

## NEWBIGGIN BY-THE-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14 July 2010 at 7.00 pm at Newbiggin Sailing Club.**

### PRESENT:

Councillors: R McCready (Mayor)

L Anderson	M Kirkup
M Boon	A Thompson
M Cholerton	

Officer: D Earl – Town Clerk

### IN ATTENDANCE:

18 Members of the public and 1 member of the press

### OPEN SESSION

The following issues were raised by members of the public present at the meeting:

- Joyce Durmaz advised the meeting that a Newbiggin Chamber of Trade had now been formed with Chairperson Vice-Chairperson Secretary and Treasurer appointed recently. It was their intention to raise money for a Christmas Tree and lights and she expressed the wish to meet with the Town Council to consider such matters.
- County Councillor J Lang referred to the recent Council Newsletter and requested information regarding the financial decisions referred to particularly money set aside for specific purposes. These matters had been decided as part of the budget process and minutes of the Finance Committee had previously been circulated and approved by the Council. Copies would be provided.
- A resident advised the meeting of a county council web site announcement that concessionary bus passes for disabled persons could be used at any time and were not restricted.

An invitation was extended to attend meetings of the Community Partnership whether as members of the Chamber of Trade or individuals.

Information was requested regarding the Blue Sky Forrest Project. Councillor Thompson confirmed that this development was planned for the Widdrington area and was being financed by UK Coal seeking to attract other private sector funding to provide a holiday/recreational facility creating both jobs in construction and over 800 employees after three to four years. Links would be made to Druridge Bay and Northumberland's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and it would be important to link also with the fine facilities of Newbiggin and the regenerated bay.

Now that the Town Council web site had been established it was queried whether copies of minutes of previous meetings could be made available. It was confirmed by the Chairperson that this matter was already in hand.

It was queried where the adopted Bee Hive would be located as there were connections with the national association in the area. It had been requested that it would be located in the region but confirmation had not yet been received. It was possible that the Chairman of the Bee Keepers Association would attend a future meeting to discuss the project.

#### **C027/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Peden and Rogers.

#### **C028/10 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 09 June 2010 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

#### **C029/10 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS**

Councillor R McCready declared an interest in the item relating to Newbiggin Arts Forum.

#### **C30/10 MINUTES OF THE MARKET COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the Market Committee acting under delegated powers held on 05 July 2010 had been circulated and were received.

#### **C31/10 MINUTES OF THE GRANT COMMITTEE**

Having declared a prejudicial interest in this item Councillor McCready vacated the Chair and withdrew from the meeting during its consideration. Councillor L Anderson took the Chair.

The minutes of the Grant Committee acting under delegated powers held on 12 July 2010 had been circulated and were received. An application for grant from Newbiggin Arts Forum had been deferred for consideration at this meeting.

**RESOLVED: that a grant of £300 be approved for Newbiggin Arts Forum towards the provision of signage.**

Councillor McCready returned to chair the remainder of the meeting.

#### **C32/10 LOCAL TRANSPORT SERVICES**

Councillor Cholerton reported to the meeting on the outcome of discussions relating to the local bus services and thanked those who had participated with the Working Group.

A meeting had been held with Mark Ellis of Arriva when the Woodhorn Road service petition had been presented and a compromise had been agreed for the service 21 to be routed to Woodhorn then back into Newbiggin.

It had been aimed to start this service revision by September but notification of a further change had been made the previous day and members of the group were shocked to see that Arriva had gone back on its word. An A1 service had been added at working times morning and evening but had omitted the needs of the elderly.

The Phoenix Bus service was terminating on 17 July and the group had explored alternatives but large subsidies were still required. Reference was made to the Area Committee meeting the previous week where the petitions were considered and a large proportion of county councillors had agreed and offered support to maintain a local service. Partnership options were now being looked into with the county council to provide a limited service. It was suggested that a 'Dial-A-Ride' service be looked at owing to the difficulties for older people on the extremities of the town.

Reference was also made to the latest withdrawal of Sunday and Bank Holiday services affecting local routes following the removal of subsidies as set out in the report of the Town Clerk.

**RESOLVED that:**

- 1) The Working Group continue to explore possible service provision with the county council;**
- 2) Formal representations be made on behalf of the Town Council to Arriva.**

**C33/10 NORTHUMBERLAND ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (NALC)**

The report outlined the options under consideration to amend the Constitution of the Northumberland Association to provide fairer representation in elections to the County Committee following on from the creation of the new parish and town councils in south east Northumberland.

