

EAST BEDLINGTON
Parish Council



Minutes of an electronic meeting of East Bedlington Parish Council held via ZOOM on
Tuesday 12 January 2021

PRESENT:

Councillor Steve Aynsley
Councillor John Batey
Councillor Keith Scantlebury
Councillor Allan Stewart
Councillor Mike Trimming
Councillor Alex Wallace

In attendance: Ron Thornton – Clerk, Jenny Tindale – Deputy Clerk,
Councillor Bill Crosby, Neighbourhood Inspector Phil Patterson and 4 members
of the public

		ACTION
	<p>PUBLIC SESSION</p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting by advising that the first 15 minutes are dedicated to public questions but that the public are not permitted to participate during the Council business that follows. A resident of Waverley Drive re-enforced the concerns he had raised in writing to the Council regarding road safety, dangerous driving, and lack of parking facilities in and around his home address. The Neighbourhood Inspector provided advice regarding the necessary actions that needed to be taken by residents to ensure that the correct Police response could be made. Indicating if vehicles were putting children’s lives at risk it was imperative that a 999 or 101 call is made. Members agreed that the design of the estate did not support modern lifestyles and agreed to discuss the matter more fully in a Services Working Group. A resident of West Bedlington asked if the Council could substantiate conflicting comments he had read on social media. The Chairman advised the Council dealt in facts and official notifications and could not comment of the validity of personal comments made on social media.</p> <p>A resident of East Bedlington congratulated the Parish Council on its excellent display of festive lighting. The Chairman thanked him for his kind words.</p>	
CO147/20	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ASBSENCE</p> <p>Apologies were noted from Councillors Allan Douglas and Paul Hedley (illness), Helen Bradford and Lynda Mason (work commitments)</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>(i) That the Parish Councillors apologies be accepted.</p>	

CO148/20	<p>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 1 December 2020 were presented to the meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>(i) That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1 December 2020 be agreed as a true record.</p>	
CO149/20	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	
CO150/20	<p>DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION</p> <p>There were no requests.</p>	
CO151/20	<p>POLICE REPORT</p> <p>Inspector Patterson updated members on the latest crime statistics covering the six-week period leading up to the meeting. He confirmed that crime had reduced in all measures and was at a lower rate than in the previous twelve months. In providing members with actual crime numbers and percentage reductions, he quantified that it was important to recognise some of the challenges faced by communities brought on by poverty and lifestyle choices. He added that the Covid Team had adopted an education and engagement stance, however, where it was clear members of the public had blatantly ignored the advice and guidance, penalties had been imposed. He reported that he is particularly interested in hearing about drug related issues and he intended to quash any attempts of organised crime gangs infiltrating the Bedlington area.</p> <p>Councillor Wallace referred to the reemergence of gathering around the Clayton Corner which led to a fear of crime amongst older members of the community. He reported that on occasions the gatherings threw plants and missiles at passing cars, generally making a nuisance of themselves. The Inspector again mentioned the importance of reporting such incidents as they happen and advised that his team would take a holistic approach to establish why young people gather in that location.</p> <p>The Deputy Clerk advised that the detached youth workers had reported a strong smell of cannabis amongst the young people congregating in the area and engagement with them has been somewhat problematic. It was agreed that the details of the youth workers would be passed onto the Neighbourhood Policing Team.</p>	

