



**WEST BEDLINGTON
TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 14th July 2016 at 6.30 pm at Bedlington Community Centre, Bedlington.

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

COUNCILLORS NOT PRESENT: J Tyler.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Town Clerk S Young and 16 Members of the public.

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations for this meeting.

OPEN SESSION

- A resident asked about the condition of the footpath outside of the Sun Inn following the recent ground works in the area.
The Chair advised that he would bring the matter to the attention of Northumberland County Councils Highways Department at his next meeting with them scheduled for 18th July 2016.
- A resident representing a number of residents outlined their joint concerns about planning application 16/02175/FUL - Change of use of main house and agricultural building to C2 use - (residential institution children's home for children and young people with emotional and behavioral difficulties). Location Meadow View Farm Choppington Road Choppington NE62 5TJ.
The Council provided details of contacts within Northumberland County Councils planning department who may be able to help with some of the concerns.
- A resident thanked the Council for its support of the Bedlington Picnic Community Event.
The Council returned their thanks and appreciation of a very successful event.

C0090/16 - 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Councillor J Tyler.

Resolved to accept the apologies for absence received.

C091/16 - 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS

Resolved that the minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council meeting of 9th June 2016 are approved.

C092/16 - 3. MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Hedley commented how well the commemoration of the battle of the Somme Parade and Service had been the previous weekend and that it had received lots of media attention.

Chairman's initials

C093/16 – 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interest for this meeting.

C094/16 - 5. CHAIRS UPDATE

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

C095/16 - 6. COMMITTEE / WORKING GROUPS

- a. Finance and Governance – No Meeting to report upon.
- b. Events and Communication working group – Councillor Graham provided a verbal summary in relation to the Bedlington Picnic Community event and the proposed Street Fair both events which were matters for discussion / decision later on the agenda.
- c. Services Committee – The Committee Chair Councillor Taylor provided a verbal update in support of the previously distributed draft copy of the minutes from the Services Committee meeting held on 23rd June 2016.

Resolved to accept all committee / working group reports

C096/16 - 7. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

- a. **Resolved to invite the Police to either attend or submit a written report subject to their availability to future Town Council meetings.**
- b. **Resolved that with immediate effect to increase the maximum award in respect of Community Chest Fund applications to £500 per application.**
- c. Council discussed the member's suggestion but it became clear there was no tenable use and Councillor Hogg withdrew the agenda item.
- d. **Resolved to submit the following 3 priorities for inclusion into Northumberland County Councils Local Transport Plan (LTP) Programme for 2017-18.**
 - i. **Parking issues at Burdon Terrace / Bishops Meadow / Deanery Street Bedlington.**
 - ii. **Yellow lines and bollards to prevent vehicles parking on Bedlington Market Place.**
 - iii. **Pedestrian crossing at the Coop / Old Ridge Farm B1331 Bedlington.**
- e. **Resolved to pay for a wreath at the funeral of Mr Ian Bell.**
- f. The Council were reminded that they have already approved the funding for the Summer Fair. **Resolved that Councillor Graham negotiates on behalf of the Council with the fairground operator in relation to the provision of a contract term and the receipt to the Council of a financial contribution.**
- g. **Resolved to make a payment of £700 for the payment of an additional marquee at Bedlington Picnic Community Event.**
- h. **Resolved to transfer the Councils webpage hosting to Foxora Ltd in accordance with their proposal.**

C097/16 – 8. CORRESPONDENCE

The Council were informed of the following correspondence:

Ref	From	Summary	Action
96/16	NCC Planning Enforcement	Land to the rear of Market Tavern	Noted and Circulated
97/16	Bedlington Steering Group	Proposed future meeting dates	Noted and Circulated
98/16	National Ass. of Local Councils	Bulletin	Noted and Circulated
99/16	Bedlington Forum	Forum meeting & AGM 13 th June 2016	Noted and Circulated
100/16	Grant Davey	Market Towns Initiative update	Noted and Circulated
101/16	Paul Lai	Petition to help reduce suicides	Noted and Circulated
102/16	NALC	Enews 7 June 2016	Noted and Circulated
103/16	Northumberland Live	Link to newspaper article	Noted and Circulated

