

EAST BEDLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 1st March 2016, 6:00pm at East Bedlington Community Centre, Bedlington.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

D Graham

E Dickson

K Grimes

N Hogarth

A Stewart

A Wallace (Chair)

Andy Watson

IN ATTENDANCE:

Parish Clerk; 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. Councillor Paul Hedley (West Bedlington Town Council) and former member of East Bedlington Parish Council referred to a procedural matter that had arisen at East Bedlington and enquired as to whether this had been resolved as he was concerned that it could impact on other Councillors who served on more than one Parish/Town Council. The chair advised that the subject was to be considered by a working group that would report back to full Council.

A resident commented on the amount of litter in the free wood and also fly tipping on the Blyth side of the river which had been reported to NCC who in turn had directed her to the Environment agency. It was agreed that these matters be referred to Mike Jeffrey (NCC) who was responsible for Country Parks. The same resident also referred to removal of hedge way by Persimmon (builders) along the boundary of Gallagher Park which it was claimed was in breach of planning conditions. The Chair advised that this was a matter for West Bedlington Town Council and Northumberland County Council. In response to a question referring to the reinstatement of the Ashington, Blyth & Tyne rail link the Chair advised that NCC were committed to investing £55 million in the project.

Reverend Ian Hennerbry, referred to a number of bus timetable displays that had been vandalised and it was agreed to report this to the appropriate provider.

A resident of East Sleekburn Village enquired regarding proposals for new / re-sited bus stops near to the junction of the A189 spine road. In response the chair referred to counter proposals being pursued by County Councillor Jeff Gobin that would see the re-opening of the road through the village for bus services / residential access. The Assistant Clerk also referred to an initiative under consideration by the Cambois Resident's Association for a community bus service that could come through the village and which would be light enough to cross the restricted load bridge. He added that the correspondence received from the East Sleekburn residents had been noted and referred to the Allotments and Environment Working Group.

A second resident of East Sleekburn advised that all the lamppost mounted bins had been removed from the village and it was agreed that the Parish would look into this further.

Ch'n initials...

CO166/15 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Advance apologies had been received by Councillor Andrea Innes (holiday). Councillor Joe Dobie advised that he had not received his agenda for the previous meeting and hence the reason for not attending or submitting his apologies.

RESOLVED

That the apologies for absence be accepted and that Councillor Dobie's explanation be noted.

CO167/15 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd February 2016 be agreed as a true record.

CO168/15 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

CO169/15 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".

RESOLVED

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

CO170/15 5. POLICE REPORT

A written Police report was circulated to members. It was noted that reported crime was up on the previous year however, Councillor Stewart was optimistic that the new Community Centre and the Parish's investment in youth provision would go some way to redress youth related instances of anti-social behaviour. The assistant Clerk reported that criminal damage to Cambois beach shelter and to a public seat was being investigated. She also reported that East Bedlington had now been grouped with Blyth Valley and Seaton Valley for the purpose of LMAPS meetings.

RESOLVED

That the Police report, officer and member comments be noted.

CO171/15 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.

Ch'n initials...

CO172/15 7. CLERKS REPORT

The clerk provided a brief update advising that;

- An order had been placed for a £22,000 refurbishment of North Blyth play area and NCC had been requested to transfer a parcel of land near Charlton's Pub to allow the Wembley play area to be re-sited. A letter had also been sent to Bernicia in relation to the continued provision of play facilities at Kings/Queens Road estate.
- An order had been placed for spring bedding which would be planted up during the week leading up to Easter
- A quotation for the provision of 12 free standing bins had been received at a cost of £4,000
- A Borrowing Approval Application for £400,000 had been submitted to DCLG which was expected to come through in about 4-5 weeks.
- A letter had been sent to ARCH in respect of their development interests in the Parish
- Travelers had been moved on from Cambois Links however, a number of piles of conifer cuttings had been fly tipped in the vicinity
- Criminal damage to the Council's beach shelter on Cambois Links and to a public seat in the Wembley area had been reported to the police and was under investigation

RESOLVED

That the Clerks report be noted.

CO173/15 8. INVOICES & PAYMENT VOUCHERS

PAYMENT REFERENCE	DETAILS	AMOUNT £
DBB	BT - telecoms	112.48
V127	Taylor Design – professional fees	562.50
V128	Generation Hire & Sale – barriers for Christmas tree	54.85
V129	ABS Business Suppliers - stationery	100.14
V130	R & L Keenleyside Ltd - hardware	6.26
V131	Northumberland County Council - payroll Feb 16	4622.22
V132	Total Business Group Ltd - photocopier	9.26
V133	Northumberland County Council – SLA Floral Displays	1613.94
	Bank charges	10.10
V134	Northumberland County Council – xmas lighting / adaptations	1643.39
V135	St Johns Sleekburn – advertising in church Magazine	25.00
V136	Ian Ballance <u>12 @ £7.50</u> – window cleaner	90.00
V137	R Thornton - clerk's expenses - postage	45.36

RESOLVED

That the schedule of invoices and payment vouchers be approved.

Ch'n initials...

CO174/15 9. FINANCIAL POSITION / BANK RECONCILIATION

The Clerk referred to the Bank reconciliation at appendix C and to the cleared balance at 22 February 2016. He advised that internet banking allowed the bank reconciliation to be prepared up to the date of sending out the agendas and therefore the cleared balance previously provided as an agenda item was that stated on the bank reconciliation. Therefore, these two items would be combined as one in future.

RESOLVED

That the Council approves the bank reconciliation and notes the cleared balance as at 22nd February 2016 of £144,916.90.

CO175/15 10. FORECAST OUTTURN 2015/16

The clerk referred to the forecast outturn report that had been circulated advising that balances were expected to be in the region of £139,000 at 31 March 2016.

RESOLVED

That the forecast outturn be noted.

CO176/15 11. VACANCY OF COUNCILLOR

The clerk advised that expressions of interest had been received from Mr Andy Allman and Mr Derek Burton. Mrs Linda Mason who was in the audience also expressed an interest. All three candidates were formally nominated by Councillors Alex Wallace, David Graham and Allan Stewart respectively. Each candidate then gave a brief address to the Council explaining their backgrounds and aspirations for becoming a councillor. A ballot of the members then took place with Mr Andy Allman polling an overall majority.

RESOLVED.

That Mr Andy Allman is co-opted on to the Parish Council.

CO177/15 12. STATUTORY PENSION SCHEME

The Chair referred to the report that had been submitted by the Clerk commenting that as a good employer the Council should match the statutory level of employee contributions. The clerk advised that the cost of such a decision would be circa £2,600 per annum (equivalent to approximately £1.30 on the Council tax). Councillor Allan Stewart then moved the recommendations in the report.

RESOLVED

That the Council;

(1) approves the government run NEST pension scheme.

(2) Sets its employer contribution at 5%

(3) engages Northumberland County Council to administer the scheme.

CO178/15 13. OUTSIDE BODIES

(13.1) East Bedlington Community Centre – The clerk provided a progress report advising that the due date for return of tenders was 12:00 noon on Friday 4th March and that construction works were likely to start in April 2016. The Assistant clerk commented that decisions on grant applications (to fund fixtures and fittings) were expected by mid-April.

Ch'n initials...

(13.2) **Bedlington Steering Group** – The Clerk referred to the official press releases that had been circulated and that a further meeting to discuss design proposals had been arranged for Tuesday 8th March. With respect to the public exhibition that had been planned for March, he advised, that this was still the target as far as he was aware.

RESOLVED

That the delegate's reports be noted.

CO179/15 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 5th April 2016 at East Bedlington Community Centre.

Meeting Closed 7:25 pm.

Signed by the Chairman: Date:

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