



**WEST BEDLINGTON**  
TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 10th March 2016 at 6.30 pm at Bedlington Community Centre, Bedlington.**

**PRESENT:**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Town Clerk S Young  
4 Members of the public.

**PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations for this meeting.

**OPEN SESSION**

There were no questions from the public.

**C0017/16 - 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence. All Councillors were present.

**C018/16 - 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS**

**Resolved that the minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> February 2016 are approved.**

**C019/16 - 3. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the West Bedlington Town meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

**C020/16 – 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

There were no disclosures of interest for this meeting.

**C021/16 - 5. CHAIRS UPDATE**

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

**C022/16 - 6. COMMITTEE / WORKING GROUPS**

- a. Finance and Governance – Councillor Robinson – No meeting to report upon.
- b. Events and Communication working group – Councillor Graham - Nothing further to report.

Chairman's initials

- c. Services Committee – The Committee Chair Councillor Taylor provided a verbal update and distributed a draft copy of the minutes from the Services Committee meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2016.  
Council Graham wanted to register thanks to Councillor Taylor for her time and work in relation to Allotments.

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

### **C023/16 - 7. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION**

- a. **Resolved NOT to make any funding donation to the Children’s Foundation.**  
b. **Resolved to purchase and present rewards to members of the Councils Youth Council (Youth Voice) in recognition of their good work.**  
c. **Resolved NOT to purchase an additional spring grass cut from Northumberland County Council.**  
d. **Resolved that this years “Meeting of the Town” will take place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016 in Bedlington Community Centre. Further resolved that all the suggested invitees together with any further invitees notified to The Clerk by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2016 will be invited to attend the meeting and host a table at the event if so desired.**  
e. Deferred – The Council deferred a decision on the provision and installation of “Welcome to Bedlington” banners along the proposed route of the Northumberland Marathon to examine potential costs of purchase and installation.  
f. **Resolved to make and pay for an enquiry to The Land Registry to ascertain ownership of the land at the rear of The Sun Inn.**  
g. **Resolved not to make any provision for the relocation of planters in Bedlington Market Place whilst the former Tesco site is been redeveloped.**  
h. **Resolved that in relation to the proposed former Tesco site redevelopment the Council would welcome the following types of use, - a youth facility, public conveniences, leisure use, retail use, a community space, a public mall or exhibition area, specific retail units that would encourage businesses on the fringes of the town to relocate into the proposed development, car parking (the Council would like to see retained as much car parking provision as possible).**

### **C024/16 – 8. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Council were informed of the following correspondence:

18/16	Choysez	Letter of thanks	Noted and Circulated.
19/16	The Children’s Foundation	Donation Request	Noted, Circulated and added to agenda
20/16	Bedlington Neighbourhood Watch	Request for inclusion in Residents Newsletter	Noted, Circulated and added to agenda
21/16	Northumberland Healthwatch	Winter Newsletter	Noted and Circulated
22/16	Northumberland County Council	New Community Regeneration Team	Noted and Circulated
23/16	Community Action Northumberland	CAN E:News (extra)	Noted and Circulated
24/16	Northumberland Wildlife Trust	February 2016 Events	Noted and Circulated
25/16	Dr Nick Clague	Copy of letter to Northumberland CC requesting Traffic Calming between West End School and red Lion Roundabout	Noted and Circulated
26/16	NALC	February E News	Noted and Circulated
27/16	Northumberland Healthcare	Stakeholder Update Feb 2016	Noted and Circulated
28/16	Grant Davey NCC Leader	Copy of letter sent to Prime Minister	Noted and Circulated
29/16	Northumberland CC	Northumberland National Park Nesletter	Noted and Circulated
30/16	Community Action Northumberland	David Francis Retirement	Noted and Circulated
31/16	Grant Davey NCC Leader	Government Funding Update	Noted and Circulated