Chairman's initials

104/16	CRAG	Appeal Update	Noted and Circulated
105/16	Northumbria Healthcare	Stakeholder Update	Noted and Circulated
106/16	NALC	Enews 14 June 2016	Noted and Circulated
107/16	Northumberland County Council	Funding eBulletin June 2016	Noted and Circulated
108/16	Mr John Leslie	Letter of thanks	Noted and Circulated
109/16	Bedlington Community Allotment	Event Dates	Noted and Circulated
110/16	Inspector Trevor Oakley	Change of Neighbourhood Inspector	Noted and Circulated
111/16	NCC Planning	Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy: Pre Submission Draft – proposed major modifications consultation – amendment to links previously supplied	Noted and Circulated
112/16	National Ass. of Local Councils	Fly the flag for Commonwealth Day 2017	Noted and Circulated
113/16	NALC	Enews 24 June 2016	Noted and Circulated
114/16	Foxora Ltd	Website Hosting Proposal	Noted, Circulated and added to agenda.
115/16	HMP Northumberland	Annual Report for 2015	Noted and Circulated
116/16	NALC	Enews 28 June 2016	Noted and Circulated
117/16	County Councillor Tyler	Watsons Post Office	Noted and Circulated
118/16	NCC Planning	Planning Training Power Point Slides	Noted and Circulated
119/16	Northumberland Fire & Rescue Service	Chief Fire Officer Contact Details	Noted and Circulated
120/16	East Bedlington Parish Council	Cambois Gala	Noted and Circulated
121/16	NALC	Enews 5 July 2016	Noted and Circulated
122/16	Ian Lavery MP	Copy letter re light controlled crossing on B1331 near Ridge Farm.	Noted and Circulated
123/16	NALC	July Current Issues	Noted and Circulated
124/16	Northumberland County Council	South Area Committee – 13 th July 2016	Noted, Circulated and posted on notice board.

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

Owner	Description	Where and When
NCC Planning	Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy: Pre Submission Draft – proposed major modifications	Submission Form by 4pm 27 th July 2016
NCC Local Services	Alternative Household Waste Recovery Centre Opening Arrangements	Email to centralwasteteam@nothumberland.gov.uk by 5 th August 2016

The following invitations have been received:

Date	From	Description	Comments
6 th July 2016	Healthwatch Newcastle	Listening Event	Circulated

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

C098/16 - 9. COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVES ON EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

Feedback from Councillor Representatives on external committees

- Town / Parish Liaison Committee (Councillor Robinson) – no meeting to report upon.
- NALC – (Councillor Dalton) – written report circulated and accepted.
- LMAPS now Community Safety Hub– (Councillor Hedley) – written report circulated and accepted.
- Northumberland In Bloom – (Councillor Taylor) – no meeting to report upon.
- Red House Farm residents Group – (Councillor Hogg) – no meeting to report upon.
- Joint Meetings with East Bedlington Parish Council – no meeting to report upon.
- Gallagher Park Steering Group – (Councillor Dalton) – written report circulated and accepted.
- Dr Pit Stakeholder Meetings – (Councillor Dalton) – no meeting to report upon.
- Bedlington Steering Group – (Councillor Graham) – no meeting to report upon.

Resolved to accept all reports provided.

Chairman's initials

C099/16 - 10. CLERKS REPORT

There was no Clerks report for this meeting.

C100/16 - 11. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

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

C101/16 - 12. PLANNING

Ref.	Description	Response Due
16/02176/FUL	Extension to existing garage Location 19 Court Road Bedlington Northumberland NE22 7LD	27th July 2016
16/02175/FUL	Change of use of main house and agricultural building to C2 use - (residential institution children's home for children and young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties). Location Meadow View Farm Choppington Road Choppington NE62 5TJ	27th July 2016
16/01798/ADE	Advertisement Consent for erection of signage and flags to facilitate sales centre, Netherton Road, Bedlington – REVISED PLANS	Unknown

Resolved not to make any comment in relation to 16/02176/FUL

Resolved to comment in support of residents objections in relation to 16/02175/FUL - the safety and welfare of proposed residents because of the proximity of the busy road, railway line and horses.

Contaminated land, overlooking of neighbouring properties and concerns over the lack of notice on the planning portal and display of planning notices. The council felt much more should be done by planners to assuage residents' concerns ahead of any decision. .

Resolved to comment in relation to 16/01798/ADE to the effect the revised plans were still excessive in relation to the number of flag poles been proposed.

Planning decisions are shown in Appendix C for information only.