Members favoured option a) based on the county council 27 locality areas providing direct representation for all of the larger councils with the smaller ones forming clusters for the purpose of representation.

**RESOLVED that:**

- 1. NALC be advised that the Town Council favoured option a);**
- 2. NALC representation on Northumberland Strategic Partnership should be selected from within the County Committee.**

**C34/10 RURAL BUSINESS SURVEY**

An invitation had been received to attend the county council's Economic Prosperity and Strategic Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to consider the Rural Business Survey presented by the Centre of Rural Economy at Newcastle University and discuss its key findings at a meeting on Monday 26 July 2010 at 10.00 am at County Hall.

Newbiggin was not necessarily considered as a rural town but there were common themes such as a high proportion of sole traders; micro businesses; home based working; age profile among the policy implications. Members felt there was a need to stress the case for micro business

opportunities in the town as it was the only place in England of a comparable size without a business park and there were significant business opportunities elsewhere in smaller towns.

**RESOLVED: that the Town Council accept the invitation.**

#### **C35/10 INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING COMMISSION**

A proposed 100 MW Biomass Power Station at Port of Blyth by RES UK & IRELAND LTD required an environmental impact assessment under the Infrastructure Planning Regulations 2009. It was referred to as the North Blyth Renewable Energy Project at a preferred site at Battleship Wharf and is defined as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008.

The Infrastructure Planning Commission had been asked for its scoping opinion as to the information to be provided in an environmental statement by the applicant and was consulting with local authorities in the area.

Members were conscious of the likely traffic situation involving the movement of biomass materials despite the port location as some landfill was presently going to Tees-side. The carbon dioxide emissions and possible impact on coastal waters possibly affecting Newbiggin bay were considered to be important environmental aspects for the statement to address.

**RESOLVED that the Infrastructure Planning Commission be requested to include these matters in the scoping opinion.**

#### **C36/10 NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION**

The County Council was currently consulting on revisions to the Street Trading Policy. From the options available of Prohibited; Consent; a mix of Consent and Prohibited; or Licence streets the draft policy favoured a Consent policy to apply across the county.

A new Statement of Licensing Policy had been agreed by the Licensing Committee to be adopted and re-published to take effect by January 2011 incorporating the necessary provisions and best practice. It would follow the fundamental principles of the prevention of crime and disorder; public safety; the prevention of nuisance and the protection of children from harm. It had highlighted that if the Licensing Authority did not receive representations it had no discretion and must grant applications.

**RESOLVED that:**

- 1. The Town Council agree with the new Consent policy;**
- 2. No specific representations be made regarding the Statement of Licensing policy.**

**C37/10 NORTHUMBERLAND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP – new Sustainable Community Strategy for Northumberland**

An invitation to comment on the new Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) for Northumberland had been received from the NSP which was coordinating its development for the county and had produced a draft initiated through the Perfect 10 debates.

The report highlighted that the working draft centred on the six big partnership issues and that it would inform the preparation of the new Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy and the Local Area Agreement (LAA).

While the themes were cross-cutting members were concerned that there was no specific mention of the elderly and that transport was a big issue for the county.

**RESOLVED that NSP be advised of the omission of specific reference to the elderly of the county and the transport issues.**

**C38/10 TOWN DIARY PUBLICATION**

The Chairperson reported on a suggestion for the publication of a town events diary for the summer commencing with the Triathlon Weekend on 23 July. A combined publication with local businesses and a joined-up approach with other organisations would be beneficial but time was now very tight. Distribution could take place through local shops; community organisations; Farmers' Market; Caravan Sites and four quotations had been obtained to produce A4 and A3 leaflets.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The Town Council approve and support the publication of a Diary of Events for the town;
2. Expenditure of up to £500.00 be approved for this publication.

**C39/10 URGENT BUSINESS**

Owing to the urgency of preparing a scheme for incorporation into the county council capital highway programme the Chairperson agreed to the consideration of the following item of business.

**C40/10 SPITAL FARM PATHWAY PROJECT**

An issue of health and safety remained in relation to the footpath adjacent to the main road access to the town adjoining Spital Farm despite the provision of a cycleway on the opposite side of the road. A safe footpath provision for school children in particular was required that might include moving back the farm wall an option that had been discussed with the agents for the owners.

**RESOLVED that representations be made to the county council for inclusion of this scheme in the county highways programme.**

Signed by the Chairperson .....

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Date: .....