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32/16	Northumberland County Council	Local Plan Core Strategy Update	Noted and Circulated
33/16	Bedlington Community Allotment	Events Programme	Noted and Circulated
34/16	Grant Davey NCC Leader	Active Northumberland – Changes to Organisation Structure	Noted and Circulated
35/16	Community Action Northumberland	CAN E:News Feb 2016	Noted and Circulated
36/16	Bedlington In Bloom	Tiered Planters in Market Place	Noted, Circulated and added to agenda
37/16	Bedlington Forum	Public Exhibition Bedlington Design Competition	Noted and Circulated

West Bedlington Town Council has been requested to give their opinion on the following consultations:

Owner	Description	Where and When
North East Combined Authority	Transport Manifesto – Consultation	Online by 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2016

The following invitations have been received:

Date	From	Description	Comments
3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar 2016	Michael Eldridge	Planning Group Meeting – Battle of The Somme Commemoration	Circulated to all members
15 <sup>th</sup> April 2016	Northumberland Domestic Abuse Service	Official launch of NDAS	Circulated to all members
18 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2016	Hope Church Bedlington	Community Launch	Circulated to all members
3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2016	Leading Link	BBC School Question Time	Circulated to all members
31 <sup>st</sup> March 2016	Leading Link	Tropical Spring Social	Circulated to all members – payment is required for attendance. This is public invitation not a Council invitation

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

#### **C025/16 - 9. COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVES ON EXTERNAL COMMITTEES**

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

- Town / Parish Liaison Committee (Councillor Robinson) – No meeting - Nothing to report
- NALC – (Councillor Dalton) – No meeting - Nothing to report
- LMAPS – (Councillor Hedley) – No meeting - Nothing to report
- Northumberland In Bloom – (Councillor Taylor) – Written report circulated.
- 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) – No meeting – Nothing to report
- Bedlington Steering Group – (Councillor Hogg) – Verbal report provided.

**Resolved to accept all reports provided.**

#### **C026/16 - 10. CLERKS REPORT**

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

#### **C027/16 - 11. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS**

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

Chairman's initials

## C028/16 - 12. PLANNING

Ref.	Description	Response Due
16/00465/FUL	Two storey side extension to provide garage, lounge, bedroom and bathroom; proposed front porch plus new access. Location 40 Millfield North Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5EH	17th March 2016
16/00511/VARYCO	Variation of condition 8 (Removal of Hedges) relating to planning permission 14/04261/VARYCO - Variation of condition 15 from application 13/02080/FUL (Erection of 33 dwellings with associated highways and landscaping infrastructure) (As Amended) Location Land North Of Sleafy Court Bedlington Northumberland	18th March 2016
16/00571/FUL	Side extension over existing garage Location 48 Hassop Way Beaufront Park Bedlington NE22 7LE	21st March 2016
15/01373/PREAPP	Pre application for construction of 7no. dormer bungalows and associated site works Location Land To The Rear Of Front Street East Bedlington Northumberland	22nd March 2016

The Council had no comments in respect of applications 16/00465/FUL and 16/00571/FUL.

**Resolved that in respect of planning application 16/00511/VARYCO the Council should record an objection to the application. The Council opposes the removal of any further hedges at the site and has previously requested the reinstatement of hedges that have already been removed.**

**Resolved that in respect of pre - planning application 15/01373/PREAPP the Council should record a comment to express its concern about the use and proximity of an existing footpath.**

Planning decisions are shown in Appendix C for information only.

## C029/16 - 13. COMMUNITY CHEST / PUPILS FUND APPLICATIONS

There were no Community Chest / Pupils Fund applications for this meeting.

