



**WEST BEDLINGTON**  
TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 14th April 2016 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  
4 Members of the public.

**PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations for this meeting.

**OPEN SESSION**

- A resident asked what further action the Council could take in relation to the untidy land at the rear of The Market Tavern Bedlington. The Chair advised that the Council would contact the planning authority to see if an enforcement notice could be issued to the owner of the land.
- A resident commented that new lampposts were still been positioned in incorrect locations as part of the County Councils Street Lighting Renewal Project. Councillor Taylor advised that she was aware of the issue and had already taken some photographs of wrongly sited lampposts that she intended to take up with the County Council.
- A resident kindly provided a brief outline of her plans for a Community Lead and supported event in Bedlington. The Chair thanked the resident for her work, time and commitment to date and confirmed that the Council would approach the County Council in relation to the provision of market stalls for the event.

**C0033/16 - 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Graham, Tyler J and Tyler S.  
**Resolved that all apologies are accepted.**

**C034/16 - 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS**

Councillor Hogg informed the meeting of a correction in relation to C025/16 Item9 Bedlington Steering Group – a verbal reported was provided not a written report.  
**Resolved that the minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016 are approved subject to the revision noted above.**

Chairman's initials

### **C035/16 - 3. MATTERS ARISING**

Councillor Hogg asked in relation to Minute CC023/16 Item 9f if any progress had been made with the enquiry to the land registry.

The Clerk apologised and stated that he had not made an enquiry to date and confirmed that one would be made as soon as practicable.

### **C036/16 – 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

There were no disclosures of interest for this meeting.

### **C037/16 - 5. CHAIRS UPDATE**

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

### **C038/16 - 6. COMMITTEE / WORKING GROUPS**

- a. Finance and Governance – Councillor Robinson – Councillor Robinson provided a verbal update and advised that recommendations in relation to ring-fencing reserves for specific projects and a draft DBS Policy were matters for discussion and decision within the current meeting agenda.
- b. Events and Communication working group – Councillor Robinson – In the absence of the working group chair Councillor Robinson provided a verbal update advising that plans were still under consideration for the Bedlington Picnic and Street Fair. He further confirmed that the Councils newly revised website was now live and that the resident’s newsletter had been sent to press for printing.
- 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

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

### **C039/16 - 7. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION**

- a. **Resolved that the Council will convene a special meeting to determine the complaints received from Dr Pit Allotment Association. Councillors Dalton, Hedley and Robinson will determine the complaint. A date is to be arranged to hear the complaints and make determinations.**
- b. **Resolved to accept the recommendations of the Finance and Governance Working Group in relation to the ring-fencing of reserves for the following specific project – Gateway features, Welcome to Bedlington Banners, Community Defibrillators, Dr Pit Park Enhancement Project and lamppost painting.**
- c. **Resolved to adopt the draft DBS Policy previously circulated.**
- d. **Noted that the Clerk was to coordinate invitations to the Annual Meeting of The Town without delay.**

### **C040/16 – 8. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Council were informed of the following correspondence:

Ref	From	Summary	Action
38/16	Bedlington Forum	Reminder – Forum Meeting of 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2016	Noted and Circulated
39/16	Northumberland County Council	Funding eBulletin	Noted and Circulated
40/16	NALC	E:NEWS March 2016	Noted and Circulated
41/16	Bedlington Forum	Social Media Impersonation	Noted and Circulated
42/16	Northumberland County Council	Area Committee South Agenda 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2016	Noted and Circulated

Chairman’s initials

43/16	Bedlington Forum	Tesco Site Update	Noted and Circulated
44/16	Bedlington Forum	Meeting agenda 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2016	Noted and Circulated
45/16	Barnesbury CC	BMX Summer Events	Noted and Circulated
46/16	Barnesbury CC	Muddy Mondays Events	Noted and Circulated
47/16	Leading Link	Funding Request for Shuttle Bus at Plessey Woods Art Trail on 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2016	Replied – insufficient time to consider the request ahead of the event.
48/16	Active Northumberland	Dr Pit Park Survey	Noted, Circulated and to be added to website and residents newsletter
49/16	Bedlington Community Allotment	Spring Events	Noted and Circulated
50/16	NALC	David Francis Farewell	Noted and Circulated
51/16	NALC	Garden Communities	Noted and Circulated
52/16	Northumberland CVA	Ebulletin Issue 46	Noted and Circulated
53/16	County Councillor Tyler	Gallagher Park Signs	Noted and Circulated
54/16	Northumberland County Council	Press Release – Changes to Fire and Rescue Service	Noted and Circulated
55/16	Northern Gas Networks	North Tyne Depot Open Day	Noted and Circulated
56/16	Northumberland County Council	Trans Visibility Day 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Noted and Circulated
57/16	Northumbria Police	Doorstep Fraud	Noted and Circulated
58/16	Stuksound Event Management	Northumberland Live PR Link	Noted and Circulated
59/16	Northumberland CVA	Ebulletin Issue 47	Noted and Circulated
60/16	County Councillor Tyler	Damage to Cycle Track	Noted and Circulated
61/16	Northumberland Wildlife Trust	April Events & Photograph Competition	Noted and Circulated
62/16	NALC	Star Council Awards 2016	Noted and Circulated

