

EAST BEDLINGTON

Parish Council



**Minutes of the East Bedlington Parish Meeting,
held on Tuesday 6th March 2018, at East Bedlington Community Centre.**

Present:

Councillor Andy Allman
Councillor Steve Aynsley
Councillor John Batey
Councillor Allan Douglas
Councillor Keith Grimes
Councillor Paul Hedley
Councillor Allan Stewart
Councillor Alex Wallace

In attendance:

Ron Thornton (Clerk), Jenny Tindale (Assistant Clerk), County Councillor Bill Crosby; County Councillor Russ Wallace; County Councillor Malcolm Robinson and 6 members of the public.

Open Session

A resident asked if the Council could give information on agenda item relating to Northumberland Live. The chair responded and advised that he could not offer the council opinion until the matter had been discussed, he added that the outcome of the decision would be reflected in the minutes.

CO149/17 APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted from Councillor Mike Trimming (holiday); Councillor Lynda Mason (work commitments); and Councillor Jane Greensitt (illness)

Resolved:

That the apologies be accepted.

CO150/17 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 6 February 2018 be signed as a true record.

CO151/17 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

-) Jakes Bar – a member requested an update on the position regarding Jakes Bar. The Assistant clerk advised that there had been no further developments.

CO152/17 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

There were no disclosures of interests or requests for dispensation.

CO153/17 POLICE REPORT

Police team were not in attendance.

Resolved:

That there is no Police report.

CO154/17 NCC COUNCILLOR REPORT

No reports submitted.

CO155/17 CORRESPONDENCE

Resolved:

That the correspondence be noted

CO156/17 CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk reported:

- Instruction has been given for a further 4 additional bins to be installed around the parish.
- The offer of a Civic Reception has been made to the Schalksmulhe Society.
- Instruction has been given to NCC Neighbourhood Services to commence Bus Shelter Cleansing. The first deep clean will be undertaken in March.
- The Probation Service had commenced work on the Cambois Wheel by way of a general tidy up. They would also be clearing the area around the Wagon Way tunnel in the Free Wood.

Resolved

That the clerks report be noted.

CO157/17 SHEDULE OF INVOICE & PAYMENT VOUCHERS

Resolved:

That the schedule of Invoice & Payment Vouchers be approved.

CO158/17 FINANCIAL POSITION

Resolved:

That the cleared balances as of 28 February 2018 of £189,254.76 be noted.

CO159/17 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The clerk gave a verbal report advising that expected balances at the year-end to be circa £174,000.

Resolved:

To accept the Budget Monitoring Report.

CO160/17 REVIEW OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNAL AUDIT INCLUDING RISK REGISTER

Councillor Batey reported on the findings of the Finance & General Purposes Committee and the considerations that were further detailed in the report prepared by the Clerk.

Resolved:

- (i) That the review of the System of Internal Audit be approved**
- (ii) That the amendments to the risk register be agreed**

CO161/17 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Members considered applications presented in appendix E.

Resolved:

No further comment be passed in relation to the planning matters presented.

CO162/17 MATTERS FOR DECISION

Resolved:

- (i) That the Council install 2 (no) CCTV cameras on to the existing EBCC system.**
- (ii) That the additional grass cutting contract be awarded to Birch Landscapes.**

CO163/17 SMALL GRANTS & DONATIONS

Resolved:

- (i) That a grant of £300 be awarded to the Burnside Estate Residents Group.**
- (ii) That the Council agree in principle a donation of £500 for IT provision/volunteer expenses for the delivery of CAB facilities in East Bedlington Community Centre.**

CO164/17 WW1 COMMEMORATION

The Clerk outlined a range of activities put forward by the various working groups. Members considered the recommendations of the Clerk and agreed to identify a budget from within existing funds.

Resolved:

That a budget of £5,000 be allocated to meet the cost of commemoration of the end of WW1 hostilities.

CO165/17 WORKING GROUPS

Resolved:

To note the minutes of Allotments & Environment 8 February; Communities & Communications 20 February and Finance & General Purposes 1 March 2018.

CO166/17 OUTSIDE BODIES

Resolved:

To note reports received from delegates in relation to the Town and parish Liaison Working Group and the Friends of Gallagher Park meetings held on the 6th February and 6th of March 2018.

