



**WEST BEDLINGTON
TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 12th December 2019 at 6.30 pm at Bedlington Community Centre, Bedlington.

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: D Crosby, D Graham, P Hedley, C Henderson, A Hogg, C Taylor (Chair)
M Trimming, J Tyler.

COUNCILLORS NOT PRESENT: V Thompson.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk S Young, Northumberland County Councillors Crosby and Robinson and 11 (Eleven) members of the public.

ONE MINUTES SILENCE – RON MAJOR

Ahead of opening the meeting Councillors and members of the public in attendance observed one minutes silence in memory of Ron Major. In 2009 Ron uniquely held the position of Parish Councillor on Choppington, East Bedlington and West Bedlington Councils.

PRESENTATIONS

There were presentations for this meeting from:

- Wansbeck Valley Food Bank in support of their funding application Agenda Item 14.

OPEN SESSION

- A resident asked on behalf of Friends of Westlea Cemetery if the Council could request the Environmental Enforcement Officer to ensure that Westlea Cemetery was included with the areas covered by the services. The Chair advised that the Environmental Enforcement Officer had already been notified of the problems and was already undertaking visits to the cemetery. The Clerk confirmed he would also remind the Environmental Officer of the request.
- A resident supported the previous question and further asked if the Town Council would provide CCTV coverage at the cemetery gates in response to various incidents of anti-social behaviour. The Chair advised that in accordance with its policy the Council would consider the application at a future Council / Services Committee meeting upon receipt of a written request to do so.
- A resident congratulated the Council upon its Christmas lights display.
- A resident advised the Council of details of a reply he had received from East Bedlington Parish Council in response to his request for financial information about Gallagher Park Live 2019.
- A resident thanked members for their funding support for her daughter's to assist in their national standard athletics participation.

C243/19 - 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence for this meeting from Councillor Thompson.
The apologies for absence were **NOTED**.

Chairman's initials

C244/19 - 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council meeting of 14th November 2019 are approved as a true record of the meeting.

C245/19 - 3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2019.

C246/19 – 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interest for this meeting.

C247/19 - 5. CHAIRS UPDATE

Council Chair Councillor Taylor provided a verbal update on the matters summarised in Appendix F.

C248/19 – 6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATES

County Councillors Crosby and Robinson provided brief verbal updates on some of the matters they had been dealing with over the last month.

County Councillors Wallace had previously submitted his apologies for this meeting.

C249/19 - 7. COMMITTEE / WORKING GROUPS

- a. Finance, Governance and Communication - Councillor Taylor – No meeting to report upon.
- b. Events Working Group – Councillor Graham thanked Councillors and members of the public for their help in ensuring the Christmas Lights Switch on Event and Ice Rink participation went so well.
- c. Services Committee – Councillor Hogg - Draft minutes from the Services Committee meeting held on 24th October 2019 distributed to members.
- d. Neighbourhood Planning Group - Councillor Hogg provided a brief update in relation to the next steps in relation to the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.

RESOLVED To ACCEPT all committee / working group reports

C250/19 - 8. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

- a. **Council Meetings - Video Recording.** The Council **RESOLVED to NOTE** the statutory requirements in relation to requests to video record Council meeting. The Clerk was requested to distribute a copy of the "Openness and Accountability" guidelines to all members. A copy will also be added to the Councils website.
- b. **Response to Bedlingtonshire Golf Club.** The Council **RESOLVED** to delegate to the Council Chair Councillor Taylor the revision and sending of a reply to Bedlingtonshire Golf Clubs letter in relation to the Councils objection to the golf clubs planning application.

C251/19 – 9. CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLVED that all Correspondence, Consultations and Invitations (Appendix A) has been properly received and actioned.

C252/19 - 10. COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVES ON EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

- a. **Feedback**
 - I. **Town / Parish Liaison Committee** – (Councillor Taylor) – no meeting to report upon.
 - II. **NALC** – (Councillor Hogg) – no meeting to report upon.
 - III. **Friends of Westlea Cemetery** – Councillor Hogg provided a brief verbal update.