CO151/20	<p>NCC COUNCILLOR REPORTS</p> <p>Councillor Crosby updated on two matters – lighting columns at Gallagher Park to which he is making a £2,000 contribution from his members small schemes fund. He added that he was unable to provide any further funding as he had identified other schemes that he intended to support.</p> <p>He further commented on a consultation circulated by NCC seeking to remove trees from Gallagher Park and its boundary with Heritage Gardens estate. He challenged the timing of the consultation and the lack of time allowed for meaningful consultation. In his opinion, the approach to simply remove all the trees was not acceptable and he felt a proper woodland management scheme needed to be put in place.</p> <p>Councillor Crosby also provided information on the request from West Bedlington Town Council to support their objection to changes to the S106 agreement offering support to Gallagher Park.</p> <p>The Chairman commented on the lack of consultation with East Bedlington Parish Council on such matters and an apparent disregard for the Charter. He thanked Councillor Crosby for his update.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the NCC Councillor report be noted.</p>	
CO152/20	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>Councillor Wallace referred to an update email circulated to members by NCC regarding the Northumberland Line consultation. He indicated that in his opinion the allocated response time was too long to feed back to residents of Bedlington Station regarding car parking arrangements. He suggested that the communication should be a two-way process and that NCC should respond to the individuals taking part in the consultation regarding this matter at a much earlier juncture.</p> <p>RESOLVED That:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The Clerk write to NCC and request the possibility of responding to resident’s concerns around the parking options for Bedlington Station at an earlier juncture. (ii) The correspondence be noted. 	Clerk
CO153/20	<p>CLERK’S REPORT</p> <p>The Clerk circulated a written report updating members on most recent events.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Clerks Report be noted.</p>	

CO154/20	<p>PLANNING</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the Council offer no comment in respect of application 20/03940/FUL.</p>	
CO155/20	<p>FINANCE REPORT</p> <p>The Clerk presented a suite of reports including a schedule of Receipts & Payments; Bank Reconciliation; Budget and Balance Sheet</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>(i) That the schedule of receipts and payments be approved.</p> <p>(ii) That the cleared balances as of 31 December 2020 of £221,624.58 be noted.</p> <p>(iii) That the budget report be noted.</p> <p>(iv) That the balance sheet be noted.</p>	
CO156/20	<p>WORKING GROUPS</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>(i) That the draft minutes of the Services Working Group 17 December 2020 be received.</p>	
CO157/20	<p>MATTERS FOR DECISION</p> <p>(i) Extended discussion took place regarding the proposed installation of lighting columns in Gallagher Park, and reference was made to the report prepared by the Northumbria Police, Specialist Officer. Councillor Wallace proposed that the Parish Council meet half the cost of the outstanding balance. This was seconded by Councillor Trimming. Councillor Stewart made a counter proposal that the Parish did not offer funding toward the project, as it was as strategic park. This was seconded by Councillor Aynsley. Councillor Wallace requested a named vote.</p> <p>Voting on Councillor Wallace’s initial proposal: In favour - Councillors Wallace, Scantlebury and Trimming Against - Councillors Stewart, Batey and Aynsley.</p> <p>The motion was defeated upon Councillor Batey’s casting vote as Chair.</p> <p>Voting on Councillor Stewart’s counter proposal: In favour - Councillors Stewart and Batey Against - Councillors Wallace, Trimming, Scantlebury and Aynsley.</p> <p>The motion was defeated.</p>	

	<p>(ii) County Councillor Crosby was invited by the Chairman to provide additional information regarding the original S106 agreement referred to in 20/03881/S106A</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>(I) That the request from NCC for a donation towards lighting columns in Gallagher Park be deferred to the Services Working Group for further discussion.</p> <p>(II) That a request from West Bedlington Town Council to support their objection to changes in the S106 agreement 20/03881/S106A be deferred to the Services Working Group for further information and discussion.</p> <p>(III) That a new litter bin be installed outside the Gables Healthcare Centre.</p> <p>(IV) That a five month leave of absence in respect of Councillors Paul Hedley and Allan Douglas be approved.</p>	Clerk
CO158/20	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>There was no other business.</p>	
C0159/20	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting of East Bedlington Parish Council will be a virtual Special Parish Council Meeting (to set the Parish Precept & Council Tax) at 6:00pm on Wednesday 27th January 2021 followed by a virtual Parish Council meeting to be held on Tuesday 2 February 2021 at 6pm.</p>	

Signed:

Date: