

## NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 08 February 2012 at 7 pm at the Grace Darling Campus, Newbiggin by-the-Sea.**

### PRESENT:

Councillors: R McCready (Mayor)  
L Anderson M Cholerton M Kirkup  
M Peden W Rogers A Thompson

Officer: D Earl - Town Clerk

**IN ATTENDANCE:** 8 members of the public and 1 member of the press.

### OPEN SESSION

The following questions were raised by members of the public:

- Two residents of Sea View attended to object to the proposal to construct a storage and public toilet building in Watt's Lane adjacent to their property. They spoke on behalf of other objectors both residents and businesses who had signed a petition against the scheme at this location. It was claimed there were other suitable locations and that Watt's Lane was a small access road and problematic for traffic.

The Chairperson advised that the Town Council had resolved to seek planning consent for the development following the outcome of the survey in connection with the Town Plan and discussions at the Annual Assembly in 2010. The provision of new public toilets in a town centre location had been rated the most important project and highest priority for the town.

The application was with the county council as planning authority and was likely to be considered by the Planning Committee. Once the outcome was known the matter would be considered further by the Town Council probably in April and the residents would be notified in advance. The Chairperson received the petition from the residents.

- A resident referred to the cut through to Locarno Place where the county council had recently removed the flower bed and installed paving. As this path sloped towards the street he enquired if any further supports or bollards were to be installed. Councillor Anderson advised that she had already been in contact with the county council and they were to install bollards at either end.

**C084/11**

### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M Boon.

**C085/11 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2012 were agreed and signed by the Chairperson as a correct record. The Town Clerk referred to the funding decisions regarding events to be organised by a number of local organisations and that the grant for Bad Apples should be £600 to cover the cost of the event.

**RESOLVED that the grant of £600 be approved.**

**C086/11 COMMITTEE MINUTES**

The minutes of the Grant Committee held on 25 January 2012 were received the Committee having acted under delegated powers. The Chairperson outlined the decisions in relation to the several grant applications.

**C087/11 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS**

Councillors Anderson and McCready declared personal interests being members of Newbiggin in Bloom Association.

**C088/11 QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE**

A range of activities was referred to by the Chairperson and members were invited to consider what in general should be supported from the budgets available for Diamond Jubilee and Olympic celebrations. It was felt that £500 should be set aside from the Small Grants budget to support local street parties at a maximum of £50 each.

Following the successful community meeting on 18 January a number of ideas were being put together to maximize output for summer events and Olympic events which could also be decided by the Grant Committee but for which the normal cap would not be appropriate.

Reference was made to arranging beacons around the country for the Jubilee celebrations And the Town Council could have access to two gas fired beacons.

Councillor Cholerton had investigated possible gifts for local school children and recommended a china mug depicting both the Diamond Jubilee and Olympics 2012 for £2 each. Councillor Kirkup also suggested obtaining a framed scroll through a local calligrapher to be presented to the school with copies provided for the children. Councillor Thompson advised of an opportunity to create a Diamond Jubilee Orchard possibly at Buteland Terrace beyond the medical centre that could also be planted with red white and blue wild flowers as a sustainable area involving Northumberland Wildlife Trust.

**RESOLVED that the Town Council:**

- i) Agree to set aside £500 for Jubilee Party Grants to a maximum of £50 each to be administered by the Grant Committee;**

- ii) **Delegate decisions regarding funding of Olympic Events and Summer Activities to the Grant Committee;**
- iii) **Approve the acquisition of commemorative china mugs for all of the children at Grace Darling Campus ;**
- iv) **Approve acquisition of a framed commemorative scroll for Grace Darling Campus with copies for the school children;**
- v) **Support the project to create a Queens Diamond Jubilee Orchard.**

## **C089/11 HORTICULTURAL IMPROVEMENTS**

Following completion of the horticultural survey of the town and prioritization of improvements discussions had been held with the Neighbourhood Services section of the county council to consider replacing high maintenance displays and refreshing some old ones.