## C030/16 - 14. RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

**Resolved to publish a "recruitment drive" from Bedlington Neighborhood Watch.**

## C031/16 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items of any other business.

## C032/16 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.42pm.

Signed by the Chair

14<sup>th</sup> April 2016

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

Chairman's initials

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

West Bedlington Town Council - Council Meeting Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016

### **Services**

#### Litter Bins

Still awaiting an installation date for the 6 new litter bins (already purchased) for  
2 @ 20acre field, Near Whitely Memorial School, Junction North Ridge / Link Avenue  
Footpath alongside Dr Pit Allotments, and a replacement bin at the main Car Park

The bin near the Peter House Junction on Nedderton Road is to be relocated in Nedderton village also.

2 further litter bins have been ordered for St Cuthbert's Terrace and Hirst Villa's bus stops.

#### Allotments

Ridge Terrace Allotment Association has assigned to a new 99 year lease. They have already removed the unsafe fence and plans are afoot to install a new fence.

Assignment of the new lease for Dr Pit Allotment Association is still under consideration.

#### Bus Shelters

9 New Shelters have already been installed – the shelter at Ridge Terrace is to be turned 180% as it was fitted incorrectly, the shelters at the top of Glebe Road and outside William Allan Homes are to have wider end panels fitted – this work will be undertaken in April – along with installation of up to a further 11 shelters.

#### War Memorial

We have made representation to NCC with regard to the extent of the War Memorial – who is responsible for the surrounding steps / kerbs and fencing etc. – I am waiting on a reply.

#### Street Lighting

The Clerk and Chair have been invited to meet with NCC in relation to the street lighting project.

### **Events**

Nothing to add to that already reported by the Chair of the Communications and Events Working Group

### **Communications**

Nothing to add to that already reported by the Chair of the Communications and Events Working Group

Work has started on the next resident's newsletter.

### **General**

I will now work on Tuesday 22nd March 2016 instead of Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

Advance notice that as a result of my working schedule and the Easter Bank Holidays the office will be closed Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2016 – Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> 2016.

The next internal audit will be to sign off the Annual Return and is scheduled for Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

Chairman's initials

The signs for the entrance to the Community Centre and the office – indicating “The home of West Bedlington Town Council” have been ordered and will be installed shortly. Bedlington Community Centre have made a financial contribution towards the cost.

### Outstanding Council Resolutions

Still to purchase labels for our fixed assets – in hand will be ordered imminently.

Invitation to Air Cadets – Councillor Hedley

Production of a policy that recommends to all Councilor’s that they should hold DBS certification

### Appendix B – Schedule of Payments and Receipts (Agenda Item 12) Payment 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016 – All payment GROSS of VAT.

Payee	Amount	BCC	Bloom	Description
Rickard Chartered Surveyors	264.00			Insurance Property Valuation
Zurich Municipal	1,256.96			2015/16 Insurance
Mick Whitfield Building Services	31.00			Public Seat Repair Nedderton
Zen Internet Ltd	4.79			Website Hosting
Talk Talk Business	33.00			Telephone + Internet
Malcolm Wilkinson	81.00			Internal Audit
Broxap Limited	1,187.64			New Litter Bins
Sleekburn Welding Ltd	54.00			Litter Bin Repair North Ridge
Johnston Publishing Ltd	240.00			Jobs Fair Advert
Northumberland County Council	8,895.55			Service Level Agreements
Northumberland County Council	2,481.42			Payroll Costs
Mark Starford	465.59			Architects’ Fee
Bedlington Town FC	200.00			Community Chest Award
Sleekburn Welding Ltd	36.00			Litter Bin Removal
Bedlington Community Centre	182.10			Jobs Fair Room Hire
Ridge Terrace Allotment Association	3,000.00			Lease Assignment and Repair Costs
Travis Perkins		124.23		Repairs to Floor
Bedlington Community Centre	3,950.00			Office Rent + Room Hire

Chairman’s initials

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

Ref.	Description	Decision
15/03918/VARYCO	Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) from application 14/02054/VARYCO (Variation of approved plans from planning approval 07/00408/FUL) Location Baedling Manor Front Street West Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5TT	Granted
16/00032/PRUTPO	Works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order: 6m Pollard 1no. large oak tree Location Land North West Of The Haven Florin Court Hartford Hall Estate Bedlington Northumberland	Withdrawn

### APPENDIX D – Chairs Update (Agenda Item 5)

#### Chairman's update March 2016:

Started having preliminary meetings with event organisers about our Summer Fair. A proposal is being worked on which will go to the Events Group for their recommendation.

