

## **EAST BEDLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016, 6:00pm at East Bedlington Community Centre, Bedlington.**

### **PRESENT:**

Councillors:

A Douglas  
D Graham  
E Dickson  
K Grimes  
N Hogarth  
A Stewart  
A Wallace (Chair)

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Parish Clerk; Assistant Clerk, County Councillor Jeff Gobin, 2 PCSO's and 4 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. There were no questions from the floor.

### **CO152/15 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received on behalf of Councillors Andy Watson and Andrea Innes, both due to work commitments.

### **RESOLVED**

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

### **CO153/15 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.**

### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2016 be agreed as a true record.

### **CO154/15 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Councillor Stewart referred to graffiti which he had removed from the bus stop at Palace Road and requested that the Council puts in place a policy to remove offensive graffiti within a specified time. The chair advised that further to Councillor Hedley's report regarding the Northumberland Coastal path that he had attended a further meeting where he had put forward the Council's aspirations for footbridge links over the rivers Wansbeck and Blyth. Unfortunately, these were unlikely to come to fruition due to the level of funding available. The Chair then requested an update regarding temporary accommodation during the restoration works and the Clerk advised that he was waiting for appointment of a contractor before making a final decision. Councillor Graham referred to minute CO150/15 and questioned the process for selection of a delegate on to the Bedlington Advisory Group. In response the Chair

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advised that the matter would be addressed later in the meeting.

## **RESOLVED**

**To note the matters arising.**

### **CO155/15 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & DISPENSATIONS**

There were no declarations.

### **CO156/15 5. POLICE REPORT**

CSO's Wayne Turnbull and Dave Johnston provided an update on the monthly crime figures. Although crime figures were up crime in Bedlington is still relatively low in comparison to neighbouring Towns such as Ashington and Blyth. Councillor Graham referred to the new Police response protocols and PCSO Dave Johnson confirmed that the police would no longer automatically attend a number of reported incidents including shop lifting and parking disputes.

## **RESOLVED**

**That the Police report be noted.**

### **CO157/15 6. CORRESPONDENCE**

Councillor Allan Stewart referred item 772 and requested that Councillor Hedley's letter of resignation be read out. Members debated at length the issues that had led to Councillor Hedley's resignation and it was agreed that the matter be referred to a working group. The Chair referred to items 776 and 777 in relation to the Orchards housing development and the new cancer treatment centre at Earth Balance welcoming the investment in the parish. However, he was disappointed that no affordable housing had been allocated in the Orchards scheme. With reference to item 780, the Natural England consultation on Northumberland Marine PSPA, the Chair advised that the potential impact of marine restrictions could be damaging to the commercial viability of the Port of Blyth.

## **RESOLVED**

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

### **CO158/15 7. CLERKS REPORT**

The clerk provided a brief update advising that;

- he had notified NCC of the vacancy created by Councillor Paul Hedley's resignation
- internet banking arrangements were now in place
- Alex Bennett had been released from his parish liaison role and that his replacement had not yet been appointed
- a meeting had taken place with Mark Kane (NCC's Public Lighting Officer) with a view to improving existing arrangements and accommodating the Parish Council's requirements in the future.

Finally, he referred to the statutory workplace pension requirements advising that most parish councils who were not in the Northumberland superannuation scheme had opted for the government run NEST scheme. The clerk referred to the scheme that had been introduced in Pegswood whereby employer and employee each contributed 5% suggesting that a similar scheme could be introduced at East Bedlington.

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**RESOLVED**

(1) That the Clerks report be noted.

(2) That the Clerk provide a report to the next Parish Council meeting outlining details of the NEST pension scheme with costs applicable to a range of employee / employer contributions.

**CO159/15 8. INVOICES & PAYMENT VOUCHERS**

<b>PAYMENT REFERENCE</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>	<b>AMOUNT £</b>
V116	Blachere Illumination	1344.00
V117	Generation Hire	26.57
V118	Councillor Alex Wallace	125.40
DBB	BT	111.96
V119	Community Action Northumberland	200.00
V120	Total Business Group Ltd	14.47
V121	Keenleysides	5.40
V122	Northumberland County Council - payroll Jan 16	4622.22
V123	Northumbrian water - East Sleekburn	49.22
V123	Northumbrian Water - Cambois	160.91
DBB	Bank Charges	16.90
V124	Bad Apples	100.00
V125	East Bedlington Community Centre - rent	1300.00
V126	Blachere Illumination	525.78

**RESOLVED**

That the schedule of invoices and payment Vouchers be approved.