Various works would be carried out by NCC this spring and some were in hand while some improvements would have to be funded by the Town Council. A number of schemes had been estimated at £2,411.45 to replace rose beds and enhance shrub planting schemes at six sites to be planted and maintained by the county council this year. Changes near the Spital Allotments highlighted the need to install kerbing and improve the allotment accesses to deter parking on the grass verges at a cost of £2,374.31. Orders had to be placed that week for all spring planting and members wished to undertake these schemes and maximize the works with funds from balances.

Annual planting of flower beds would no longer be carried out by NCC throughout the county and quotations had been provided for those areas previously planted. Members felt that this was unaffordable but wanted to provide as much floral planting as possible in key locations to participate in the Northumbria In Bloom competition. The feature bed opposite the Memorial Park had not been listed but would now be included for the nominal cost of the plants and a Jubilee design would be created. An opportunity would be taken this year to increase community participation by asking Newbiggin In Bloom to undertake the floral planting of the Memorial Park and this had been agreed with NCC.

### **RESOLVED that the Town Council:**

- i) **Delegate Powers to the Town Clerk to place orders for enhanced planting schemes up to the value of £7,500 from balances;**
- ii) **Newbiggin In Bloom be invited to undertake the floral planting of the Memorial Park;**
- iii) **Orders for 2012 floral planting be placed with Northumberland County Council up to the budget value of £6,000**

**CO90/11 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – CONFERENCE FOR OLDER PEOPLE**

Arrangements for the Annual Town Meeting were in hand and the Chairperson advised that it would be held this year on Tuesday 03 April between 10.00 am and 3.30 pm in the Wansbeck Suite at the Newbiggin Sports and Community Centre. It would be in the form of a free conference with the theme being Older People and a number of key speakers had been confirmed. Invitations and the programme would be issued as soon as possible.

**RESOLVED that the Annual Town Meeting be held on Tuesday 03 April 2012 as outlined above.**

**CO91/11 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES**

The Town Council had provided a budget of £14,400 for schemes to be delivered for children and young people in the town.

The Chairperson outlined proposed schemes and estimates for a full programme to be delivered by Blyth Valley Arts & Leisure (BVAL) which managed the local Sports Centre. Officers had also offered to provide extra activities and equipment in connection with other possible events and members wished to provide a comprehensive programme.

**RESOLVED that the full Youth Development Programme be provided by BVAL at a cost of £14,400.**

**CO92/11 EVENTS LEAFLET**

Arrangements were already in hand this year to compile an Events Calendar building on information provided at the joint community event and a deadline for inclusion of community events had been set for 29 February.

Some quotations had been obtained to engage a professional designer and it was anticipated that this year a programme of events could be incorporated in a Newsletter to all residents in March and the professional leaflet printed for wider distribution at tourist points and locations.

**RESOLVED that Delegated Powers be granted to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairperson to engage an appropriate designer for the Events Leaflet.**

**CO93/11 NEWSLETTER**

It was felt that a Newsletter should be compiled printed and distributed in March to accommodate both the Events Calendar and arrangements for the Annual Town Assembly to ensure all residents had information in sufficient time. The cost of printing and distribution was provided for in the 2012 budget with payment being made in April.

**RESOLVED that the Newsletter be compiled and distributed in March.**

**C094/11 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMPETITION**

Councillor Rogers referred to the Christmas Lights Competition and advised that an awards event would be held at the Newbiggin Sports and Community Centre on Friday 10 February commencing at 7.00 pm.

**C095/11 ALCAN**

Recent developments had highlighted that if the Power Station was to be sold and converted to bio-fuel a significant number of extra large vehicle movements would take place to and from the site through Woodhorn and the road was not designed to take such heavy traffic.

Councillor Peden reported on discussions regarding the ash lagoons and the need to ensure that a decent and safe scheme was put in place to reassure the local community and the Town Clerk advised that Rio Tinto Alcan had agreed to meet representatives once the statutory process was concluded.

Signed by the Chairperson: .....

Date: .....