monitoring officers ruling and that a further letter would be sent to former Councillor Hedley.

RESOLVED

(1) That the Council enters the Parish Magazine competition

(2) That members interested in attending the NAC conference should contact the Clerk for further detail

(3) That the Council recognises that mistakes had been made; both in interpretation of the circumstances where declarations of interests are required and in the democratic process.

CO29/16 7. CLERKS REPORT

The clerk advised the following;

- North Blyth play area had now opened
- Agreement had been reached with NCC regarding the transfer of land for the new play area adjacent to Charlton's public house and also that the Council had been invited to apply for an increased grant from the Banks Endowment Fund.

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- Cambois allotments – first section of palisade fencing now complete
- Allgood Allotments – Assisted secretary of the allotments association with a successful bid to Big Lottery (Awards for All)
- Bus shelters on Palace Road have now been removed
- Community Led Local Development funding was being pursued by NCC who had requested expressions of interest
- Round 5 of the Coastal Communities Fund is now open for initiatives that will create sustainable employment – deadline 30/6/2016
- Tall Ships – A briefing session has been arranged for Saturday 18th June 1pm – 4pm. Trainees still to be identified.

RESOLVED

(1) That the Clerks report be noted.

(2) That Councillor K Grimes represent the Council at the Tall Ships briefing event,

CO30/16 8. INVOICES & PAYMENT VOUCHERS

PAYMENT REFERENCE	DETAILS	AMOUNT £
V011	J Tindale - expenses	47.95
V012	R Thornton - Expenses	58.28
V013	Youngs RPS - Allotment Lease	60.00
V014	East Bedlington Community Centre	7200.00
V015	Trinity Youth	100.00
DBB	BT	116.07
V016	M W Design Limited	2637.80
V017	Northumberland County Council - payroll May 16	6329.19
V018	ABS Business Supplies Ltd	36.97
V019	Thruyardoor	152.00
V020	Bedlington station primary School	1200.00
V021	Cambois Primary School	1200.00
V022	Stead Lane Primary School	1200.00
V023	Bedlingtonshire Community High School	500.00
V024	Choysez	250.00
V025	East Bedlington Community Centre	5000.00
DBB	Bank Charges	10.10
V026	Mick Whitfield	108.00
V027	Northumberland Association of Local Councils	926.60
V028	Hartford Catering	90.00

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V029	Came & Company	1200.58
V030	R Thornton - Expenses	68.15
V031	Birch Landscapes	918.00
V032	Total Business Group	23.39

In response to queries raised by members, the Clerk provided clarification on a number of items on the expenditure schedule.

RESOLVED

That the schedule of invoices and payment Vouchers be approved.

CO31/16 9. INCOME

RESOLVED

That the Council notes receipt of £124.80 in respect of allotment rents.

CO32/16 10. FINANCIAL POSITION / BANK RECONCILIATION.

The clerk referred to the bank reconciliation at appendix C.

RESOLVED

That the Council approves the bank reconciliation and notes the cleared balance at 31st May of £212,885.65.

CO33/16 11. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

A confidential report was circulated to members. The Clerk advised that significant savings would be made due to the delayed start of East Bedlington Community Centre. He advised that the Council had circa £25,000 additional funds at its disposal.

RESOLVED

That the Council notes the budget monitoring report.

CO34/16 12. COUNCILLOR VACANCY

The clerk advised that 3 expressions of interest had been received from, Peter Angus, Derek Burton and Derek Collier with those present given the opportunity to present themselves. There then followed a secret ballot.

RESOLVED

That Derek Burton, having polled a majority of the votes on the first ballot be co-opted on to the Council.

CO35/16 13. LEAVE OF ABSENCE - COUNCILLOR ALLAN DOUGLAS

The Chair referred to Councillor Douglas's recent ill health and the Council considered his application for an extended leave of absence.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Douglas be granted 6 months leave of absence.

CO36/16 14. WORKING GROUPS

Councillor Stewart referred to the minutes of the Allotments and Environment Working Group which had been circulated and to a briefing note that had been sent to NCC in relation to the Council's aspirations. He advised that meetings had now taken place with Dean Jackson, Grant Davey and Ch'n initials...

Phil Sodaquest / Ian Hedley and that whilst these meetings had been positive there had been no concrete feedback to date.

Councillor Stewart advised that short, medium and long term plans needed to be developed for Bedlington Station and that he had requested a dedicated officer from ARCH to be assigned to the development of East Bedlington.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the minutes of the working Group and Councillor Stewart's comments be noted.**
- (2) That the Assistant Clerk write to the NCC Leader (Councillor G Davey) requesting progress on these matters.**

CO37/16 15. MATTERS FOR DECISION

- 15.1 Phase 2 – Bin replacements
- 15.2 Demolition Brick Bus Shelter (Bedlington Station)
- 15.3 Decommissioning of Northfield Play Area
- 15.4 Miner Picnic – laying of wreath
- 15.5 Decommissioning of obsolete skate park Jennings Field

RESOLVED

- (1) A further 12 freestanding bins be purchased and installed**
- (2) That a budget of £950 be approved for the demolition of the brick bus shelter in Bedlington Station**
- (3) That a budget of £2,750 be approved for the decommissioning of Northfield play area and that residents be notified**
- (4) That a wreath would be laid on behalf of the Parish at the miner's picnic**
- (5) That a budget of £2,100 be approved for the decommissioning of the obsolete skate park in Jennings Field and that the Council's intentions be posted on its website.**

CO38/16 16. OUTSIDE BODIES

- 16.1 East Bedlington Community Centre – The clerk submitted a written progress report.
- 16.2 Bedlington Steering Group – The Chair handed out a written report.
- 16.3 NALC – The Chair handed out a written report.
- 16.4 Gallagher Park Steering Group –The clerk submitted a written report.
- 16.5 Parish Liaison Working Group - The Chair handed out a written report.

RESOLVED

That the delegates reports are noted.

CO39/16 17. AOB

There was no other business.

DATE & TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of East Bedlington Parish Council meeting will be held at 6.00pm Tuesday 5th July 2016 (venue to be advised).

Meeting Closed 8.00 pm.

Signed by the Chairman: Date:

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