C102/16 - 13. COMMUNITY CHEST / PUPILS FUND APPLICATIONS

- **Resolved to award £200.00 to Bedlington Salvation Army in respect of their Community Chest Application.**
- **Resolved to award £200.00 to Bedlington Salvation Army in respect of their additional funding application to be paid from the Councils Youth Leisure budget.**
- **Resolved to award £360 to St Cuthbert's Church for the cost of Pipes and Drums at the commemoration of the battle of the Somme Parade and Service. (To be paid from Events budget).**

C103/16 - 14. RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

The Clerk confirmed that the Autumn edition of the residents newsletter will be distributed in the week commencing 31st October 2016 and that the deadline to have all articles and pictures to the printer was Friday 7th October 2016.

C104/16 – 15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Taylor informed the Council that she has been successful in gaining a new position and has as a consequence reluctantly decided to resign from her roles within the Council as Deputy Chair / Mayor, and from her representation on Bedlington in Bloom and The Bedlington Partnership.

Councillor Hedley provided information about an up and coming Community Chest application from 2522 (Bedlington) SQN Air Training Corp.

C105/16 – 16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved the next meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday 11th August 2016 at 6.30pm at Bedlington Community Centre

Chairman's initials

11th August 2016

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

Appendix A – No Clerks report for this meeting.

**Appendix B – Schedule of Payments and Receipts (Agenda Item 12) Payment 1st June 2016 to 30th June 2016
All payment GROSS of VAT.**

Payee	Amount	BCC	Bloom	Description
Talk Talk Business	33.00			Telephone + Internet
W L Straughan & Son Ltd	264.00			Litter Bin Installation
Zen Internet Ltd	4.79			Website Hosting
Birchwood Nurseries			738.06	Plants
N.A.L.C	1,287.71			Annual Subscription
Sports Direct	(20.00)			Refund for Returned Frames
R&L Keenleyside Ltd	8.65			Painting Materials
Andrew Deptford	4,968.00			Community Defibrillators
Northumberland County Council	2,531.90			Payroll Costs
Mick Whitfield Building Services	420.00			Groundwork at new Bus Shelter
Bedlington Junior Football Club	298.51			Community Chest Award
Morpeth & District Cage Bird Society	200.00			Community Chest Award

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

Ref.	Description	Decision
15/03794/FUL	Development of 10 no. 2 bed 3 person bungalows, new access road and turning head & 16 parking bays Location Land To The Rear Of 19 Hartford Road East Bedlington Northumberland	Granted
16/01405/FUL	Extension to garage Location 52 Augustus Drive The Chesters Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6LE	Granted
16/01477/FUL	Front porch to house (Retrospective) Location 9 South Farm Nedderton Village Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6BH	Granted
16/01420/ADE	Advertisement Consent: Installation of 1no. Non-illuminated hanging sign and 1no. non-illuminated swinging pavement sign to be placed outside of surgery during opening hours but to be stored inside when closed Location The Veterinary Centre 72 Front Street East Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5AB	Granted
16/01617/FUL	Extension to rear and first floor extension over garage. Location 1 Raby Close Hazelmere Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6NL	Granted
16/01150/FUL	Alterations to form new kitchen and extension of existing pitched roof Location 77 Acorn Avenue Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5SP	Granted

Chairman's initials

APPENDIX D – Chairs Update (Agenda Item 5)

Chairman's update June 2016.

I had a meeting with NCC officers.....Gavin Barlow and Steve Bucknel. As chair of services Christine was asked to come along too. This meeting followed on from my last one with Gavin concerning all the problems which were being related to us concerning the street lighting project. I had taken the chance to speak to Steve Bucknel at the Blyth Area Meeting and he suggested he came back with Gavin and went through our concerns, the main one being it looked like everything we had said at our last couple of NCC meetings was being ignored!

We obviously spoke about the street lighting project and specifically where it was in relation to Bedlington and when different bits would actually be finished off! This raised even more questions and Gavin said he would find out for sure. Christine gave him a list of all of our lampposts which have been fitted in the wrong places and we also gave him a list of all non-working light units. Some he knew nothing about!

I asked about the Glebe Road lighting units and specifically if the old posts are being replaced like for like and it now seems that are. So we are going to look at all posts which we think need the commando sockets for the likes of Xmas displays and see if we can negotiate a better price than the one being touted at present!

Also the cost of painting the posts does have a little leeway in so we need to identify which ones we would like to see painted like the ones in the conservation area. These ones BTW, the ones in the conservation area, will be painted and some will be repainted to freshen them up at no cost to us! We also asked about the lamppost banners we want see up and again NCC need to see the specs, which is quite understandable. These have now been sent?

