

**Minutes of an electronic meeting of East Bedlington Parish Council held via ZOOM on
Tuesday 3 November 2020**

PRESENT:

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

In attendance: Ron Thornton – Clerk, Jenny Tindale – Deputy Clerk,
Inspector Phil Patterson Northumbria Police, County Councillor Bill Crosby and
3 members of the public

		ACTION
	<p>PUBLIC SESSION 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. There were no public questions.</p>	
CO118/20	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ASBSENCE Apologies were noted from Councillors Allan Douglas and Paul Hedley (illness), Lynda Mason (work commitments) In respect of Councillor Hedley’s sudden illness members present wished him a positive outcome and a speedy recovery. RESOLVED: (i) That the Parish Councillors apologies be accepted.</p>	
CO119/20	<p>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6 October 2020 were presented to the me RESOLVED: (i) That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6 October 2020 be agreed as a true record.</p>	
CO120/20	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES A member sought clarification on the Council’s civic awards for 2020. It was noted that the opportunity to take part in activities had been greatly impacted by the Covid-19 restrictions and members had previously agreed to postpone the awards.</p>	

	<p>RESOLVED: That the matters arising be noted.</p>	
CO121/20	<p>DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION There were no requests</p>	
CO122/20	<p>POLICE REPORT</p> <p>Inspector Phil Pattinson introduced himself and advised that he is the Neighbourhood Inspector for Ashington and Bedlington. He proceeded to give a comprehensive report on the reduction of crime across the Parish. In particular, he commented on the breaking up of an organised drug gang attempting to infiltrate Bedlington, a significant reduction in burglaries to business premises of 16% on the previous year. He added that speeding vehicles has been identified as a particular problem in the Bedlington area and he was able to confirm that 205 cars had been seized over the last year with 107 crushed due to no insurance, tax or licence. Likewise, he was pleased to report that 13 motorbikes had been seized and crushed following a targeted operation on motorcycle nuisance. It was reported that ASB is a particular interest to the team, and whilst the overall figures had reduced year on year, it is acknowledged that a great deal of work still needs to be done, especially educating children, some with troubled backgrounds, to ensure that they do not become involved in criminal activity as adults. In response to a member question on scams, the inspector reported that he took cyber crime extremely seriously and recognised the impact telephone and computer scams had on vulnerable members of our community. In summing up, the inspector requested to forge stronger links with the Council. He also pledged to attend as many meetings as work commitments would allow. The Chairman thanked the inspector for his very thorough report and his commitment to working with the parish going forward.</p> <p>RESOLVED That the Police report be noted.</p>	
CO123/20	<p>NCC COUNCILLOR REPORTS</p> <p>There were no reports submitted.</p>	
CO124/20	<p>CORRESPONDENCE RESOLVED: A member requested further information on 279 Poverty update. The Deputy Clerk reported that this is a follow up to work carried out by herself and the Chairman prior to lockdown. It was agreed that a copy of the correspondence is to be circulated to all members.</p> <p>RESOLVED That the correspondence be noted.</p>	

<p>CO125/20</p>	<p>CLERK'S REPORT</p> <p>The Clerk advised that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are Remembrance Days services at Bedlington and Cambois on Sunday 8 November 2020, and that the Parish wreaths have been obtained. • A letter has been sent to the Chief Executive Officer at Bernicia as requested and he awaited a reply. • The damage to the new play equipment in Jennings Field will be rectified shortly. He was still waiting on some of the safety chains and D rings to undertake the repairs. • NCC have been instructed to clean all the Parish bus shelters with the high power hose attachment on the mini sweepers at a cost of £10 per shelter. • The wildflower seed has been sown in Jennings Field and along the Wood Head. The seeds are annuals and the process will need repeated next year. • The replacement seating is now in situ at Moorland Avenue and the damaged bench has been brought back to the warehouse to establish whether it can be economically refurbished. • NCC have been instructed to install the additional lighting boxes onto lamp posts along with the new motifs which are in storage at the Community Centre. The tree is expected at 7am 11th November and instruction has been given for the tree to be dressed in preparation for the switch on. • A firm quotation has now been received for the Cambois Muga from Urban Fencing of £4950. Instructions have been given for the works to commence. • The Kings and Queens Play area is almost complete. There has been a delay in laying the turf due to the heavy rain but it is expected this work will be completed by the end of this week to allow the grass mats to be laid and the works completed. • The replacement outdoor gym equipment at Cambois has been installed and a piece has been removed from Jennings Field to be repaired following signs of corrosion. There is slight movement on a further piece of equipment at Cambois which may need re-siting. The Clerk advised that he would be monitoring this. • A template has been supplied to Councillor Aynsley to allow him to print off the flyposting notices for the shelters. • Blyth Star Enterprises have enquired as to whether members would like to have the square planters filled with winter bedding at a cost of £2000. He confirmed that the budget is already spent and that the matter is not an agenda item so cannot be decided upon during the meeting and should be referred to the next Services Working group. • As predicted the Tax base has been received and has gone down from 2060 to 2007 band D equivalent properties. 	<p>Budget WG</p> <p>Clerk</p>
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	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>(i) That the report be given in written form to allow members time to digest the information</p> <p>(ii) That the planting of winter bedding be deferred to Services working group 17 November 2020 for further information and recommendation.</p> <p>(iii) That the Clerks report be noted.</p>	
CO126/20	<p>FINANCE REPORT</p> <p>The Clerk presented a suite of reports including a schedule of Receipts & Payments; Bank Reconciliation; Budget report 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 28 October 2020 of £309,994.27 be noted.</p> <p>(iii) That the budget report be noted</p> <p>(iv) That the balance sheet be noted</p>	
CO127/20	<p>EXTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT</p> <p>The Clerk referred to the External Auditors report circulated to members. It was noted that there are no matters of concern. Members thanked the Clerk for his work on ensuring the Audit was properly submitted during the Covid lockdown.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the External Auditors Report be accepted.</p>	
CO128/20	<p>PLANNING APPLICATIONS</p> <p>Members considered a schedule of planning applications and notices of determination.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>(i) That the determinations in respect of planning applications 20/02825/ADE in connection with the fascia sign at 19, Station Street, Bedlington be noted.</p>	
CO129/20	<p>WORKING GROUPS</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the draft minutes of the Services Working Group 20 October 2020 be received.</p>	
CO130/20	<p>MATTERS FOR DECISION</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p>	

	<p>(i) That approval be given to provide a Christmas gift consisting of a £10 gift voucher and a selection box to each child attending a primary school in the Parish.</p> <p>(ii) That a contribution of £75 per month be made to Bedlington Station Primary School Foodbank for the supply of Fareshares food packs for the remainder of the financial year 2020/21 and then subject to review, along with other Foodbanks as part of the 2021/22 budget process.</p> <p>(iii) That a donation of £300 be agreed to Bedlington Academy for the provision of OAP Christmas Hampers in the Parish.</p> <p>(iv) That an award of £400 (under delegated authority) towards the provision of meals for 40 children at Cambois primary school be noted.</p>	
CO131/20	<p>OUTSIDE BODIES</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Councillor Wallace for his comprehensive reports following the NALC County Committee meeting 2 October 2020 and the Town & Parish Council Liaison Working Group meeting on 8 October 2020, both held via ZOOM. The minutes of which had been circulated to members.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the delegate reports be noted</p>	
CO132/20	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>There was no other business</p>	
CO133/20	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting of East Bedlington Parish Council will be a virtual meeting to be held on Tuesday 1 December 2020 6pm.</p>	

Signed:

Date: