



**WEST BEDLINGTON**  
TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 11th February 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    J Tyler    S Tyler

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Town Clerk S Young  
11 Members of the public.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Mr David Longhorne made a presentation in support of a Community Chest application from Bedlington Town FC.

**OPEN SESSION**

- A resident wanted to provide clarification in relation to the land option entered into by the Council for the possible development of a sport complex. The resident stated that the land option has been gifted to the Council by the land owner because the land owner wished to make a lasting contribution to Bedlington and not for any personal gain.  
The Chair responded that it was indeed a very generous offer for Bedlington.
- A resident reported that more commercial banners had been placed upon the railings around the Red Lion roundabout.  
The Chair requested the Clerk to report the issue to Northumberland County Council as a matter of urgency.
- A resident asked if the Council could write to the owner of the land at the rear of The Fire Place Shop in Bedlington to request that the area be tidied up as the resident reported it was an eyesore.  
The Chair replied that the Council would write as requested.

The meeting commenced at 6.47pm.

**C001/16 - 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Taylor.

**Resolved to accept the apologies received.**

**C002/16 - 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS**

**Resolved that the minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016 are approved.**

Chairman's initials

### **C003/16 - 3. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the West Bedlington Town meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

### **C004/16 – 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

There were no disclosures of interest for this meeting.

### **C005/16 - 5. CHAIRS UPDATE**

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

### **C006/16 - 6. COMMITTEE / WORKING GROUPS**

- a. Finance and Governance – Councillor Robinson – No meeting to report upon.
- b. Events and Communication working group – Councillor Graham provided a verbal update in relation to the ongoing provision of a new website and confirmed that the Council had made some initial contact with event providers for future summer events in the town.
- c. Services Committee – In the absence of the Services Committee Chair – The Committee vice Chair Councillor Hogg provided a verbal update and distributed a draft copy of the minutes from the Services Committee meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

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

### **C007/16 - 7. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION**

- a. **Resolved to continue with existing external audit arrangements and not opt out of external audit provisions provided by Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd (SLAAA).**
- b. **Resolved to formally adopt a new Council logo and use it on all correspondence, reports and advertising.**
- c. **Resolved to distribute future meeting agendas and associated papers by email only to those members that opted to use electronic communication. Councillors Dobie, J Tyler and S Tyler will continue to receive paper copies in advance of meetings.**
- d. 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 two proposals.
- e. **Resolved that the Council can invite other parties with appropriate skills and expertise to form a consortia to help in progressing the sports complex land option.**
- f. **Resolved that the Council will assist and develop a partnership with Northumberland County Council to provide enhancements at Dr Pit Park.**
- g. Deferred – The Council deferred a decision to finalise the list of invitees to present at the annual meeting of the Town.
- h. **Resolved to offer to enter into a further Service Level Agreement with Bedlington in Bloom on the basis of no changes to cost or terms as to the current year’s agreement.**
- i. **Resolved to assist with the funding request but only by way of buying in services provided by Northumberland CVA.**
- j. **Resolved to provide funding for the purchase and installation of a community defibrillator.**

Chairman’s initials

## C008/15 – 8. CORRESPONDENCE

The Council were informed of the following correspondence:

1/16	Northumbria Healthcare	Stakeholder Update – Jan 2016	Noted and Circulated.
2/16	Northumberland County Council	South East Area Committee Meeting Notice and Agenda for 13 Jan 2016	Noted and Circulated
3/16	Bedlington Community Allotment	Grow to Know Gardening Course	Noted and Circulated
4/16	CAN	E:News	Noted and Circulated
5/16	Northumberland County Council	Copy of letter of complaint re fly tipping around old Tesco site.	Noted and Circulated
6/16	Bedlington Community Allotment	Fundraising Events Spring 2016	Noted and Circulated
7/16	Bedlington Forum	Bedlington Steering Group meeting Minutes	Noted and Circulated
8/16	Credit Union South East Northumberland	Payroll deduction Scheme	Noted and Circulated
9/16	NALC	Reminder for County Committee 23 Jan 2016	Noted and Circulated
10/16	Leading Link	Note of thanks – Children’s University	Noted and Circulated
11/16	Morpeth & Bedlington Community Allotments	Events bulletin	Noted and Circulated
12/16	Channel 5	Request for TV show applicants	Noted and Circulated
13/16	Northumberland County Council	Notice re joint NCC / Parish Council on 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2016	Noted and Circulated
14/16	Northumberland County Council	LED Street Lighting Project	Noted and Circulated
15/16	NALC	Royal Garden Party nominations	Noted and Circulated
16/16	NALC	Draft Minutes of meeting 23 Jan 2016	Noted and Circulated
17/16	Northumberland CVA	Funding Request	Noted Circulated and added to Agenda

