

# Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017, 6.00 pm at Community Room, North Blyth Pub.

## 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 4 members of the community.

## PRESENTATION - Ken McDonald – Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Liaison Officer NCC

Mr McDonald gave an informative presentation on his role since coming into post in October 2016. He discussed the need for a forward thinking approach to accommodating the travelling community that supported their human rights and created an atmosphere of tolerance within settlements throughout Northumberland. Answering a number of questions regarding the differences between true "Roma" and what was perceived as rouge traders travelling around the country he advised that any individual who identifies themselves as a Traveller must be considered to be so. The main issues which seemed to draw the greatest unrest from communities was the amount of rubbish and waste left behind following an encampment. Mr McDonald felt that this could be better managed by using skips and portable toilets. He also advised that in order to prosecute anyone for fly tipping or criminal damage sound evidence is required. Prosecutions could not be secured on here say or suppositions. He concluded by advising that he looked forward to working with parishes in identifying suitable stop-over sites that nomadic travellers could be directed to rather than perpetuate the problematic illegal encampments currently being experienced.

## OPEN SESSION

A member of the public enquired as to whether it would be possible to receive an update of progress on the East Bedlington Community Centre. The assistant clerk updated the meeting in line with the report circulated to councillors.

## CO115/16 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

## RESOLVED

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

## CO116/16 2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

## RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016 be signed as a true record.

## CO117/16 3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Ch'n initials...

There were no matters arising.

**CO118/16 4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

There were no disclosures or requests for dispensation.

**CO119/16 5 POLICE REPORT**

PCSO Bev Sellars and PCSO Rob Thompson gave an update on thefts from unsecured vehicles over the Christmas period. An update was also given regarding a burglary in Bedlington and a serious racially motivated assault that had occurred in Bedlington Station on Christmas Eve. It was reported that 10,900 vehicles had been scanned during Community Speedwatch initiatives which had resulted in 842 letters being sent to motorists. The Neighbourhood team were keen to increase the number of Speedwatch volunteers and residents signed up to Neighbourhood Watch. A further article in the Parish Newsletter was requested. The chair thanked the offices for their report.

**CO120/16 6 CORRESPONDENCE**

Councillor Grimes requested further information on item 989. The assistant clerk advised that the correspondence referred to continued levels of anti-social behaviour and fear of crime. The matter had been referred to the Neighbourhood Team and NCC Community Safety Officer Lyndsey Green.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That the correspondence be noted.

**CO121/16 7 CLERKS REPORT**

The clerk provided a brief update on Significant events that had taken place since the last meeting. He advised that;

- The bus shelter opposite Thompson Street had been vandalised with Graffiti
- The new play area on cambois links was now open and that new signage was on order and would soon be installed on all play areas
- The Christmas lights had been taken down however, the Council's own lights had also been removed (contrary to specific instructions issued to the contractor) and these would need to be retrieved.

The Clerk also announced that a meeting of the Gallagher Park Steering Group had been scheduled for Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 2.00 pm.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That the clerks report be noted.

**CO122/16 8 INVOICES & PAYMENT VOUCHERS**

V125	Blachere Illumination – Xmas lights	1,344.00
V126	Total Business Group - photocopier	15.83
DBB	BT - telephony	85.44
V127	Queensbury Shelters Ltd – Bus Shelters	27,828.54

Ch'n initials...

V128	Charlton's - Chairs hospitality	31.70
V129	Bad Apples (North East) – Small grant	200.00
V130	ABS Business Supplies Ltd - Stationery	141.49
V131	R Thornton - Expenses	30.72
V132	Northumberland County Council - payroll December	6,393.47
V133	Queensbury Shelters Ltd – Bus Shelters	26,055.84
V134	Elveden Farms – Xmas Tree	720.00
V135	Andrew Thornton - Expenses	146.25
V136	HFF Civil Engineering LTD – Hard standings	4,128.00
V136	HFF Civil Engineering LTD – Hard standings	3,408.00
V136	HFF Civil Engineering LTD – Hard Standings	2,376.00
V137	J A Tindale - Expenses	160.39
V138	Councillor Alex Wallace	152.95
DBB	Bank Charges	18.35

**RESOLVED**

**That the schedule of invoices and payment vouchers be approved.**

**CO123/16 9 FINANCIAL POSITION / BANK RECONCILIATION**

**RESOLVED**

**That the Council approves the bank reconciliation and notes the cleared balance at 31<sup>th</sup> December 2016 of £146,908.08.**

**CO124/16 10 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT**

The clerk referred to his report commenting that the expected balances at the year-end would be circa £127,000. This allowed for approximately £3,000 of contingency to cover unforeseen expenditure up to 31 march 2017. He added that most of the forecast expenditure in the report was committed and that he was confident that the projected balances were as accurate as possible.

**RESOLVED**

**That the budget monitoring report be noted.**

**CO125/16 12 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**There were no planning applications.**

**RESOLVED**

- (1) That the Council take part in the Planning Application Validation Checklist Consultation and that delegated response is made by the Clerk subject to the findings of Planning & Corporate Strategy working group.
- (2) That the Council approves the submission of a bid to the DCLG Communities Fund.
- (3) That a special budget working group meeting be arranged on Thursday 26 January to determine spending proposals for 2017.

**CO127/16 15 WORKING GROUPS**

There were no working groups held in December

**CO128/16 16 OUTSIDE BODIES**

Written reports were received from delegates on outside bodies  
East Bedlington Community Centre – circulated in advance of the meeting

**RESOLVED**

**That the reports from delegates be noted.**

**CO129/16 17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of East Bedlington Parish Council will be Tuesday 7th February 2017 at 6.00pm at St Johns Parish Hall, North View, Bedlington Station.