All reports accepted.

C253/19 - 11. CLERK'S REPORT

RESOLVED to ACCEPT and NOTE the Clerk's Report for this meeting (Appendix B).

Chairman's initials

C254/19 - 12. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

RESOLVED to APPROVE the schedule of payments and receipts (Appendix C).

C255/19 - 13. PLANNING

a. **RESOLVED TO COMMENT** on the planning applications considered at this meeting as per Appendix D.

Note: recent notified planning decisions are shown in Appendix E for information only.

C255/19 - 14. COMMUNITY CHEST / PUPILS FUND APPLICATIONS

a. No Community Chest applications for this meeting

b. Funding requests:

i. Wansbeck Valley Food Bank. **RESOLVED TO DEFER** a decision until the outcome of the Councils budget setting planning has been completed.

C256/19 - 15. RESIDENTS' NEWSLETTER

No further updates for this meeting.

C257/19 – 16. ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TOWN 2020

No further updates for this meeting.

C258/19 – 17. ACCOUNTS / BUDGET AND PRECEPT REQUIREMENT / FINANCIAL UPDATE

No further updates for this meeting.

C259/19 – 18. POLICE REPORT

RESOLVED to NOTE the Police Report submitted.

C260/19 - 19. EXEMPT BUSINESS

There was no exempt business for this meeting.

C261/19 – 20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Councillor Henderson – Repair to seat outside Post Office on Front Street West, Bedlington.

C262/19 - 21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED the next meeting of the Council will be held on **Thursday 8th January 2020** at 6.30pm at Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington.

C263/19 - 22. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 8.12pm

Signed by the Chair

9th January 2020

Appendix A, B, C, D and F form part of these minutes.

Chairman's initials

Appendix A – Correspondence, Consultations and Invitations. (Agenda Item 9).

a) Correspondence:

