



**Minutes of a meeting of East Bedlington Parish Council held on Tuesday 5 March 2024
at East Bedlington Community Centre**

PRESENT:

Councillor John Batey
Councillor Dawn Crosby
Councillor Keith Grimes (Chairman)
Councillor Paul Hedley
Councillor Keith Scantlebury
Councillor Len Smith
Councillor Allan Stewart
Councillor Rebecca Wilczek

In attendance: Ron Thornton – Responsible Financial Officer
Jenny Tindale – Clerk
Tina Rowell – Assistant Clerk

		ACTION
	<p>PUBLIC SESSION</p> <p>The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed Tina Rowell recently appointed Assistant Clerk to the Council and her first Parish meeting.</p> <p>A member of the public asked a question regarding dog fouling bins which had been put in place by a resident who, he understood, would be leaving the area and in particular how the private waste bins she had placed around the area would be emptied.</p> <p>A further question was raised regarding litter picking.</p> <p>He also asked a question regarding speeding traffic in and around Moorland Avenue and off road bikes.</p> <p>The Chairman responded advising that speeding traffic and vehicle offences was a matter for the Police. Hed added that a new initiative had started in South East Northumberland to tackle motor cycle nuisance with officers being trained in the use of stingers and drones. County Councillor Alex Wallace added that NCC were about to sign off on a new area of land near Arcot Hall to replace the off road track at Cambois. This would enable officers to direct off road bikes to an approved facility.</p> <p>The Clerk responded advising that the dog waste bins were emptied by NCC and those supplied by the resident were emptied by the</p>	

	<p>resident and the waste passed on to NCC. The Parish Council was unaware of any new arrangement being put in place. She further advised that there were a number of litter picking groups and advised that residents do not need permission to pick litter. If they wanted to be insured, they would need to register with NCC and when collecting litter be mindful of personal safety. Collected bags of litter need to be placed next to the official bins. The Parish Council can supply litter pickers and black bags. She suggested the resident make an appointment outside the meeting and she would be able to offer more detailed support.</p> <p>A question was asked regarding progress with the remaining railway station building. The Chairman responded to say that the Parish Council had been offered a 99 year peppercorn lease. Network Rail have been obliged to carry out an exercise to ascertain whether any party has a claim on the buildings and that a period of three months was required for this purpose. The enquiry period was up at the beginning of March. The Parish awaited further contact from Network Rail. It was also noted that the Northumberland Line team would be hosting an information event at East Bedlington Community Centre on Thursday 7 March.</p>	
CO96/23	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>Apologies were noted from Councillor Jayne Todd and Grant Ward (holiday), Councillor Bill Crosby (prior appointment)</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>(i) That the apologies be accepted.</p>	
CO97/23	<p>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</p> <p>The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 23 January 2024 were circulated to the members prior to the meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That;</p> <p>The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 23 January 2024 be signed as a true record.</p>	
CO98/23	<p>Clerk & Officers Update</p> <p>A written report was presented to members. The Clerk expanded on each point.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That;</p> <p>(i) The Clerk & Officers update be noted.</p>	
CO99/23	<p>DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION</p> <p>There were no disclosures or requests.</p>	

CO100/23	<p>POLICE REPORT</p> <p>A written report had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. It was noted that a new task force had been set up to tackle motorcycle nuisance.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That; The Police Report be noted.</p>	
CO101/23	<p>NCC COUNCILLOR REPORTS</p> <p>There were no reports.</p>	
CO102/23	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the correspondence be noted.</p>	
CO103/23	<p>PLANNING</p> <p>RESOLVED: That; (i) No further comment be made on existing applications (ii) The determinations be noted.</p>	Clerk
CO104/23	<p>FINANCE REPORT</p> <p>The Chairman presented a suite of reports:</p> <p>RESOLVED That the, (i) Schedule of receipts and payments be approved. (ii) Cleared balances as at 29 February of £288,034.46 be noted. (iii) Budget report and detailed budget outturn prepared by the RFO be noted. (iv) Detailed Income and expenditure be noted. (v) Balance Sheet be noted.</p>	
CO105/23	<p>WORKING GROUPS</p> <p>RESOLVED: That; Minutes of the Services Working Group held on 20 February 2024 be noted.</p>	
CO106/23	<p>MATTERS FOR DECISION</p> <p>RESOLVED: Members resolved that: (i) A donation from Councillor Wilczek's MLIS be accepted towards the cost of refurbishment of Heritage Gardens.</p>	

	<p>(ii) A vote of thanks be offered to Councillor Wilczek for her generous contribution.</p> <p>(iii) Play Area and the Bedlington 'A' Pit memorial.</p> <p>(iv) The Parish purchase Easter eggs to support planned Easter events with a total cost not exceeding £200.</p> <p>(v) The Members support the installation of an EV charging point at Cambois.</p>	Clerk
CO107/23	<p>DELEGATES REPORTS</p> <p>The Chairman reported that this is a new agenda item and is aimed at improving transparency and the flow of information. He advised he has asked if the EBCC Chairman would consult the Board of Trustees to allow the EBCC report to become a standing agenda item.</p> <p>Councillor Batey in his role as the appointed member for schools expanded on his report. Member noted that the Head of Stead Lane would be leaving to take up a new role in the Summer and commented positively on his contribution to the school.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>(i) That the delegate report from East Bedlington Community Centre be noted</p> <p>(ii) That the delegate report from the appointed member for schools be noted.</p>	
CO 108/23	<p>JOINT MEETING PARISH COUNCIL / EAST BEDLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE / PLATFORM TRADING LTD.</p> <p>Confidential minutes of this meeting had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting. Councillor Stewart referred Members present to their responsibility under Standing Order 72.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That;</p> <p>(i) That the minutes of the joint meeting held on 19 February be agreed and noted.</p>	
CO109/23	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>Annual Assembly to be held on Tuesday 23 April 2024 6pm Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Tuesday 7 May 2024 6pm Parish Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 7 May 2024 6.30pm.</p>	

Signed: **Chairman** **Date:**