

PRESENT

Councillors;
Andy Allman
Derek Burton
Eddie Dickson
Joe Dobie
David Graham
Allan Stewart (Vice Chair)
Alex Wallace (Chair)
Lynda Mason
Keith Grimes

IN ATTENDANCE

Parish Clerk, Assistant Parish Clerk, County Councillor Jeff Gobin, and 2 members of the community.

OPEN SESSION

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting and invited questions from the public. County Councillor Gobin referred to a letter that had been sent to Grant Davey (NCC leader) of which he had not been made aware of and which had caused a degree of embarrassment to himself when raised with him by the Leader. He also questioned Councillor Stewart's authority to submit the letter and whether other councillors were aware of its content. The chair advised that permission to submit a letter had been discussed and agreed, under matters arising, at its meeting held on 1st November 2016. The chair advised that the content of the letter had been debated in open session and that the final draft was agreed by himself prior to submission.

The chair regretted that Councillor Gobin had not been present when the debate had taken place. He explained that but for an oversight on his part he would have brought forward the remaining open agenda before going into closed session. Although he considered that there was nothing new or contentious in the letter the chair advised that Councillor Gobin should have received a copy of the letter (under the council's procedures and as a matter of courtesy) and he apologised on behalf of the Council for the oversight. The Chair went on to thank Councillor Gobin for the support he provides to the Parish.

At this point, Councillor Gobin left the meeting. Due to Councillor Gobin leaving the meeting it was noted that the Chair's apology on behalf of the Council had not yet been accepted.

Councillor Stewart advised that it was important that all Councillors were aware of the content of his letter and the reply that had been received from Grant Davey. His letter and Grant Davey's response were then read out by Councillor Stewart and the Assistant Parish Clerk respectively.

Members agreed that Councillor Stewart's letter was appropriate and were encouraged by the Leader's response and in particular his offer of support to develop a coastal communities bid.

CO98/16 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Allan Douglas (leave of absence) and Councillor Nichola Hogarth (work commitments).

RESOLVED

That the apologies for absence be accepted.

CO99/16 2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st November 2016 be signed as a true record subject to Councillor Grimes being added to the attendees and minute CO95/16 being amended to reflect the financial resources available.

Ch'n initials...

CO100/16 3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

CO101/16 4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

Councillor Andy Allman declared a personal interest in agenda item 12.4.

CO102/16 5 POLICE REPORT

There was no police report.

CO103/16 6 CORRESPONDENCE

Regarding Item 979, a resident's complaint about the condition of amenities and lack of investment in Bedlington Station, was read out. The resident, who lived in Cragside Gardens on the Bower Grange Estate, compared the lack of facilities in Bedlington Station to those in Cramlington which had a shopping centre, cinema, restaurants and a leisure centre. The resident also indicated that she would be speaking to neighbours regarding organising a petition.

In response to a query as to a letter requesting funding had not appeared on the Finance Working Group agenda, the Assistant Clerk advised that further information had been requested but not forthcoming. However, the request was to fund services in Blyth and there appeared to be no direct benefit to the residents of the Parish.

RESOLVED

(i) That the correspondence be noted.

CO104/16 7 CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk gave an update on the following:

- Bus shelters - Phase 1 was now complete and phase 2 would be completed by the end of the week. He advised that this brings total spending on bus shelters to £55,000 in the current year. The clerk also advised that a further £35,000 would be incurred in 2017/18 should the Council decide to bring forward phase 3 as previously intended.
- He referred to the new play area adjacent to Charlton's which was now substantially complete but had been adversely affected by flooding.
- Local Government Finance Settlement – no decision had yet been made on capping criteria however, an announcement was expected soon.

The Assistant Clerk added that she had bid into the Community Safety Hub (BOL) for a temporary CCTV camera deployment which had been support by the Police and the Community Safety Team. The camera which would be located on the Clayton corner is expected to be in place by Christmas.

RESOLVED

(i) That the clerks report be noted.

CO105/16 8 INVOICES & PAYMENT VOUCHERS

PAYMENT REFERENCE	DETAILS	AMOUNT £
V110	HFF Civil Engineering – Repairs to Fencing in Khans Car Park	504.00
V111	Banks Group – 10% deposit	1320.00
V112	Total Business Group - photocopier	21.49

Ch'n initials...