| <i>Ref</i> | <i>From</i> | <i>Summary</i> | <i>Action</i> |
|------------|---|--|---|
| 256/19 | Power For People | National Community Energy Campaign | Noted and Circulated |
| 257/19 | Bedlingtonshire Golf Club | Planning Objection Response | Noted, Circulated and added to Services Agenda |
| 258/19 | Councillor Hogg | Hedgerow Netting | Noted and Circulated |
| 259/19 | Northumberland CVA | Network Meeting | Noted and Circulated |
| 260/19 | Oxygen Radio | Xmas Message Advert | Noted, Circulated and added to Services Agenda |
| 261/19 | Historic England | Response to Neighbourhood Plan SA/SEA Scoping. | Noted and Circulated |
| 262/19 | What3Words | Location App and Website | Noted, Circulated and added to Services Agenda |
| 263/19 | Advance Northumberland | Holding Reply to Councils Enquiry re Car Park at Town Centre Development. | Noted and Circulated |
| 264/19 | Chair of East Bedlington Parish Council | Remembrance Day Service + Parade Feedback | Noted, Circulated and added to Services Agenda |
| 265/19 | NALC | NALC Enews 13 November 2019 | Noted and Circulated |
| 266/19 | Northumberland County Council | LAC Meeting Agenda 20 th November 2019 | Noted and Circulated |
| 267/19 | Environment Agency | Response to Neighbourhood Plan SA/SEA Scoping. | Noted and Circulated |
| 268/19 | Northumberland County Council | Northumberland local Plan Notice of Examination Meetings | Noted and Circulated |
| 269/19 | GSC Grays | Land at Bedlington | Noted and Circulated |
| 270/19 | Bedlington Resident | Copy of FOI Request and Reply from Advance Northumberland re Car Park at Vulcan Place / Schalksmuhle Road. | Noted and Circulated |
| 271/19 | GSC Grays | Land at Bedlington | Noted and Circulated |
| 272/19 | Community Action Northumberland | CAN Autumn Newsletter 2019 | Noted and Circulated |
| 273/19 | Wansbeck Valley Food Bank | Funding Request | Noted, Circulated and added to Agenda. |
| 274/19 | County Councillor Wallace | Church Lane Road Safety Improvements Residents Consultation Result | Noted and Circulated |
| 275/19 | Bedlington Community Centre | Note Of Thanks for Funding | Noted and Circulated |
| 276/19 | Morpeth Cage Bird Society | Letter of Thanks for Funding | Noted and Circulated |
| 277/19 | Superstar Soccer Community Group | Note Of Thanks for Funding | Noted and Circulated |
| 278/19 | Bedlington Resident | Passing of ex Parish / Town Councillor Ron Major | Noted and Circulated |
| 279/11 | Bedlington Resident | Hustings Meeting 24 th November 2019 | Noted and Circulated |
| 280/11 | Northumberland County Council | Road Closure Notice – Bedlington Christmas Lights Switch On Event | Noted and Circulated |
| 281/11 | Bedlington Resident | Road Markings Hartford Road A1068 | Noted, Circulated and Forwarded to NCC for a reply. |
| 282/19 | Northumberland County Council | Proposed Residents Permit Parking – The Croft and South Farm, Nedderton. | Noted and Circulated |
| 283/19 | Community Action Northumberland | CAN Enews November 2019 | Noted and Circulated |
| 254/19 | NALC | Member Council Update 28 November 2019 | Noted and Circulated |
| 255/19 | NALC | NALC Enews 28 November 2019 | Noted and Circulated |
| 256/19 | Bedlington Resident | Letter of opposition re Joint Venture with EBPC for Gallagher Park Venue | Noted, Circulated and Acknowledged. |
| 257/19 | SENUG | Public meeting 11 th December 2019 | Noted and Circulated |
| 258/19 | Northumberland County Council | Response to Enquiry re flooded area in Dr Pit Park | Noted and Circulated |
| 259/19 | GSC Grays | Land at Bedlington | Noted and Circulated |
| 260/19 | Northumberland County Council | Neighbourhood Plan – Habitats Regs Assessment | Noted and Circulated |
| 261/19 | NALC | Member Council Update 3 December 2019 | Noted and Circulated |

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b) Consultations:

| Owner | Description | Where and When |
|-------|-----------------------|----------------|
| | None For This Meeting | |

c) Invitations:

| Date | From | Description | Comments |
|------|------|-----------------------|----------|
| | | None For This Meeting | |

Appendix B – Clerks Report (Agenda Item 11).

Finance

No further update for this meeting. Up to date dated finance information has been distributed to all members as part of the preparation for the 2020/21 Budget process. The Councils overall financial position remains strong and broadly in line with budgets.

The next budget setting preparation meeting is on Wednesday 18th December 2019.

Services

- a. Play Areas - : The 20 Acre Play Area has been installed, safety checked and a CCTV camera installed. The CCTV provider is currently running a 48 hour check on the camera and if successful the play area will be opened on Friday 13th December 2019. A Noise Management Plan has been submitted and paid for. The Councils insurance policy has been revised to provide additional cover for the new play area. Weekly play equipment safety inspections have been requested. I need to order and have installed public signs in relation to the play area and its use. Waiting on a quote for the mini goal posts.
- b. Litter Bins – The lock on litter bin alongside St Cuthberts Church is not broken (just difficult to close) – the hinge is rusted up. The bin at Westlea is scheduled to be relocated in the near future. I have requested the overflowing bins on the Attlee Park path to be emptied.
- c. Bus Shelters – all displaced panels have been replaced.
- d. Public Seats – Waiting delivery of 3 new seats for Millfield South.
- e. War Memorial – No further update.
- f. Road Speed Reduction Signs – still awaiting on invoice for share of purchase costs of new signs – provision has been made in accounts .

Events.

Christmas Lights Switch on Event – nearly 1000 skaters used the temporary Ice Rink over the weekend of 30th Nov / 1st Dec 2019. Feedback has been very positive. The Events group should convene a meeting ASAP to secure a rink for future years.