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

Owner	Description	Where and When
West End School Bedlington	Change of Age Range to Incorporate Nursery Provision	To the school by 12 noon 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2015

The following invitations have been received:

Date	From	Description	Comments
Various	NCC Planning	Training Workshops	Clerk to coordinate responses
13 <sup>th</sup> April 2016	Bedlington Community Allotment	Taster Day	

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

#### **C041/16 - 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 now Community Safety Hub– (Councillor Hedley) – Written report circulated.
- 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) – Written report circulated
- Bedlington Steering Group – (Councillor Hogg) – Written report circulated

**Resolved to accept all reports provided.**

Chairman's initials

**C042/16 - 10. CLERKS REPORT**

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

**C043/16 - 11. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS**

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

**12. ANNUAL RETURN OF ACCOUNTS 2015 -16**

Resolved to approve The Annual Governance Statement (Section 1 Annual Return of Accounts).

**C044/16 - 13. PLANNING**

Ref.	Description	Response Due
16/00120/PREAPP	Pre application for residential development of approximately 127no. dwellings Location - Land East And South East Of Blue House Farm Netherton Road Bedlington Northumberland	20 <sup>th</sup> April 2016
16/00960/FUL	Proposed erection of artwork Location Attlee Park Bedlington Bank Bedlington Northumberland	27th April 2016
16/00962/FUL	Erection of Artwork Location Land North Of 33 Netherton Lane Bedlington Northumberland	26th April 2016
16/00963/FUL	Erection of artwork Location Choppington Road Bedlington Northumberland	26th April 2016
16/00961/FUL	Proposed erection of artwork Location Land At Hartford Road Bedlington Northumberland	27th April 2016
16/00565/FUL	Construction of single detached dwelling on grass paddock Location Humford Mill Country Park Church Lane Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5RT	28th April 2016
16/00566/FUL	Construction of single detached dwelling on land west of existing house Location Land West Of Humford Mill Church Lane Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5RT	28th April 2016

Resolved that in respect of planning application 16/00565 and 16/00566 the Council should record a comment in relation to the need for improvements to the access road.

Resolved that in respect of pre - planning application 16/00120/PREAPP the Council should register its interest in the Pre Application and any resulting S106 funds.

Planning decisions are shown in Appendix C for information only.

**C045/16 - 14. COMMUNITY CHEST / PUPILS FUND APPLICATIONS**

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

**C046/16 - 15. RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER**

Noted that the newsletter has now been sent to the printer for design and printing.

**C047/16 – 16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Councillor Hedley provided further information about the planned commemoration of the battle of the Somme.

Councillor Robinson outlined the designs for Welcome to Bedlington banners (funding and adoption previously approved).

Resolved to accept the proposed design for the banners.

**C048/16 – 17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Resolved the next meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday 12th May 2016 at 6.30pm at Bedlington Community Centre

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.49pm.

Chairman's initials

Signed by the Chair

12<sup>th</sup> May 2016

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

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

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

**Agenda Item 10 - Clerk Report**

**Services**

Litter Bins

Still awaiting an installation date for the 6 new litter bins (already purchased) for

2 @ 20 Acres 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 – I have contacted Straughans again to have the work completed.

Allotments

I was introduced to an officer from the National Association of Allotments who is wanting to assist with the Dr Pit Allotment negotiations.

Bus Shelters

9 New Shelters have already been installed – 8 further new shelters have been ordered. Some of these are scheduled to be installed next week.

War Memorial

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

**Communications**

The new website is up and running – there are some minor teething problems but these can be resolved fairly easily

The draft of the next edition of the resident's newsletter is with the printer.

**General**

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

Chairman's initials

I am on holiday new week – the office will close at 5.30pm Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April and reopen on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

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

Payee	Amount	BCC	Bloom	Description
Talk Talk Business	34.62			Telephone and Internet
Information Commissioner	35.00			Annual Registration Fee
Northumberland County Council	192.00			Street Cleansing
Azure Garden Centre	907.20		907.20	Hanging Baskets
B&C Solutions	3,690.00			Bus Shelter
B&C Solutions	3,690.00			Bus Shelter
B&C Solutions	3,690.00			Bus Shelter
B&C Solutions	3,690.00			Bus Shelter
B&C Solutions	4,050.00			Bus Shelter
B&C Solutions	4,050.00			Bus Shelter
B&C Solutions	4,050.00			Bus Shelter
B&C Solutions	4,050.00			Bus Shelter
Zen Internet Ltd	4.79			Internet Hosting
Northumberland County Council	(438.48)			Refund
Northumberland County Council	2,373.08			Additional October Grass Cut
Viking Payments	276.30			Stationary and Postage Stamps
Azure Garden Centre	869.88		869.88	Gardening Equipment
Northumberland County Council	5,305.13			Xmas Lights
Northumberland County Council	2,481.42			Payroll Costs
Bedlington Community Centre	2,020.00	2020.00		3 <sup>rd</sup> party Funding Contribution
Radecal Signs & Graphics	834.00	550.00	284.00	BCC Welcome Signs
W L Straughan & Son Ltd	1,056.00			Litter Bins
Mark Starford	446.76			Architect Fees
Northumberland County Council	390.00			Planning Application Fees
Discount Banner Printing	127.26			Asset Labels
B&C Solutions	2,700.00			Bus Shelter

