



**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 10th December 2015 at 6.30 pm at Bedlington Community Centre, Bedlington.**

**PRESENT:**

Councillors: M Robinson (Chair)      K Dalton      J Dobie  
                         P Hedley      A Hogg      C Taylor

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Town Clerk S Young  
10 Members of the public.

**PRESENTATIONS**

The Council received an update from Mr Barry Elliott and Mr Darren Taylor with regard to the progress and proposed plans for the Baedling Manor Care Home development.

**OPEN SESSION**

- A resident outlined their objections to one of the planning applications (15/03944/FUL) listed on the meeting agenda.
- A resident asked the Council if it had any plans to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Daniel Gooch, railway and undersea telegraph engineer, who was born in Bedlington.  
The suggestion will be added to the agenda of the next Council meeting for consideration.
- A resident asked if the Council could request the County Council to cut back the hedge near Chester Court Nursing Home which was causing visibility problems for users of the nearby bus shelter.  
The Chair confirmed that the Council would make a request to the County Council.

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm.

**C219/15 - 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Graham and J Tyler.

**Resolved to accept the apologies received.**

**C220/15 - 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS**

**Resolved that the minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council meetings of 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015 are approved.**

**C221/15 - 3. MATTERS ARISING**

The Chair advised that some progress had been made with Northumberland County Council with regard to brokering a meeting between concerned residents at Burdon Terrace, Red

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House Farm estate and Deanery Street and officers from the Highways Department about various parking issues.

The Chair was also able to provide an update with regard to the wall at the corner of Front Street and Church Lane which had been the subject of residents' questions at previous meetings, the wall and property on the site is now owned by Arch.

#### **C222/15 – 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

There were no disclosures of interest for this meeting.

#### **C/223 - 5. CHAIRS UPDATE**

The Chair provided updates on the matters detailed in Appendix D – Chairs Update

#### **C/224 - 6. COMMITTEE / WORKING GROUPS**

- a. Finance and Governance – no update as no further meeting had taken place.
- b. Events and Communication working group – no update as no further meeting had taken place.
- c. Services Committee – Councillor Taylor provided a verbal update and distributed a draft copy of the minutes from the Committee meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

**Resolved to accept all committee / working group reports**

#### **C225/15 - 7. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION**

- a. **Resolved to renew the Councils advertisement in St Cuthberts Church magazine at a cost of £25.**
- b. **Resolved that DBS registrations should be renewed / reviewed at the commencement of each new Council administration.**
- c. **Resolved not to make a donation to TaxAid.**
- d. **Resolved to accept and approve the designs and potential costings for Bedlington Gateway features.**
- e. **Resolved to provide a website link to Northumberland CVA and Northumberland VCS Assembly providing a reciprocal arrangement to link to the Councils website is in place from their websites.**
- f. **Resolved to procure Website design and a Social Media package from Foxora Ltd.**
- g. **Resolved that the Council will fund a Summer Street Fair event for 2016.**
- l. **Resolved that the Council will support a Big Event in 2016.**

#### **C226/15 – 8. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Council were informed of the following correspondence:

237/15	CAN	Tesco Local Community Grants	Noted and Cicolated.
238/15	Historic Towns Forum	November 2015 Newsletter	Noted and Cicolated.
239/15	NCC	Road Closure A193	Noted and Circulated
240/15	NALC	NCC Budget 2016 - 17	Noted and Circulated
241/15	Carers Northumberland	Newsletter	Noted and Circulated
242/15	County Councillor Tyler	Clean for The Queen	Noted and Circulated
243/15	Healthwatch Northumberland	Come On Down Festival 2015	Noted and Circulated
244/15	Northumberland Wildlife Trust	Santa is coming to Northumberlandia	Noted and Circulated
245/15	Northumberland CVA	VCS E Bulletin Issue 39	Noted and Circulated
246/15	NCC	Bogus Caller Incident	Noted and Circulated
247/15	County Councillor Wallace	Latest Info from Arch	Noted and Circulated
248/15	Mr Darren Smith	Request for Road crossing on B1331	Noted Replied and Circulated

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249/15	NCC Pension Fund	Annual Report and Accounts 2014/15	Noted and available for inspection from Office
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West Bedlington Town Council has been requested to give their opinion on the following consultations:

Owner	Description	Where and When
	No Consultations	

The following invitations have been received:

Date	From	Description	Comments
17 Nov 2015	Christopher Harland	WW1 Local History Fair	To All Members
9 Dec 2015	Geoff Paul - NCC	Devolution Agreement Briefings	Confirm attendance via email
6 Dec 2015	Salvation Army	Carols in the Market Place	To All Members