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

Owner	Description	Where and When
Northumberland County Council	Proposed Parking Restrictions – Front Street West (side road)	Online by 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2016

The following invitations have been received:

Date	From	Description	Comments
18 Mar 2016	Northumberland County Council	Annual Employer Meeting of County Council Pension Fund	Advise in advance if attending (through the Clerk)
	Evelyne Knight	Open invitation to Council to discuss planning application 15/03944/ful	

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

## C009/16 - 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) – Written report circulated
- LMAPS – (Councillor Hedley) – Nothing to report
- Northumberland In Bloom – (Councillor Taylor) – Written report circulated.
- Red House Farm residents Group – (Councillor Hogg) – Written report circulated.
- Joint Meetings with East Bedlington Parish Council – No meeting – Nothing to report
- Gallagher Park Steering Group – (Councillor Dalton) – Written report circulated
- Dr Pit Stakeholder Meetings – (Councillor Dalton) – No meeting – Nothing to report
- Bedlington Steering Group – (Councillor Hogg) – No meeting – Nothing to report

**Resolved to accept all reports provided.**

Chairman’s initials

**C010/16 - 10. CLERKS REPORT**

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

**C011/16 - 11. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS**

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

**C012/16 - 12. PLANNING**

Ref.	Description	Response Due
16/00166/ADE	Advertisement consent for 2 no. fascia signs, 3 no. wall mounted hoarding, 2 no. double sided free standing billboard (hoarding), 1 no. illuminated poster display and 1 no. estate pylon sign - Bedlington Day Centre Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5UQ	12th February 2016
16/00216/FUL	Demolition of existing two storey house and construction of new two storey dwelling and detached double garage with waste/recycling storage area - Four Acres Hartford Road Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6AQ	18th February 2016
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	22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2016
LJ/009247	Tree Preservation Order 2016 (no. 02 of 2016)	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2016

The Council had no comments in respect of these applications.

Planning decisions are shown in Appendix C for information only.

**C013/16 - 13. COMMUNITY CHEST / PUPILS FUNS APPLICATIONS**

Resolved to award Bedlington Town FC £200 in respect of their funding request. Funding to be paid from the Councils Youth Leisure budget.

**C014/16 - 14. RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER**

Councillors were reminded to submit any news item for inclusion in the next edition of the Councils residents' newsletter as soon as possible.

**C015/16 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Councillor Hogg – Tesco site

**C016/16 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Resolved the next meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday 10th March 2016 at 6.30pm at Bedlington Community Centre

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.41pm.

Signed by the Chair

10<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Chairman's initials

## **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).**

West Bedlington Town Council - Council Meeting Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2016

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

##### **Services**

Litter Bins - 6 Litter Bins have been ordered (due for delivery 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016 ) for 2 @ 20acre field, North Ridge / Link Avenue, Whitely Memorial / Eden Court, Footpath between Choppington Lane – Hasop Way alongside allotments.

Further litter bin will be provided at St Cuthberts Terrace to replace 3 existing post mounted bins and at Nedderton Village to replace the existing bin.

The litter bin on Front Street East has been repaired at a cost of £325.20

Bus Shelters – first initial order of bus shelters has been submitted to the bus shelter supplier. A second order will be sent at the beginning of April 2016.

The Swings at Meadowdale play area require attention to the swing shackles and bushes – the clerk has arranged a service / repair.

##### **Events**

Tentative first meetings are planned for the provision of a Summer Street Fair and a Community event.

##### **Communications**

Design of the website is on target and regular update meetings have been attended by the events and communications working group.

##### **General**

The Clerk is on holiday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2016 and 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016.

The internal auditor visited the office last week and reported all is well with the council's records and financial management.

Planning applications are been prepared for the installation of the 4 Gateway features.