As always the contribution made by the schools was superb – our thanks have been registered with all concerned and we look to do the same again next year. Additionally I have sent thanks to the Salvation Army for their attendance and donating their valuable time to supporting the event.

Thanks also to Brian and Margaret Oliver for helping out in the cold with Ice Rink admissions and to those Councillors who were able to give their time to support and help out at the event – the event could not have happened without your support.

Christmas tree is scheduled to be removed in week commencing 6th January 2020.

Christmas lights – I have reported several times the unlit light on Hartford Road, Bedlington. I have received lots of positive comments about the Christmas tree and Christmas lights but as members already know the lights in the trees along Front Street East are letting the display down and their replacement should be a priority. I am waiting on quotes for the removal and replacement of these lights.

Projects

Sun Dial – Installation is planned for early February 2020.

CCTV – System is now up and running with the addition of the camera at Church Lane 20 Acre Play Area.

Admin

The office open / closing times over the Christmas / New Year Period

Chairman's initials

Wednesday 18th December 2019 – Office is closed for redecoration – I will be contactable via email that day.

Monday 23rd December 2019 – Open

Tuesday 24th December 2019 to Sunday 29th December 2019 – Closed

Monday 30th December 2019 and Tuesday 31st December 2019 – Open

Wednesday 1st January 2020 and Thursday 2nd January 2020 – Closed

Friday 3rd January 2020 – Open.

Appendix C – Schedule of Payments and Receipts (Agenda Item 12) Payment 1st October 2019 to 31st October 2019.

All payment GROSS of VAT.

| Payee | Amount | BCC | Bloom | Dr Pit | Description |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| Bedlington Cricket Club | (100.00) | | | | Spooktacular Contribution |
| Station Entertainments Ltd | 200.00 | | | | Spooktacular Disco. |
| Swarco | 1,186.51 | | | | Speed Sign Maintenance Contract |
| ISKO8 | 2,430.00 | | | | Ice Rink |
| Front Street News And Post Office | 72.80 | | | | Library Newspapers |
| Station Entertainments Ltd | 50.00 | | | | Remembrance Day PA. |
| Bedlington Community Centre | 15.00 | | | | Room Hire |
| KING RAMPS LTD | 3,552.00 | | | | BMX / Skateboard Events |
| Harriet Povey | 300.00 | | | | Spooktacular Entertainment |
| Miss J Milburn | 30.00 | | | | Youth Leisure – Pilates |
| Smart Office Systems Ltd | 60.83 | | | | Printer Costs |
| Bedlington Cricket Club | (387.00) | | | | Spooktacular Contribution |
| Strettle of Newcastle Ltd | 360.00 | | | | War Memorial Engraving |
| Morrisons Bedlington | 270.00 | | | | Santa Give Aways |
| Jo-Anne Garrick Ltd | 900.00 | | | | Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Fee |
| Bedlington Creatives | 151.00 | | | | Remembrance Day Refreshments |
| Reay Security Limited | 809.64 | | | | Monthly CCTV Charges |
| Nemesis Pyrotechnics Ltd | 2,400.00 | | | | Spooktacular Fireworks |
| Aura Events N.E. Ltd | 1,000.00 | | | | Spooktacular Marquee + Chairs |
| Bedlington Community Centre | 7,500.00 | | | | Annual Office Rent |
| Bedlington Community Centre | 15.00 | | | | Armistice Day Refreshments |
| ThruYorDoor | 202.50 | | | | Newsletter Distribution |
| Talk Talk Business | 40.74 | | | | Telephone + Internet |
| Zen Internet Ltd | 5.39 | | | | Website Hosting |
| Bedlington Brass Community Trust | 500.00 | | | | Community Chest Funding |
| Superstar Soccer Community Group | 400.00 | | | | Community Chest Funding |
| Bedlington Community Centre | 160.00 | | | | Funding Support |
| Amy Lott + Hannah Lott | 470.00 | | | | Funding Support |
| Family Gateway | 1,600.00 | | | | Youth Leisure Events |
| GeoXphere Ltd | 216.00 | | | | Annual Subscription |
| Northumberland County Council | 500.00 | | | | Xmas Event – Traffic Management |
| Northumberland County Council | 500.00 | | | | Xmas Event – Road Closure Notice |
| Viking Payments | 41.34 | | | | Stationary |