**Resolved that all correspondence, consultations and invitations have been properly received and actioned.**

## **C227/15 - 9. COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVES ON EXTERNAL COMMITTEES**

### **a) Feedback from Councillor Representatives on external committees**

- Town / Parish Liaison Committee (Councillor Robinson) – No Meeting - Nothing to report.
- NALC – (Councillor Dalton) – Written report circulated
- LMAPS – (Councillor Hedley) – No meeting – Nothing to report.
- Northumberland In Bloom – (Councillor Taylor) – No meeting – Nothing to report
- Red House Farm residents Group – (Councillor Hogg) – No meeting – Nothing to report
- Joint Meetings with East Bedlington Parish Council – No meeting – Nothing to report
- Gallagher Park Steering Group – (Councillor Dalton) – No meeting – Nothing to report
- Dr Pit Stakeholder Meetings – (Councillor Dalton) – Councillor Robinson deputising for Councillor Dalton provided a written report circulated.

**Resolved to accept all reports provided.**

- b) Resolved that Councillor Hogg will be the Councils representative on the Bedlington Steering Group.**
- c) Resolved to accept / support the proposed membership makeup of the Bedlington Steering Group.**

## **C228/15 - 10. CLERKS REPORT**

**Resolved to accept the Clerks written report and verbal update (Appendix A).**

## **C229/15 – 11. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS**

**Resolved to approve the schedule of payments and receipts (Appendix B)**

## **C230/15 - 12. PLANNING**

Ref.	Description	Response Due
15/03794/FUL	Development of 10 no. affordable 2 bed 3 person bungalows, new access road and turning head & 16 parking bays - Land To The Rear Of 19 Hartford Road East Bedlington Northumberland	14 Dec 2015
15/03871/TREECA	Work on trees in conservation area – Wansbeck Court front Street East Bedlington NE22 5BU	16 Dec 2015
15/03782/ADE	Resubmission: Advertisement consent for 1no fascia sign - Land East Of Livery Stables Hartford Road Bedlington Northumberland	17 Dec 2015
15/03918/VARYCO	Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) from application 14/02054/VARYCO (Variation of approved plans from planning approval 07/00408/FUL) - Baedling Manor Front Street West Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5TT	22 Dec 2015
15/03910/FUL	Proposed rear ground floor extension - 12 Ayton Court Hazelmere Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6NS	22 Dec 2015
15/03944/FUL	Construction of two 4 bedroom dwellings - Land South West Of 21 Front Street East Bedlington Northumberland	23 Dec 2015

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The Council had no comment with regard to applications 15/03794/FUL, 15/03871/TREECA, 15/03782/ADE, 15/03918/VARYCO, 15/03910/FUL.

In respect of application 15/03944/FUL the Council supported the views of residents and resolved to issue a comment to affirm its support for resident's objections and its own concerns for the proposed application.

The results of recent planning decisions are shown in appendix C.

**C231/15 – 13. COMMUNITY CHEST / PUPILS FUNDS APPLICATIONS**

Resolved to award Bedlington Town FC £200 in respect of their Community Chest Application

Resolved to award St Bedes RCVA Primary School £1500 in respect of their Pupils Fund Application.

**C232/15 – 14. INTERNAL CONTROLS**

Resolved to approve the following documents:

Risk Assessment and Management 2015/16

Statement of Internal Controls 2015/16

Internal Audit terms of reference 2015/16

**C233/15 - 15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Annual Review of existing risk assessments.

Councillor Hogg – DBS Policy.

Councillor Hogg – CCTV Provision in Bedlington.

Councillor Hogg – Shop fronts on Front Street Bedlington.

**C234/15 – 15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Resolved the next meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday 14 January 2016 at 6.30pm at Bedlington Community Centre

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.06pm.

Signed by the Chair

17<sup>th</sup> January 2015

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## **Appendix A, B and D Form Part of these minutes.**

### **Appendix A – Clerks Report (Agenda Item 10).**

#### **Appendix A - Clerks Report (Agenda Item 10) (Circulated to members).**

A verbal update may be given at the meeting.

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#### **Agenda Item 10 - Clerk Report**

##### **Services**

- I have received one reply from a playground supplier for their suggestions and prices for the refurbishment of Westlea and Meadowdale Play Area. I am still awaiting a response from the other supplier – I will provide members with details once all the information is available.
- Still awaiting a response from NCC legal department in relation to the transfer / non transfer of Westlea and Meadowdale Play Areas together with information relating to any obligations for The Grange Nedderton, though Mike Jefferies has also promised to come back to me with further information.
- Work has started on the installation of the litter bin for the entrance to Meadowdale estate and the 2 seats near Willow Vale on Choppington Lane.
- The painter has completed the painting the railings at Church Lane Bedlington.
- NCC have commenced opening and closing the gates at Meadowdale Play Area.
- I am meeting with NCC with regard to the location of the new litter bins approved by the Services Committee on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

##### **Events**

- Remembrance Day Service was well received.
- Xmas Lights Switch On Event arrangements are all in place
- The larger Christmas tree is in place and additional lights have been purchased to dress it.

##### **General**

- The Bank has now updated the Councils Cheque signatories - signatories are now Councillors Dobbie, Hedley and Hogg.
- Application for a debit card has been approved – we will need to adopt a procedure for debit card payment approvals – to be included in next meeting agenda.
- I am having to search for new quotes for a valuation of the Community Centre – the estate agent who previously supplied a quote is unable to provide a valuation for insurance purposes.
- Office Christmas Opening Hours – The office will be closed Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2015 to Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2015 inclusive. The Office will be open Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2015 and then close Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 to Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2016. Office opening times will be back to normal wef Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

##### **Outstanding Council Resolutions**

- Obtain running costs for Attlee Park Toilets – Services Committee – Mike Jefferies will provide some information. I have made a further request to Mike
- Invitation to Air Cadets – Councillor Hedley
- Design and cost of gateway features – on current agenda.
- Procurement of “Home of West Bedlington Town Council” signs for the Community Centre building. – Clerk to arrange.
- Creation of a Town Plan
- Sponsorship of a Community Defibrillators.
- Bedlington Market – initial meeting with markets manager has taken place awaiting more details from NCC.

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**Appendix B – Schedule of Payments and Receipts (Agenda Item 12) Payment 1<sup>st</sup> November 2015 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015. – All payment GROSS of VAT.**

Payee	Amount	BCC	Bloom	Description
Talk Talk Business	33.00			Telephone & Internet
Malcolm Wilkinson	103.50			Internal Audit
Masonics	(21.00)			Payment - Wreath
Bedlington District Scouts	(21.00)			Payment - Wreath
Creative Crafts	(250.00)			Payment – Craft Stalls
Getmapping PLC	184.80			Annual Subscription
Smart Office Systems Ltd	12.34			Printer Cost
Sleekburn Welding Ltd	144.00			Litter Bin Repairs
P & H Sweet Direct	497.52			Christmas Event Santa Giveaway
Zen Internet Ltd	4.79			Web Hosting
Station Entertainments Ltd	40.00			PA – Remembrance Day
Adele Young	(15.00)			Payment – Christmas Event
J Riley	(21.00)			Payment - Wreath
M Burkinshaw Windmill Farms	(15.00)			Payment – Christmas Event
Northumberland County Council	2,590.00			Payroll Costs
Entertainment Unlimited	2,940.00			Christmas Event
Viking Payments	98.93			Paper and Stationary
Morpeth Welding (JTAL) Ltd	264.00			Bus Shelter Repairs
Northumbria in Bloom	200.00			2016 Entry Fee
Ross Lively	500.00			Sponsorship Award
The Salvation Army	200.00			Community Chest Award
Doxford Youth Project	244.00			Community Chest Award
Keith Dalton	73.50			Approved Expenses
CCTC Ltd	629.40			New Christmas Tree Lights
St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy	(15.00)			Payment – Christmas Event
Masonics	(45.00)			Payment - Santa Giveaways

**Appendix C - Planning decisions notified to WBTC by NCC - Information Only**

Ref.	Description	Decision
15/03483/FUL	Single storey extension to rear of detached two storey dwelling - 16 Nottingham Court Hazelmere Bedlington NE22 6PE	Granted
15/03590/FUL	Proposed side and rear extensions to form kitchen/diner and additional bedroom - 12 Hirst Villas Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5QQ	Granted

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5/03175/FUL	Construction of first floor extension to provide additional bedroom and ensuite shower room, replacement of bay window and construction of fireplace and chimney stack - 9 Yewtree Drive Beaumont Park Bedlington Northumberland NE22 7LT	Granted
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## APPENDIX D – Chairs Update (Agenda Item 5)

### Chairs update Dec 2015

Firstly we have now an application in for planning for the Attlee Park toilet project.

Disappointing reply to the requests I had made for NCC to discharge their responsibilities in a correct and fitting manner with regard to this toilet! Making sure the necessary services are in good condition wouldn't be too much to ask for given our potential commitment!