V113	Mick Whitfield – Installation of bins	780.00
DD	NEST -Sept / October – pension contributions	103.34
V114	Birch Landscapes – grounds maintenance	576.00
V115	SENRUG – annual subscription	10.00
V116	Bedlington Community High School – small grant	200.00
V117	Burnside Estate resident's Group – small grant	250.00
V118	Age Uk Northumberland - donation	50.00
V119	Great North Air Ambulance - donation	50.00
DD	BT - Telephony	85.44
BACS	HMRC – Vat recovery	2993.74
V120	Birch Landscapes – grounds maintenance	576.00
DBB	East Bedlington Community Centre – grant funding	90000.00
DBB	PWLB Loan - Arrangement Fee	140.00
DBB	East Bedlington Community Centre grant funding	90000.00
V121	Northumberland County Council - payroll November	6393.47
V122	Blachere Illumination – purchase of 4 ex hire motifs plus installation and carriage	1600.80
DBB	Bank Charges	13.75
V123	R & L Keeneyside Ltd – sundry hardware items	10.13
	Cancelled	0.00
V124	St John's Church Sleekburn – room hire	90.00
DBB	NEST – November – pension contributions	51.67
DBB	East Bedlington Community Centre – grant funding	90000.00
DBB	East Bedlington Community Centre – grant funding	40000.00

RESOLVED

Ch'n initials...

That the schedule of invoices and payment vouchers be approved.

CO106/16 9 FINANCIAL POSITION / BANK RECONCILIATION

RESOLVED

That the Council approves the bank reconciliation and notes the cleared balance at 30th November 2016 of £220,192.89.

CO107/16 10 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The clerk referred to his report commenting that there had been little change since the previous report. He advised that the latest projected year-end balance was circa £122,000 which would allow a maximum of £7,000 to be contributed from balances in 2017/18 whilst saying within the minimum reserves limit set in 2016. He commented that if the Council was capped it would be very difficult to replace reserves once expended.

RESOLVED

That the budget monitoring report be noted.

CO108/16 11 RREVIEW OF SYSTEM OF INTERNAL AUDIT

The clerk referred to the report of the Finance & General Purposes Working Group. He advised that the review was a statutory requirement and he outlined the process that had been followed in carrying it out and to the recommendations in the report.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Council adopts the Review of Internal Audit and its findings.
- (2) That the Council agrees to re-appoint Mr JA Ainsworth as the Council's Internal Auditor for 16/17.

CO109/16 12 SMALL GRANTS & DONATIONS

Members considered the recommendations of the Finance & General Purposes Working Group. In respect of the small grant application from Bedlington Community High School for a contribution towards their Breakfast Club, members were advised that a grant of £500 had already been made in 2016. Members agreed that the Breakfast club was a very worthwhile prospect but were unable to offer more assistance in the current year. Notwithstanding this member were wished to support the school and Councillor Stewart suggested that an annual contribution should be considered as part of the 2017/18 budget setting process.

RESOLVED

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| (1) Bad Apples North East | - That a grant be awarded in the sum of £200.00. |
| (2) Bedlington Town Football Club | - That a grant be awarded in the sum of £200.00. |
| (3) Lynemouth Day Centre | - Unable to support. |
| (4) Bedlington High School | - No additional grant in 2016/17 but an annual grant be considered as part of the 2017/18 budget process. |

CO110/16 13 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no planning applications.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the determinations and delegated response be noted.

CO111/16 14 MATTERS FOR DECISION

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Council defer the next parish council meeting until 10th January 2017.
- (2) That the parish council offices be closed from 5pm on Thursday 22nd December until Tuesday 3rd January for Christmas holidays.
- (3) That the Assistant Parish clerk attend a RAPE CRISIS presentation on sexual violence and Older people to be held on 17th January 2017 at the Round House, Ashington.

CO112/16 15 WORKING GROUPS

Planning & Corporate Strategy – 29 November 2016

Finance & General Purposes – 30 November 2016

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the working Groups be noted.

CO113/16 16 OUTSIDE BODIES

Written reports were received from delegates on outside bodies

East Bedlington Community Centre – circulated at the meeting

Bedlington Steering Group – report circulated

NALC – report circulated.

RESOLVED

That the reports from delegates be noted.

CO114/16 17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of East Bedlington Parish Council will be Tuesday 10th January at 6.00pm 2017 at Community Room, North Blyth Pub.