Chairman's initials

**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
Talk Talk Business	33.08			Telephone and Internet
Zen Internet Ltd	4.79			Website Hosting
Smart Office Systems Ltd	7.20			Printer Charges
Smart Office Systems Ltd	7.20			Printer Charges
Foxora Ltd	1,500.00			Website Design
Northumberland County Council	2,481.42			Payroll Costs
Leading link	800.00			Funding for Children's University
Viking Payments	36.37			Stationary
HMRC	(2,332.24)			Vat Refund
Sleekburn Welding Ltd - Lloyds Com Finance Ltd	325.20			Litter Bin Repair
Northumberland County Council	5,305.12			Initial Payment Christmas Lights Service

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

Ref.	Description	Decision
15/03266/FUL	Proposed demolition of the existing adult day care centre (Class D1) and erection of a Lidl foodstore (Class A1) with associated works - Northumberland County Council Bedlington Day Centre Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5UQ	Granted
15/04171/ADE	Advertisement Consent for one externally illuminated post mounted sign - The Ridge Farm Hotel Nethererton Lane Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6DZ	Granted
15/03910/FUL	Proposed rear ground floor extension - 12 Ayton Court Hazelmere Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6NS	Granted
15/03782/ADE	Resubmission: (RETROSPECTIVE) Advertisement consent for 1no fascia sign - Land East Of Livery Stables Hartford Road Bedlington Northumberland	Granted
15/03965/FUL	Construction of a single storey rear extension and the installation of 4no. New roof lights to the existing dwelling and the replacement of 1no. roof light - Winnow Lodge Farmstead Court Hartford Hall Estate Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6AG	Granted
15/01174/OUT	Outline application with all matters reserved for up to ten dwellings - Land North Of Quarry House Nedderton Village Northumberland	Granted
15/03727/PRUTPO	Works to trees protected by a TPO: Removal of 3no. limbs to 1no. oak. - Land North West Of The Haven Florin Court Hartford Hall Estate Bedlington Northumberland	Granted
15/04079/FUL	Refurbishment of existing public toilets including installation of new pitched roof, and creation of new accessible toilet - Public Conveniences Attlee Park Bedlington Bank Bedlington Northumberland	Granted
15/04043/COU	Change of use for part of car sales area to petrol station sales area - The Lion Garage 15 Front Street West Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5TZ	Granted

Chairman's initials

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

### Chairman's update Feb 2016:

After all the hustle and bustle of last month this month has been a little bit quieter although I would like to mention a couple of things:

First there might be some confusion about member's roles when they are delegated to outside bodies. There shouldn't be its pretty simple really. Members are delegated as representatives of this full council and as such can only recite agreed policy and/or bring back information so we can make better and more informed decisions which in turn can be adopted into policy. That's the job of a delegate, they are not there as ward councillors and neither should they be spouting personal opinions. Of course there is some latitude, the extent of which is up to members. If any member is in any doubt about the role for whatever reason please have a chat with the clerk.

Secondly, the Annual meeting of the Town. I did mention this last month and I just want to get everyone on-board with what we are proposing. I believe one of its main functions should be as an annual networking event for every group and community organisation in the town. We all should find out who they are and what they are doing so we understand how our community ticks. We will be putting together as comprehensive a list of invitees as possible, please make sure if you know any of these groups their names are on. That goes for the public as well!

I met with Dean Jackson and outlined some area we had discussed which might be problematic. I have to say we agreed on most if not all and suffice it to say our delegate is invited to anything firstly now, everyone else afterwards!

Right back to business and I have just had our quarterly meeting with NCC.

Matters discussed included.....

- Street Lighting Modernisation, including litter bins, dog fouling notices, etc.
- Christmas Lighting Contract
- Planning
- CCTV options
- Footpath on Schalksmuhle Road
- Availability of the Gap site for event
- Bedlington Market

I would hazard a guess that a lot of what I brought to the meeting was about the way we seem to be almost ignored by NCC even when we have a legal contract in place with them for service delivery! We are waiting on replies to specific questions on all of the above items.

Chairman's initials

I hope members can see that all of those items are things which we have discussed in council and either have opinions on the way we want to see them progressed or we have concerns about.

Next item our jobs fair next week. Please start promoting it to your own circles. There will be about 20 employers or trainers there and the times are 10am-12.30 and 1.00pm-3.00pm. The whole point of this is to promote our resident's interests and offer any seeking work or looking for a career change something to help.

Residents group met last night and I asked their opinion on our new budget. Like every other resident I have asked they agreed as long as they see improvements in the Town they are happy to pay a few extra bob. They are looking to put a piece in our next newsletter canvassing people's opinions about a neighbourhood plan.

Finally, we had our Youth Council members come to address full council on the results of the questions they asked in their respective schools. Once again a fantastic presentation which gives them so much credibility because of their hard work and resourcefulness. We now have a list based on popularity of what young people would like to see developed in the Town.

As well as the younger ones the older members gave a presentation and I know how much Dean Jackson valued their input too.

So these young people came along, gave up their free time, put in so much hard work only for myself and two other councillors to bother to turn up! I find that shocking and I was ashamed of this council for not backing up our youth element after asking them to participate. I think you let yourselves down and our young people down!

That's about it for this month.

Chairman's initials