

**Minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held at Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington.**

**On Thursday 8th February 2024 at 6.30pm.**

**PRESENTATIONS.**

* There were no presentations for this meeting.

**QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL**

* 6 members of the public were in attendance to put forward their concerns about Planning Application 24/00255/FUL re: Change of use to a Children’s Residential Home at 18 Hartford Road East. After listening to their concerns, The Chairman explained that members would be making a decision on this application later in the Agenda at item Part C (e). The Clerk was asked to email a copy of material considerations relating to planning to one of the residents.

**PART A - ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.**

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| Min  Ref |  | **Attendance / Apologies and Declarations of Interests.** | **Determination** |
| 23/247 |  | **In Attendance** | Councillors, Hedley, Henderson, Hogg (Chair), Taylor, D Wallace and R Wallace.  Acting Town Clerk Gillian Turner, 2 officers of Northumbria Police and six (6) members of the public. |
| 23/248 | a. | **Apologies for Absence.**   1. To receive and note any apologies for absence from Councillors. 2. To consider and determine any dispensations for absent Councillors. | 1. Apologies for absence from Councillors Crosby, Thompson and Todd were **NOTED.**   ii. There were no dispensations for absence for this meeting. |
| 23/249 | b. | **Declaration of Interests.**   1. Unless already entered in the Council's Register of Members' interests, members are required to disclose any personal interest, (which includes any disclosable pecuniary interest), they may have in any of the items included on the agenda for the meeting in accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council on 12th July 2012.      1. To consider any requests for dispensations. | 1. No Declarations of Interest for this meeting.                1. No dispensations for this meeting. |

# PART B – MATTERS FOR DECISION

1. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS / SUMMARY OF DELEGATED DECISIONS**

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|  |  | **Details of Meeting or Delegated Decisions** | **Determination** |
| 23/250 | a. | To agree and sign as a correct record the minutes of West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held on 11th January 2024. | **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held on 11th January 2024 are **APPROVED** as a true record**.** |
| 23/251 | b. | To discuss any matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting that are not included as agenda items. | There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2024. |

1. **MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION**

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|  |  | **Matters for Discussion / Decision** | **Determination** |
| 23/252 | a. | **Internal Controls – Annual Review Carried Forward from December**  The Council are requested to discuss and decide upon the DRAFT Internal Controls (Previously Distributed to members with the December Meeting papers)   1. Financial Risk Assessment. 2. Internal Audit – Terms of Reference Review. | **RESOLVED** Members approved the Financial Risk Assessment (i) and Internal Audit (ii) documents. |
| 23/253 | b. | **NCC People Management Support Service – SLA for Town & Parish Councils**  Members are requested to consider entering into an SLA with NCC for the provision of Human Resource Services – document circulated with Agenda. | **RESOLVED** Members agreed to enter into an SLA with NCC for the provision of Human Resources Service. |
| 23/254 | c. | **Chairs Update and any Reports from External Meetings.**   1. The Chair will make any relevant announcements and provide updates to members.   ii. To receive feedback from Councillors from any external meetings since the date of the last Council meeting. | 1. The Council Chair (Councillor Hogg) provided a verbal update on the recent South-East Northumberland Forum, highlighting the preparation of a collective register for events in the area and on-going issues with NCC Planning      1. None |
| 23/255 | d. | **To Consider any issues which would normally have been taken to the Services Committee**   1. Members are issued with 2 quotations and designs of the Bedlington Terrier Christmas Light | **RESOLVED**: The Clerk was asked to contact NCC Street Lighting to ensure that the designs are compatible with the lighting columns before any decision is made. |
| 23/256 | e. | **Planning Working Group - none** | **Noted** |
| 23/257 | f. | **Other Working Groups / Committees (items for decision or discussion).**   1. Any Recommendations from Other Working Groups for decision by full Council. 2. Any Other Items from Other Working Groups – Any feedback to the Council, any other items discussed, any ongoing and future matters been worked upon by any working group. | 1. None 2. Cllr Taylor informed the meeting that she and Cllr D Wallace had now compiled the dates/diary of events for March through to December with Charmain Hamilton (the Town Council’s Event Organiser for 2024/25). |
| 23/258 | G1 | **Bank Reconciliation**  The Council are asked to APPROVE a checked bank reconciliation of £274,913.41 at 31st January 2024 and a Deposit Account Balance of £101,491.42 as of 31st January 2024. | **RESOLVED t**o **APPROVE** the bank reconciliation at 31st January 2024 |

# PART C – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION OR TO BE NOTED

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|  |  | **Matters for Information or To Be Noted** |
| 23/259 | a. | The Council are requested to accept all correspondences and the actions noted in respect of each.   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Ref | From | Brief Description | Action Taken | | 221 | Northumberland County Council | TTRO 136870325 Choppington Road Level Crossing | Noted + Circulated | | 301 | Northumberland Line | Newsletter – January 2024 | Noted + Circulated | | 301 | Community Action Northumberland | CAN Enews January 2024 | Noted + Circulated | | 301 |  | Volunteers for Bedlington | Noted + Circulated | | 301 | Nicholas Moffat | Old Time Sailors Artist | Noted + Circulated | | 301 | Northumberland County Council | Latest Northumberland News and Jobs | January 26, 2024 | Noted + Circulated | | 301 | Northumberland County Council | Town & Parish Council Spring Conference | Noted + Circulated | | 301 | Northumberland County Council | TTRO 137277548 Station Road Bedlington | Noted + Circulated | | 311 | Northumberland County Council | Petition re call for Bedlington to receive similar levels of investment | Noted + Circulated | | 311 | Mr E Kingston | Speed Camera at Nedderton faulty | Site meeting arranged for 5/02/24 | |