CO167/17 EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

To exclude the press and public from the remaining items on the agenda on the grounds of confidentiality and commercial sensitivity of the business.

CO168/17 REQUEST SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

The Chairman requested suspension of standing orders for a period of 30 minutes to allow the business to be completed.

Resolved:

That Standing Orders be suspended.

CO169/17 MINERS WELFARE INSTITUTE CAMBOIS

The Clerk advised that a site visit had taken place with Councillor Stewart and Batey in attendance also present were Hugh Massey and Kate Steel (NCC). The building has been somewhat neglected and NCC have recently carried out some essential structural safety works. Further to the visit, it was evident that major structural works would be required to bring the building back into use. NCC advised that the building is held in trust and consent from the trustees would be required before the building could be released. The Clerk advised that this project needed to be considered in context with the Council's overall strategic spending priorities.

Resolved:

- (i) The Cambois Welfare building would not form part of a Coastal Communities bid
- (ii) Further feasibility studies be considered with regards developing the potential asset with Community Led Housing.

CO170/17 BIG THINGS ART PROJECT

Councillor Batey referred to a telephone interview he had undertaken with the Clerk. The initial feedback had been encouraging. East Bedlington is one of three bids with others submitted by Lynemouth Parish Council and West Bedlington Town Council from south-east Northumberland. The project is in its early stages and the organisation running the competition have requested contact details of local residents to gauge the public interest in the scheme. If the Parish is successful it will be awarded with a Community Art Sculpture. The Clerk advised that various locations are being considered including, Wood Head, Gallagher Park, Town Centre.

Resolved:
That the verbal report be accepted.

CO171/17 TOWN CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT

The Clerk reported on an exchange of correspondence with property owners. It has been agreed that a meeting will now take place between parties the Clerk and Councillor Batey in attendance. A date was yet to be confirmed.

Resolved:

- (i) That thanks be noted to Councillor Batey for his efforts in developing the project.**
- (ii) That the Clerks' verbal report be accepted**
- (iii) That the Clerk be authorised to progress negotiations on behalf of the Council.**

CO172/17 EAST BEDLINGTON REGENERATION INITIATIVE

The Clerk reported that a meeting with Mike Jeffrey, NCC Green Spaces Manager had taken place and that drawings offering preferred construction widths and materials had been prepared. NCC would now submit the drawings to external tenders to compare best value against the NCC costing. It is understood monies have been set aside within NCC Capital budget 2018/19 to work in partnership with EBPC.

Resolved:
That the report be accepted.

CO173/17 NORTHUMBERLAND LIVE – BEDLINGTON 2018

The Clerk appraised members of the meeting of the Northumberland Live 18 Steering Group. He circulated copies of his observations with regards to the two tenders that had been submitted. He advised the Council that one of the Tenderers had no insurance cover, which would have exposed the Council to unacceptable risks. He also advised that he had concerns regarding the proposed policing, stewarding, medical and welfare provision proposed in the same tender which would, in his opinion, not pass a Safety Advisory Group (SAG) appraisal. The Clerk also advised that this submission had also introduced an element of financial risk which may have left the Council with a significant funding deficit.

Based on these observations, the Clerk had advised the procurement steering group that EBPC would not issue a contract to this contractor for the reasons outlined above.

The outcome of the debate which saw two members of the steering group leave the meeting prior to making a decision, was to award the contract to the remaining tender submission. However, following representations made to NCC Procurement regarding the fairness of the process, both tenders had been set aside. The Clerk then requested that the Council give direction on how they now wished to proceed. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for his diligence and commented on the success of the previous events both in terms of resident appreciation and investment in the local community. Councillor Douglas suggested that in his opinion, the Parish should act within its powers to deliver an event.

Councillor Stewart requested a named vote:

Resolved:

- (i) **That the Council supports the observation of the Clerk as outlined.**
- (ii) **That the Council agrees in principle to press ahead with any likeminded partners to ensure the event takes place in 2018.**

The result was unanimous, with the exception of Councillor Paul Hedley who abstained.

CO1784/17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

Meeting closed at 19.55

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday April 3 2018, 6pm, Bayard Room, East Bedlington Community Centre.

Signed as a true record

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Chairman

Date: