



**Minutes of an electronic meeting of East Bedlington Parish Council held via ZOOM on  
Tuesday 2 June 2020**

**PRESENT:**

**Councillor Steve Aynsley  
Councillor John Batey  
Councillor Helen Bradford  
Councillor Paul Hedley  
Councillor Lynda Mason  
Councillor Keith Scantlebury  
Councillor Allan Stewart  
Councillor Mike Trimming  
Councillor Alex Wallace**

**In attendance:** Ron Thornton – Clerk, Jenny Tindale – Deputy Clerk, County Councillor Bill Crosby, 2 members of the public.

		<b>ACTION</b>
<b>CO26/20</b>	<b>PUBLIC SESSION</b> There were no matters raised during the public session.	
<b>CO27/20</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ASBSENCE</b> Apologies were noted from Councillor Allan Douglas (illness). <b>RESOLVED:</b> <b>(i) That the Parish Councillors apologies be accepted</b>	
<b>CO28/20</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS</b> The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 5 May and the Annual Parish meeting held on Tuesday 5 May were presented to members. <b>RESOLVED:</b> <b>(i) That the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held 5 May 2020 be agreed as a true record.</b> <b>(ii) That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5 May 2020 be agreed as a true record.</b>	
<b>CO29/20</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</b> There were no matters arising	
<b>CO30/20</b>	<b>DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS &amp; REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION</b> Councillor Stewart declared an interest in agenda item 22.	
<b>CO31/20</b>	<b>RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR JANE GREENSITT</b> The Chair acknowledged the contribution of Councillor Greensitt who had resigned due to work commitments that had made it difficult to attend meetings.  The Clerk advised that an election must take place if 10 electors of the ward requested. However, under Coronavirus legislation an	

	<p>election could not take place until May 2021, when all Councillors would be up for re-election. In consequence, he advised that there would be no additional costs of a by-election and there was nothing to be gained by taking this course of action.</p> <p>He hoped that good sense would prevail and that the Parish Council would be allowed to co-opt at this challenging time.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>(i) That the resignation of Councillor Jane Greensitt be formally acknowledged.</p> <p>(ii) That the Clerk forward a letter of thanks on behalf of the Council in recognition of Councillor Greensitt's contribution.</p>	Clerk
CO32/20	<p><b>SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL MEETINGS</b></p> <p>A schedule of proposed meeting dates for the Council was presented to the members.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p><b>That the schedule of meetings be agreed.</b></p>	
CO33/20	<p><b>APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES</b></p> <p>Members noted the recommendations arising from the Services Working Group</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>(i) Northumberland Association of Local Councils, that Councillor Alex Wallace be appointed.</p> <p>(ii) Management Board – East Bedlington Parish Council, that Councillor John Batey, Councillor Keith Scantlebury, the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk be appointed.</p> <p>(iii) Blyth Offshore Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund, that Councillor John Batey be appointed.</p>	
CO34/20	<p><b>APPOINTMENT OF STAFFING COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that the Staffing Committee should consist of 3 Members with the Chair and Vice Chair ex officio. Members noted the recommendations put forward by the Services Working Group.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p><b>That Councillors Trimming, Bradford and Hedley be appointed to the Staffing Committee with the Chair and Vice Chair ex-officio.</b></p>	
CO35/20	<p><b>POLICE REPORT</b></p> <p>A written report had been submitted by the Neighbourhood Team advising that officers were engaged in carrying out work in connection to the Coronavirus regulations and that there had been a reduction in crime in the Parish.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p><b>That the Police report be noted</b></p>	
CO36/20	<p><b>NCC COUNCILLOR REPORTS</b></p> <p>No written reports had been received.</p>	

CO37/20	<p><b>CORRESPONDENCE</b></p> <p>The Chair referred to [99] Coastal Car Parks commenting that there had been no consultation on their closure and re-opening. He advised that there had been misinformation/confusion in the correspondence issued.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b>  <b>That the correspondence be noted.</b></p>	
CO38/20	<p><b>CLERKS REPORT</b></p> <p>The Clerk advised that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The public inspection of the accounts would be from 15 June – 24 July. The accounts would be displayed in the Parish window and on the website.</li> <li>• Quotations for work at Cambois allotments had been received.</li> <li>• Blyth Star Enterprise have commenced summer planting around the Parish, regrettably he had to report the theft of some plants.</li> <li>• The installation of Beehive planters would take place on Saturday 6 June and watering arrangements had been put in place to coincide.</li> <li>• A quotation had been obtained to install a bus shelter at the Bank Top. A further quotation had been obtained to replace damaged panels on the existing shelters. The cost of supply and fitting of the damaged panels would be met from the existing repairs and maintenance budget.</li> <li>• Planned training for the Clerk and Deputy Clerk on the Realtis system should have taken place this week. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions he would be exploring online training.</li> </ul> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b>  <b>That the Clerks report be noted.</b></p>	
CO39/20	<p><b>SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS</b></p> <p>There were no receipts.</p>	
CO40/20	<p><b>INVOICE PAYMENTS &amp; VOUCHERS</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b>  <b>That the schedule of invoices and payment vouchers be approved</b></p>	
CO41/20	<p><b>FINANCIAL POSITION</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b>  <b>That the bank reconciliation be approved and the cleared balances of £271,300.31 as at 27 May be noted.</b></p>	
CO42/20	<p><b>BUDGET MONITORING REPORT</b></p> <p>The Clerk advised that he continued to forecast the likely impact of the Coronavirus outbreak on planned activity and to estimate funds that might not otherwise have been available.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b>  <b>That the Budget Monitoring Report be noted</b></p>	

CO43/20	<p><b>INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2019/20</b></p> <p>Members scrutinised Internal Auditors certificate and the detailed report prepared by Mr. J Ainsworth.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>(i) That the Internal Auditors Certificate, report, and details of work carried out be received.</p> <p>(ii) That Mr. J A Ainsworth be re-appointed as the Council's Internal Auditor for 2020/21.</p>	
CO44/20	<p><b>ANNUAL GOVERNANCE RETURN 2019/20 (SECTION 1)</b></p> <p>Members received the Annual Governance Return 2019/20</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>(i) That the Annual Governance Return 2019/20 be approved.</p> <p>(ii) That the Chair be authorised to sign the document on behalf of the Council.</p>	Chair
CO45/20	<p><b>ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS 2019/20 (SECTION 2)</b></p> <p>Members congratulated the Clerk on his record keeping and the preparation of the accounts, which had been delivered in a clear and easy to read format.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>(i) That the Accounts for 2019/20 be approved</p> <p>(ii) That the Chair be authorised to sign Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2019/20 on behalf of the Council.</p>	Chair
CO46/20	<p><b>SMALL GRANTS &amp; DONATIONS</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>(i) That the donation made under delegated authority be noted: Blyth Star Enterprise Foodbank £500</p> <p>(ii) That the subsequent letter of thanks from Blyth Star Enterprise be noted.</p>	
CO47/20	<p><b>PLANNING APPLICATIONS</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>(i) That the determination in relation to 20/00745/FUL, be noted</p> <p>(ii) That the council offer no objections to applications 20/00026/FUL</p> <p>(iii) That the preapplication status of 20/00331/PREAPP be observed and that the Parish Council seeks to explore S106 opportunities with the developer,</p>	
CO48/20	<p><b>REPAIRS &amp; MAINTENANCE – CAMBOIS ALLOTMENTS</b></p> <p>The Clerk advised that two of the three estimates sought had been received for the required schedule of works. He recommended that members accept the lower quotation which also had fewer restrictions on the removal of waste.</p>	