One point to make is that if we cannot secure the Gap Site for the Fairground attractions as we did last year then the whole footprint of the Fair will have to change, and probably not for the better.

Bit more info on that now.....the gap site will not be available in August because it will all be boarded up. That now needs to be factored into any street fair proposal.

We also discussed the possibility of another large scale event for the Town which should be cost neutral to council, probably sometime in September. This one might be over a full weekend!

Also had a meeting with the resident who has undertaken to try and organise the replacement to the Big Event. Both myself and Steven are being as supportive as we possibly can and hopefully we might see a community based event taking place down in Attlee Park again this year. It is a huge mountain to climb for a single person to undertake and the lack of support she is getting off other people who could be helping is a matter of concern.

Had an initial meeting with NCC about the Dr Pit Park. It doesn't take a brain surgeon to work out what NCC want off us here but I suggested if they introduced new 'attractions' into the Park this council might be more willing to consider some kind of financial support. As it stands we have discussed this several times and come to the unalienable conclusion that it's a NCC park and as such is the responsibility of NCC to maintain. Unless we see something new then they are just asking the same question.

There will be a renewed push to get a 'Friends of' group for this park started, although I'm a little perplexed as to their role when I asked that question! NCC will publish a questionnaire about the park and its potential use in our next newsletter to inform people what's going on.

As I had the right people sitting around the table I also asked the question about the Grange Play area. The consensus is that we take the equipment and fence away and return it to grass which NCC will then cut. Green spaces officer is checking out the legalities for this course of action.

Chairman's initials

Also had another meeting with NCC Locality, this was a follow up to the last one where several questions had been raised but remained unanswered! We revisited the topics which had already been discussed Street Lighting, Christmas Lighting, Planning, CCTV options, Footpath on Schalksmuhle Road, Bedlington Market to name a few. I had asked Iain to report back to us even if he was getting a no! He assumed we were in discussions with several other NCC officers who were responsible for the queries we had raised. We told him we had no contact with anyone since our last meeting, a reply which stunned him! He told us about all the contacts he had made with his fellow NCC officers about our concerns and assumed they were speaking directly to us. I suggested he keeps us in the loop completely now so we can see exactly where the blockages are and if needs be we will go directly to the top of the tree or we will ask the questions in the most public way we can!

Following on from that we now have some updates.....

Neighbourhood Services has replied about the possibility of using the NCC stalls for any community event.....I asked for a price for NCC to erect banners on lampposts and Mark Cane is getting back about that one..... We have a meeting next week with Mr Barlow about his street lighting programme.....we know who to see about using the top car park for our street Fairground attractions but they have almost flatly refused to allow its use for a market.....we have a meeting with Amanda's replacement Ray Weallans not just to introduce ourselves to this new NCC service manager but I have also had more complaints about the state of the streets these days especially Front Street and I am wondering if there is any correlation between us getting a much reduced street cleaning service and the level of litter and mess we see, don't think we need a degree in applied mathematics to work that one out.....and we have also asked about the War Memorial to see who is responsible for the various bits which make up the whole because we need to be aware of our potential liability with regard to remedial works which need to be done.

I have also had tentative discussions with a sports hall developer and they are coming back with some design possibilities and usage options. And a team of architects have offered their initial services pro bono because one of the partners lives in Bedlington!"

Roll on "Sporting Club Bedlington".

As David wasn't there.....our new website is on track and on time and the developer is looking to put real copy up next week. 21 days and counting down. We went through it last night with him and its looking good.

Chairman's initials