I also mentioned the litter bin problem again. This time I wanted it spelt out what was actually on the table because last time I had a different take on the offer than Steven our clerk did. As I thought Gavin was offering to replace only the post mounted bins which are mounted too high up, with a new post adjacent for the bin to be mounted at the correct height. This time I specifically asked Gavin to maintain that financial commitment, because what he was offering would have a cost to it, but allow us to change the spec to floor mounted bins and we would pick up the shortfall. Steve Bucknel understood straightway when I said Neighbourhood Services liked that idea very much because it would save them collection time. Steve said he would look at the costings and see how much NCC might like to pledge to change these bins, a 50/50 agreement was suggested. This would seem infinitely preferable to us paying the whole cost!

I asked him to look into the problems of banners on our roundabout at the Top End. We have already seen our new paintwork scratched and scraped by these banners and how to get the message across better is something being considered at present. All in all a productive meeting I think but time will tell if we get answers or movement on any of the concerns and suggestions made.

I also attended a meeting about the Allotments Lease situation. It was just basically to see a very initial draft for a new lease for the Dr Pit Allotment group. Christine will no doubt update members when this has the typos etc corrected.

Another meeting which was the first one concerning the playground projects and again that's Christine's remit so I will let her update members but suffice it to say I trod the streets around Westlea and posted 100 questionnaires out and I believe Councillor Dalton did the same around Meadowdale. I know we have had two schools return multiple questionnaires. I also asked our Youth Council to take part in this and they responded with responses from St Benet's and Meadowdale schools.

I have had a couple of meetings with County Councillor Terry Johnson and he has now agreed to financially back us in having all post mounted bins replaced in his West constituency. That funding will come out of his NCC Smalls Scheme and I also included the seat replacements at Westlea and the Lion. The seat at the Lion will be a special Terrier one because we are looking at a 6 seater not just a 3 seater. The suggestion is to replace the broken one at Westlea with the one at the Lion and put in this new Terrier one there.

Chairman's initials

There is a bit of horse trading involved and while Councillor Johnson is happy to finance our plans he is looking for our support for one of his projects. Once the details of that project and any possible financial costs become clear that will come to council for approval but listening to what our contribution might be I think we will have minimal fiscal exposure and yet receive many thousands of pounds for our schemes. In other words an excellent deal for ratepayers with 3 large new Bedlington projects all funded at no cost to residents!

I attended the recent site visit at Slaley Court and spoke next day at the planning meeting at County Hall. I think it's a pretty good job I did because there seemed huge gaps in the information being given to NCC members from planners as they considered their collective planning position. I am now of the opinion that most of the NCC members didn't listen to our objections, and those made by members of the public, because in effect what they did was they overturned their own planning conditions previously laid down for this site with reference to the hedge line and gave Carte Blanche to this and other developers to do exactly what they like and only if there is a public backlash asked for retrospective planning permission which will then be granted. The point of the application and our objections were that the conditions had been laid down for good reasons and watching the developer continually flout them with no repercussions needed to be challenged. I am afraid it was the North and West NCC councillors who allowed this to happen; exactly the ones who needed a map to get to Bedlington in the first place! In my view the planning process we have now, has little if any local knowledge and that can only be to the detriment of the communities such as ours it is supposed to serve!

I had a quote on the toilet refurb at Attlee Park and the figure was eye watering, way too much to justify the investment for occasional use. None the less I have gone out to half a dozen other builders for their quotes and hope to still see this project completed! You will remember I am hoping to bring this one in at almost zero cost to ratepayers too! Time will tell but I am trying to work up a backup plan if the toilet refurb is too expensive.

I have also attended various meetings with Paul Taylor about our Street Fair and Vicky about the Bedlington Picnic. These are within David's remit so I expect he will update members. I would like to thank Victoria for the first class community Picnic she put on, I know it wasn't easy and she wanted something things done differently but the reports I have heard hold nothing but praise! As for the Street Fair, there is still a considerable amount of work for us to do and oversee; members might want to question that at the appropriate juncture in the agenda. In fact we have just held another meeting tonight at 5 pm in an effort to get a firm and costed proposal to put before you. We have agreed initial costs for the Town Fair but there are still cost associated matters to sort through before we get this 100% bedded down!

I have also asked for a meeting with Mick Carle from NCC Highways. He is coming to see us next week.

Chairman's initials