**CO160/15 9. FINANCIAL POSITION**

**RESOLVED**

That the Council notes the cleared balance as at 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016 of £152,862.40

**CO161/15 10. BANK RECONCILIATION**

**RESOLVED**

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

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## **CO162/15 11. ANNUAL BUDGET / PARISH PRECEPT & COUNCIL TAX 2016/17**

The Clerk / RFO referred to his report and the minutes of the Special Budget Working Group of 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016 that had been circulated to members. He referred to the recommendations of the SBWG and to the budget summary attached to his report which incorporated the additional spending proposals.

The Clerk advised that it would be necessary to allocated £8,230 from balances in order to keep the Band D Council Tax within the maximum increase previously set by the Council. Councillor Douglas referred to the lengthy deliberations that had taken place before moving the following recommendations;

- (1) To approve the revised schedule of growth, non-recurring and capital items in the sums of £9,000; £19,760 and £36,000 respectively. (Appendix A)**
- (2) To allocate £8,230 from balances to offset the budget requirement of £237,710.**
- (3) To set the Parish Precept for 2016/17 at £229,482 (equivalent to £117.00 Council Tax for a band D property).**

### **RESOLVED.**

**That the Parish Council approves the 2016/17 spending proposals outlined and sets the Parish Precept at £229,482.**

## **CO163/15 12. OUTSIDE BODIES**

(12.1) **Friends of Gallagher Park** – Councillor Graham provided an update. He advised that new signage had been bought but not yet installed. He referred to the Gallagher Park Steering Group meeting that he had attended advising that unforeseen electrical installation costs of Circa £105k had been reported and that the contract to build the pavilion had been awarded to Compass with work likely to commence in February and to take approximately 16 weeks to complete. He then referred to the running costs of the new building and NCC's expectation that the Parish Council would contribute to these costs. The Chair advised that Gallagher Park is a strategic facility provided by Northumberland County Council and that they should be responsible for its running costs.

(12.2) **NALC** – The Chair referred to his previously circulated report, there were no questions arising.

(12.3) **East Bedlington Community Centre** – The clerk provided a progress report advising that;

- Tenders were due to be received on 26<sup>th</sup> February.
- The Centre had now registered for VAT
- A meeting had taken place with an Audio / lighting expert who would assist the Centre in preparing a specification for its needs.
- The construction works were likely to start in April 2016.

(12.4) **Bedlington Forum** – nothing to report.

(12.5) **Parish Liaison Working Group** – the chair referred to his written report and minutes. Ch'n initials...

There were no matters arising.

(12.6) Bedlington Steering Group – The Clerk advised that the Group had considered interim designs that had been prepared by a short list of 5 design Teams. He confirmed the outline of the proposed site and the elements that were in the design brief, however, these did not include either a swimming pool or sport centre. He advised that the final designs would be evaluated in March 2016 when the preferred options would be open to public scrutiny. In response to a number of questions relating to various other sites in Bedlington he advised that the site of the Market Tavern, Law Courts and former infant school were not within the existing remit of the Group and that he was unable to comment further. The clerk was however, able to confirm that the Group’s remit would extend beyond the former Tesco site in the future.

**RESOLVED**

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

**CO164/15 AOB – None**

**CO165/15 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

The Chair moved suspension of standing orders in order to allow County Councillor Jeff Gobin to contribute. Councillor Gobin advised that the 4 County Councillors in Bedlington would be contributing funds from their small grants to each fund 2 young people to participate in the Blyth Tall Ships regatta in 2016. The Chair welcomed Councillor Gobin’s announcement which would provide a further 10 young people with opportunities of a life time.

The Chair re-opened the meeting

**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 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016 at East Bedlington Community Centre.

Meeting Closed 7:30 pm.

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

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