I have also written to the Area Land Director of Miller Homes after a conversation I had with him up at County Hall concerning our Attlee Park project and their possible help towards delivering it. Well it is Christmas!

Looks like we have some allies within NCC for our conditional involvement in the Bedlington Market fiasco. I use the term advisedly seeing as last week the stallholders refused to pay for their pitches!

Got to mention the Xmas Light Switch on event and thanks go to councillor Graham for helping organise it and a special vote of thanks to Leah Bell for putting on such a professional and polished production. That's what we asked for and that's exactly what was delivered....so thanks Leah. I also have to thank the deputy Mayor for standing in for me on the stage. One thing getting dressed up and looking like a nugget for our younger children, quite another doing it in the full glare of spotlights on a stage!

I have had a meeting with a senior planner and conservation officer at County Hall about our conservation area. Mr Oliver attended as Forum chair and our planning champion and I have asked him to provide an update at the appropriate time in this meeting. I don't want to be accused of any bias in the report.

Mr Oliver's report:

*"This meeting was set up to discuss exactly what documentation Northumberland County Council hold which would help us establish as to what extent formal protection exists which would prevent or control any recently completed or future building work or alterations to properties within the Conservation Area on Bedlington Front Street East.*

*The Conservation Officer quickly pointed out that we did not have an Article 4 Direction of any sort.*

*There was a considerable exchange of views over the raft of evidence the 'community' had dug up relating to Shop Front Guide Lines, Design Guides, Character Appraisals etc, etc, but both Annette and Bart maintained the stance that the with the exception of the demolition of buildings or the removal of trees within a Conservation Area Bedlington's front street had no additional protection.*

*The upshot of the meeting was one of disappointment, as we were still unable to establish anything of substance and they did not seem to think any of the documents we had found were of in force, however we asked them to look at the documents we had listed, (we gave them a list) in the hope that there might be some form of formal protection which would have been set up by Wansbeck District Council and then as a 'Saved Policy' adopted by NCC.*

*As we had an audience with two senior planners we also took the opportunity to ask them to revue, look at, re-access, three locations on the Front Street who in our view and the communities view had carried out work on their respective properties using materials which detracted from the overall appearance of our conservation area, they agreed to do so. "*

Chairman's initials

Christine and I had a meeting with the younger members of our youth council or Youth Voice as they have christened themselves. I just want to say what a fantastic group of kids we have there! They had done a teambuilding course followed by a public speaking course and then the one we went to was about identifying what was available in Bedlington, what they would like to see developed in Bedlington and what they would like to change. By and large some very good suggestions have come out and for all their young ages they have taken this very seriously. All of our younger schools are represented, they have all canvassed opinions and the ones from Whitley did a suggestion box for their school. I think we were both, Christine and myself, really impressed and we need to maintain this momentum and progress these suggestions to the people who ultimately make the decisions. I will certainly be presenting them to the Town Champion! I will also write to each school thanking them for their involvement and support with our Youth Council project.

Given the concerns some of us have about our conservation area, the ambiguous and misleading information we have received and the talk about creating a CAAG, I shot off several emails to people I knew within various organisations including, English Heritage, Heritage Lottery Funding and The North East Civic Trust, all of whom have had an interest in Bedlington at one time for another. Jules from NECT replied straightaway and knowing him personally I invited him up to Bedlington to talk about the conservation area with Brian Oliver (Our Planning Champion), Victoria Thompson (Our 'residents' group chair) and myself. He came and was a mine of really useful information not least because it was his hand that actually wrote a lot of the adopted supplementary planning guidelines for the Bedlington Conservation Area! I am sure Jules will be much better reacquainted with Bedlington in the near future.

Also had a meeting with our residents group or The Bedlington Partnership. This one had David English from NCC strategic planning as the guest speaker. I asked David to come along and give the group a talk about neighbourhood plans because it's his officers who run this within NCC. Especially how one would fit and be useful to a CAAG and how we could use one to steer housing developments. David didn't disappoint and he also gave us valuable info about how our conservation area works. Looks like the next steps are to canvass residents in a straw poll, using the networks and contacts we have built up, and ask if they would support a Neighbourhood Plan and its purpose before formally asking and putting the proposition through probably one of our newsletters. We are formally registering our Neighbourhood boundary anyway even if we don't go down that route. It's just something we have to do if we do progress a Neighbourhood Plan and it has no real bearing on anything if we don't do a plan. It would however give us access to NCC help.

Chairman's initials