Chairman's initials

Appendix D – Planning Applications Received for Comment. (Agenda Item 13).

| Ref. | Description | Response Due | Decision |
|-----------------|---|--------------------|-------------------|
| 19/04561/VARYCO | Variation of condition 1 (approved plans) of application 18/04497/REM - Lowered eaves and ridge heights, minor amendments to proposed levels of rear gardens, addition of single rooflight to rear roof pitch (all dwellings); amended internal boundary separating rear gardens of plots 5 and 6, amendment of internal layout and window arrangement to plot 6 (now shown as house type 2B) to include substitution of pair of French doors to 1F rear elevation in place of single window and reconfigured master bedroom suite Location Land North Of Quarry House Nedderton Village Northumberland | 12th December 2019 | No Comment |
| 19/04637/FUL | Change of use of land to residential curtilage to accommodate an extended driveway, bin storage area and cycle storage area to serve a dwelling previously approved by permission 18/04497/REM. Location Quarry House Netherton Road Nedderton Village NE22 6AS | 24th December 2019 | No Comment |
| 19/04632/ADE | Fascia, projecting sign with shop name and logo, and a barber pole Location Former Classic Curtains 24A Front Street West Bedlington NE22 5UB | 24th December 2019 | Comment Submitted |
| 19/04503/FUL | Proposed amendments to existing beer garden including amended boundary walls, fixed booth seating (including covered roof), covered canopy and external lighting Location The Red Lion Hartford Road Bedlington NE22 6HR | 25th December 2019 | Comment Submitted |

Re 19/04561/VARYCO – **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to email Director of Planning re ongoing building work whilst planning consent is only OUTLINE.

Other Applications.

| Ref. | Description | Response Due |
|-----------------|--|--------------|
| 19/04559/DISCON | Discharge of conditions : (Materials) Quarry House Netherton Road Nedderton Village NE22 6AS | NA |
| 19/04558/DISCON | Discharge of Conditions (Refuse) Land North Of Quarry House Nedderton Village Northumberland | NA |
| 19/04542/NONMAT | (Garage) Four Acres Hartford Road Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6AQ | NA |

Any applications / Consultations received after the issue date of this agenda, where the expiry date for observations would not allow the Council to wait to consider and submit any observations at its next scheduled meeting. None for this meeting.

| Ref. | Description | Response Due | Decision |
|--------------|--|--------------|------------|
| 19/04679/FUL | Single storey extension to front of garage with pitched roof Location 5 Longmeadows Broadoaks Bedlington NE22 6BR | 19/04679/FUL | No Comment |
| 19/04734/FUL | Subdivision of existing A1 ground floor retail unit into two separate A1 retail units including formation of new main entrance door within existing shop front glazed screen Location Tallantyre Ltd 72 Front Street West Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5UA | 19/04734/FUL | No Comment |

Chairman's initials

Appendix E – Chairs Update (Agenda Item 5).

The Chair provided a verbal report in relation to the matters summarised below:

- Success of the Christmas Lights Switch On Event
- Thanks to residents Brian and Margaret Oliver for their invaluable help on the day
- Compliments from residents in relation to this year’s Christmas tree and Christmas light displays.
- Opening of children’s play area at Church Lane, Bedlington.
- Reminder to Councillors re next budget setting meeting – Wednesday 18th December 2019 at 5.30pm.
- Seasonal best wishes to all and invitation to join her for refreshments at the end of the meeting.

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

| Ref. | Description | Decision |
|------|-----------------------|----------|
| | None For This Meeting | |

Chairman’s initials