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| 23/260 | b. | **Consultations.** | | | | | | |
|  | None | | | | |  |
| 23/261 | c. |  | **Invitations.** | | | | | |
| From | | Event | Response Details | |  |
| **None For This Meeting** | |  |  | |
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| 23/262 | d. | **Schedule of Payments and Receipts.**  Details of payments and (receipts) to be noted since last Council update. All payments gross of VAT.     |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Payee | Amount  £. p | Description | Notes | | Reay Security Ltd | 83.04 | CCTV Charges |  | | Michael Burkinshaw | 120.00 | Chq 1437 |  | | Talk Talk Business | 55.26 | Telephone + Internet |  | | House of Hamilton | 500.00 | Welfare facilities/Fencing re Festival |  | | Stage Door Events | 3,000.00 | Stage Hire for Festival |  | | Malcolm Wilkinson | 187.00 | Internal Audit Fee |  | | Reay Security Ltd | 446.40 | Lock-ups at Meadowdale |  | | Reay Security Ltd | 809.64 | CCTV Town Centre |  | | Wireless Logic Limited | 539.14 | CCTV SIM Charges |  | | Bedlington Community Centre | 257.00 | Hall Hire re Pantomime |  | | Reay Security LTD | 83.04 | CCTV Charges |  | | Northumberland County Council | 4,133.86 | Payroll Costs January |  | | Lloyds Bank Business Account | (104.72) | Interest Received |  | |  |  |  |  | | | | | | | |
| 23/263 | e. | **Other Planning Applications as per NCC Planning Portal**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Ref.** | **Description** | | 24/00255/FUL | Change of use of existing dwelling house C3 to a children’s residential home C2 at 18 Hartford Road East – **Members OBJECTED to this application** | | 24/00233/MISC | Erection of one telecommunications pole adjacent to 19 The Grange Nedderton Village – No Objection | | 24/00194/FUL | Proposed side two storey extension and rear single storey extension at 14 Raby Close, Hazelmere – No Objection | | 24/00084/DISCON | Discharge of condition 10 (Ground Gas) 86-88 Front Street – No Objection | | 24/00093/DISCON | Discharge of conditions 3 (External Lighting) and 17 (Lighting) at Car Park Vulcan Place – No Objections | | 23/04568/FUL | Erection of 2 contemporary container buildings at land North East of 8 Market Place – Members had **CONCERNs** about the volume of parking in this area. | |  |  | | | | | | | |
| 23/264 | f. | **Planning decisions notified to West Bedlington Town Council by Northumberland County Council.** | | | | | | |
| **Ref.** | | **Description** | | | **Decision** |  |
| 23/04480/CLPROP | | Certificate of Lawful Development re erection of rear extension at 9 Rowan Close, Beaufront Park | | | PERMITTED |
| 23/04393/FUL | | Removal of window and replacement with new door and new paved path to new doorway with illuminated steel bollards at Bedlington Police Station, Schalksmuhle Road | | | PERMITTED |
| 23/04390/LBC | | Listed Building Consent for replacement of an existing conservatory with removal of an internal wall at Hartford Bridge House | | | PERMITTED |
| 23/03854/COU | | Retrospective Change of Use of first floor managers accommodation to serviced apartments at Residential Accommodation The Market Tavern, 8 Market Place | | | PERMITTED |
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| 23/265 | g. | **Police Report.** Police Officer Collins and PCSO McCallum were in attendance.   1. Members received and noted the report prepared by Inspector Daniels. 2. Members also received the report prepared by PC Collins.   Questions raised:   * Can police provide staff to carry out walk-through’s of Dr Pit Park between 18:00 and 21:00 * Can police let Cllr Taylor know if any reports have been made to the police about issues at Dr Pit Park * Cllr Hogg raised the issue as to who defines the location of where the speed camera van is deployed as he believes that it is deployed in the wrong areas. There are problematic areas where the camera is not deployed. | | | | | | |
| 23/266 | h. | **Matters for Information Only –** Any matters pertaining to the Council, that members would like to bring to the attention of other members and residents. For Information only no proposals or voting on these matters.   1. The Christmas Lights are still on the trees – the Clerk was asked to contact NCC Street Lighting Team. 2. Old Council Offices – residents should be informed to contact NCC Estate Team re: any issues/concerns about the building. 3. Issues with parking in the vicinity of schools – would resident only parking areas be more suitable. 4. Local Transport Plan – The Bedlington area was mentioned 3 times in the report. | | | | | | |
| 23/267 | i. | **Date of Next Meeting.**  **RESOLVED** the date of the next meeting will be Thursday 21st March at 6.30pm in Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington due to the Joint Parish & Town Council Conference being held on 14th.  The agenda for this meeting to be issued on Wednesday 13h March. | | | | | | |
| 23/268 | j. | **Close of Meeting**  The Chair closed the meeting at 8.05pm with thanks to all in attendance. | | | | | | |

**PART D – EXEMPT BUSINESS.**

That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

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|  |  | **Matters for Discussion / Decision / Information** | |
| 23/269 |  | Latest update re: the Clerk | The latest fitnote received is up to 25th April 2024 |

**WEST BEDLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL - COUNCILLORS**:

Bill Crosby, Paul Hedley, Cath Henderson, Adam Hogg, Christine Taylor, Victoria Thompson, Jayne Todd, Di Wallace, and Russ Wallace.

**Signed by Chair Date**