

NEWBIGGIN BY-THE-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 08 December 2010 at 7.00 pm at the Newbiggin Sports and Community Centre.

PRESENT:

Councillors: R McCready (Mayor)
L Anderson M Boon M Kirkup
M Peden W Rogers
Officer: D Earl – Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE:

5 members of the public and 1 member of the press

OPEN SESSION

- County Councillor J Lang expressed his thanks to members of the Town Council for its support for the Interactive Traffic Sign project.
- A member of the community expressed his congratulations to all involved with Christmas lighting arrangements for the town. He then referred to the random replacement of the paving blocks following the installation of the pit for the Christmas tree which he did not feel was satisfactory and enquired when the bandstand was to be pulled down and the mosaics removed.

In response he was advised that the county council had just commenced further consultation on these issues following the presentation of a petition to the Area committee and would be considered later on the agenda.

- In response to a query the Chairperson confirmed that reference to the Music Concert to be held at Woodhorn Church on Friday 17 December was contained in the minutes of the previous meeting.

C86/10 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2010 were agreed and signed as a correct record. The Chairperson reported that in accordance with the powers delegated at the last meeting arrangements had been made that week with the county council to re-instate the School Crossing Patrol on the main road B1334 at a cost of £3,444 to the Town Council.

Enquiries had been made by the Chairperson with North of England Royal Society for the Protection of Birds regarding the proposals for the Memorial Garden at the entrance to Long Park. Advice had

been received that the tree planting proposal would not present a problem to feeding birds but a request had been made to consider more native species and berry bearing trees and shrubs. This would be incorporated into the scheme agreement.

C87/10 MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 06 October 2010 were received.

C88/10 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

No declarations were made.

C89/10 TOWN PLAN

The Chairperson introduced the Town Plan a final draft having been circulated as Appendix 1 to the report and referred to its development process since the inception of the Council with much discussion at the strategy day resulting in the publication of aims and objectives. There had been significant consultation over the content of the plan with the community through the Town Survey circulated to all residents and feedback had influenced the final draft and results considered at the Town Assembly. A number of other relevant documents had been considered and the five aspirations had been drafted with smart objectives although not detailed at this stage.

A wide range of issues and aspirations were considered while working through each section of the plan and highlighting those which were already developing. She encouraged all stakeholders to support the Town Plan which would be used to measure all future requests for service provision and local projects. Work would continue setting project priorities and investigating means of delivery with quarterly reviews taking place and an annual review ahead of the next Assembly in May.

Members were appreciative of the good work that had gone into the plan and referred to the need to develop the specific projects so that good ones could access external funds and the Town Council lead on the localism agenda helping communities. It was felt that a good plan was to be put in place and that the size of the Newbiggin community would allow the council to draw others into assist delivery.

RESOLVED that the Town Council:

- i) Adopt the Town Plan attached at Appendix 1;**
- ii) Inform the community through a summery in the next newsletter; make a final version available electronically and in hard copy to be distributed to partners and stakeholders.**

C90/10 QUAY WALL REGENERATION – NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION

The Town Clerk outlined the latest arrangements for county council consultation concerning the intended regeneration scheme affecting the Quay Wall area of the town centre.

The Town Council had agreed the previous regeneration proposals following extensive consultation by the county council earlier in the year and it had been hoped that the scheme would have been on site by now. The contract works had been delayed owing to the submission of a petition to the county council’s Area Committee requesting retention of the bandstand and the mosaics and the committee had agreed to further consultation being carried out.

A report to the committee by the Regeneration Officer identified the design principles and the overall impact aims to create a focal point and more open space which would allow a greater range of event activities to be held, and re-connect the promenade / beach with the village centre. Removing unnecessary clutter would help this visually and also allow the buildings to define the space more clearly. Such principles accorded with latest Government statements regarding ‘street clutter’ damaging the character of areas and Guidance such as the Manual for Streets (Department for Transport, 2007) and Streets for All (English Heritage, 2005). The design was simply detailed, robust and complementary to the character and appearance of the conservation area. The revised layout aimed to help reduce the extent of illegal vehicular use but still maintain full servicing of the surrounding buildings.

Design layouts with and without the bandstand were displayed at the meeting and the formal consultation would take place until January.

The existing surface was recognised by members to be problematic and that a more open space would be welcome so that it could be put to a variety of uses in future. Consideration could be given to future provision of a performance area; temporary structures for events; a better location for a bandstand preferably elevated and a new arts project for local children and members’ confirmed that the existing bandstand and mosaics did not need to be retained.

RESOLVED that the Town Council confirm its views regarding the regeneration scheme.

URGENT BUSINESS - In view of the timescales to meet the county council requirements the Chairperson agreed to consideration of the following item of urgent business

C91/10 WOODHORN CHURCH – ACCESS FOR CONCERT

Members were informed that the county council had now agreed to the use of St Mary’s Church premises for a concert following a request for reasonable access in accordance with the terms of the covenants. This would take place on Friday 17 December and the county council required that a licence be signed by the Town Council to regulate the use and provide indemnity and insurance.

RESOLVED that the Licence be signed on behalf of the Town Council.

Signed by the Chairperson

Date:

Newbiggin by-the-Sea Town Council

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