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

Ref.	Description	Decision
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 Location Four Acres Hartford Road Bedlington Northumberland	Granted
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 Location Bedlington Day Centre Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5UQ	Granted
15/03944/FUL	Construction of two 4 bedroom dwellings. Location – Land South West Of 21 Front Street East Bedlington	Granted

Chairman's initials

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

Chairman's update March 2016.

Very short this time, as most has been done through working groups and sub committees and will be reported by them.

I did meet with Anne Lyle CEO of NCVA which was formally WCVS. This after we decided to look into what 'paid for' services they could provide into the Bedlington community and voluntary sector. Obviously the services we are interested in would be the additional services NCVA have to offer so we enhance the offer to our community sector. Several were mentioned but the ones which seem to offer best value for our community organisations are funding advice, support with Parish Planning and training on good governance for community groups. Now if we got several groups who need these specific supports then paying for a session or two might produce even bigger results.

With that in mind I suggested Anne might like to come to the Annual Meeting of the Town, do a short presentation and have a table displaying what NCVA do and what they can do for our local groups. This was agreed so we really need as many local groups as possible turning up for the Town Meeting.

I have also asked Northumberland Youth Service, one of the lead officers for the Dr Pit Park project, Lyn at Leading Link, Make a Noise for Bedlington and Bedlington Town FC if they want to come and display their wares on the night and all have agreed. If any other members invite groups they know about and please do, liaise with Steven so we know how many to expect.

Next meeting was with Gavin Barlow the NCC officer who is in charge of the street lighting project. Councillor Hogg as deputy chair of services attended too. Unsurprisingly all of our concerns were met with quite reasonable answers but Gavin did take several away to check out and get back to us. We had a varied discussion and talked about things like the quality of the light from the new light heads to painting the new posts on Front Street, why have the holes been left for ages and even commissioning new units. We also discussed our Xmas lighting options but in essence this is another officer's remit.

It will be interesting to see what Gavin comes back with as he took away all of our itemised and identified concerns to address. Once again I asked him to keep us in the loop even if the answers were no! As yet and after some prompting, still no answers!

Given that, we have also now initiated enquiries through another route!

We have formally requested a meeting with Ray Wellons the officer who has taken over our patch for Neighbourhood Services. As yet nothing booked but one thing which I will be mentioning is the new street cleansing programme, which to my mind is falling way short of what we expect for our money and the SLA we have with NCC!

Chairman's initials

Myself and Christine were asked by the young people organising the Tropical Spring afternoon for elderly residents of Jonny Johnson Housing to come along. Great afternoon and nice to see young people doing something for our seniors. A well-deserved pat on the back to each of the young people involved.

On a more serious note, I was interviewed as part of an investigation into the use or misuse of social media in this area. I think the results could well be pretty interesting!

There have also been several meetings of the Residents group or the Bedlington Partnership. Victoria Thompson chairs this group. They are leading on the initial steps in the production of a Neighbourhood Plan and have submitted an article for our newsletter outlining the position and asking for comments. At the meeting held last night another community member said she didn't mind paying a bit more for community upgrades and she was very pleased to be seeing some happening now, especially as she uses bus shelters!

It's also Vicky who is putting together this event in Attlee Park in July called the Bedlington Picnic. If members recall we said we would back a community initiative which puts on an event in Attlee Park. I hope we get a full breakdown at the Town Meeting next month.

Leading Link have agreed to help out with the Northumberland Live event in Gallagher Park and have lent them the "Big Event" title too. Seems it has been difficult to get the news of this event out and bring in working partners. We have a meeting tomorrow with the organisers.

Planning training.....and myself and Councillor Dalton as well as Steven turned up for this training on Tuesday night. Quite informative but once again the real benefits were the contacts made through basic networking and being able to put a face to a soulless email. One or two interesting issues were brought up and members will get the handouts available for the session.

I did make reference to the less than salubrious response we have had with reference to our registering an interest in pre planning matters in our patch. We were asked to provide details as this is in fact the NCC procedure and if it hasn't worked for us..... Steven has since submitted chapter and verse so hopefully we will get some form of resolution because we tried to play the game by NCC rules!

One last bit to mention is that we have just carried out Steven's interim competency assessment with the final one due in July.

Chairman's initials