	<p>Members acknowledged the Council's statutory duty to provide allotments and of its responsibility towards the health and safety of plot holders in respect of perimeter fencing and permitted structures.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this they expressed concern at the level of costs being incurred and the frequency that improvement works appeared on the Council's agenda.</p> <p>Consensus was reached that a visit to the site would allow members to appreciate what further works may be required and to formulate an appropriate strategy.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED - By majority of 5:2</b>  <b>That,</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>(i) The quotation provided by HFF Civil Engineering in the sum of £4640 be accepted.</b></li> <li><b>(ii) Financial regulations be waived to allow the works to be expedited.</b></li> <li><b>(iii) Approval be given to allocate £3,000 from contingencies to supplement the existing budget.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>And, by unanimous decision that,</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>(iv) A site visit be arranged at the earliest opportunity.</b></li> </ul>	
<p><b>CO49/20</b></p>	<p>Councillor Stewart requested at 19:25 that Standing Orders be moved to allow the completion of the business. Councillor Mason left the meeting at this point.</p>	
<p><b>CO50/20</b></p>	<p><b>WORKING GROUPS</b>  <b>RESOLVED:</b>  <b>That the minutes of the Services Working Group 19 May 2020 be received.</b></p>	
<p><b>CO51/20</b></p>	<p><b>VJ Day – 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary marking Victory in Japan and the end of WWII</b></p> <p>Members debated this matter at length, considering the ethics and appropriateness of the commemoration. Councillor Wallace suggested that a wreath should be laid at the Cambois Memorial. Other members thought a more substantial and permanent tribute may be appropriate, as an alternative and/or in addition. The Chair gave a passionate speech as to the impact of war on the community referring to lives lost whilst on active service during WWII and other conflicts. He referred to the many lives lost in the coal mines and other civilian occupations.</p> <p>Councilor Alex Wallace requested a named vote.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>(i) That a wreath be laid at Cambois Memorial to commemorate VJ Day 15 August 2020.</b></li> <li><b>(ii) That a wider discussion take place to establish a fitting memorial to commemorate lives lost in the Parish and recognise the efforts of those left behind in all conflicts.</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Agenda item Services WG</b></p>

	<p><b>Votes in favour: Councillors Steve Aynsley, Helen Bradford, Paul Hedley, Allan Stewart, Alex Wallace, Mike Trimming</b></p> <p><b>Vote against: Councillor John Batey</b></p>	
CO52/20	<p><b>MATTERS FOR DECISION</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>(i) That the Council renew its watering contract with HFF Civil Engineering Ltd on the same terms as 2019/20.</p> <p>(ii) That a quotation received from GW Shelter Solutions in the sum of £4693 be accepted to replace the bus shelter formerly located adjacent to the Bank Top public house.</p> <p>(iii) That a Strategic Spending Review be undertaken to consider the impact of the Coronavirus and key decisions that will need to be taken in the coming months to include scheduled events.</p>	
CO53/20	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chair advised that the Matthew Project had noticed a drop off in referrals. A similar observation had been made by the Salvation Army and the Wansbeck Valley Foodbank (WVFB). Several factors impacting on this were considered including the temporary school foodbanks, various pop up groups and the NCC effort supporting vulnerable and shielding residents. WVFB had also expressed concern over the new system of referrals adopted by NCC.</li> <li>Councillor Scantlebury requested that the Parish response to the increase in dog fouling in areas of the Parish be added to the Services working group agenda for June.</li> <li>Councillor Scantlebury raised his objections to the parking of a caravan on St Johns West and suggested the Clerks take the matter up with NCC, as the apparently abandoned vehicle was preventing satisfactory grass cutting and in his opinion, spoiling the efforts made by the Parish in the area.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Clerk/ Services WG</b></p> <p><b>Clerks</b></p>
CO25/20	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>The next meeting of East Bedlington Parish Council will be a virtual meeting to be held on Tuesday 7th July 2020 6pm.</p>	

**Signed:** .....

**Date:** .....