

NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13 November 2013 at 7 pm at the Grace Darling Campus Newbiggin by-the-Sea.

PRESENT:

Councillors: M Peden (Vice-Chairman)
L Burns M Cholerton R Dixon
A Thompson S Todd

Officer: D Earl – Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: 7 members of the public

OPEN SESSION

- Northumbria Police representative CSO Martin Hayes referred to action relating to recently reported anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of the Sports Centre and the bakery with 26 individuals identified and follow-up visits to their homes with Housing Officers when first warnings had been issued. Action had been taken to uplift and crush motor cycles and quad bikes with prosecutions following for related offences. Some work targeting offenders had been planned and he reported that offences were down compared to the same period last year.

Members discussed the perceptions of anti-social behaviour particularly regarding young people and were advised that the Police and Crime Commissioner allowed no discretion in dealing with such complaints and letters had to be issued in all cases.

- A member of the public enquired if there was any follow up to the matter raised at the previous meeting regarding the loss of the Post Office facility at the west end of the town. The Town Clerk advised that there had been no reply from the Post Office and no current information whether the service would be re-established.
- Another resident returned to the issues of development at the former Windsor First School site and whether the directors of Arch were known. This was public information available on the company's web site and the regeneration company was wholly owned by the county council and a number of senior politicians were directors. A consultation process had been promised once the development plans were finalised.
- A resident commented on the new street light finally installed by the county council near to the boxing club and commended the work of two volunteers seen spending a considerable amount of time carrying out works in Memorial Park ahead of Remembrance Day.

In response to other queries he was advised that the Chairman only of the Town Council had been invited by the county council to the new Parish Liaison Group; the rents proposed by the county council for authorised horse grazing plots were not known; no suitable sites for a large notice board had yet been identified and that consent would not be granted to replace the one removed by the county council from the Quay Wall Piazza. It was noted that there could be an opportunity to consider an alternative with the Portas initiative.

- Another resident commented again about the revised bus service problems in the Colliery area and while appreciating the partial re-introduction of service the only way for passengers to get to the hospital or for shopping was to walk down to Woodlea or Front Street which was a problem for the elderly and infirm. Reference was made to the Watbus Nipper service around the town on three mornings and that the Wednesday trial was being monitored and needed significant use.

There were some concerns regarding some new bus shelters not affording sufficient protection from the rain and recently broken Perspex to be reported to Neighbourhood Services. Some sites were not capable of accommodating larger shelters and a review was being considered. The meeting was advised that the Arriva timing issues were being monitored.

C074/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rogers and Boon.

C075/13 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 09 October 2013 were agreed as a correct record.

C076/13 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

Councillors Burns and Thompson declared personal and prejudicial interests as directors of the Portas company and Councillors Peden and Thompson as directors of Newbiggin Partnership Limited and the local branch of the Royal British Legion.

C077/13 NEWBIGGIN SKATEPARK – PHASE 2

The Town Clerk updated the meeting regarding the Skatepark Project with Phase 1 on site and the Phase 2 floodlighting element requiring planning consent following design by county lighting engineers. There was an overlap with the following item regarding the adjoining Multi Use Games Area and the scheme could be split into separate phases.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be authorized to submit the necessary planning application relating to the floodlighting scheme and make arrangements for the completion of the works as soon as possible.

C078/13 MULTI USE GAMES AREA

This area adjoining the Skatepark was included with the play area sites to be transferred as part of the Local Service transfer from the county council and was in need of refurbishment. Works required included resurfacing; fencing and replacement floodlighting scheme for safe year-round use.

RESOLVED that: the Town Clerk makes arrangements for the refurbishment of the MUGA including the planning application and grant funding.

Councillors Peden and Thompson withdrew during consideration of the following item.

Councillor Cholerton in the Chair.

C079/13 STEEL BAND TUITION

An application had been received from Newbiggin by-the-Sea Partnership Limited for interim funding to continue the music tuition through the Steel Band and the aim of formation of an orchestra until new grants were approved in March. Links had been established with the Academy and Families by the Sea and Members recognized the enthusiasm of the young people and the encouragement of parents.

RESOLVED that: interim funding of £2,000 for this period be granted to Newbiggin by-the-Sea Partnership Limited for Steel Band tuition.

C080/13 TREE PRESERVATION ORDER

The Town Clerk reported receipt of a Tree Preservation Order from the county council protecting trees in the gardens of properties at 18A and 20 Front Street. The order indicated that these trees were in good condition with an estimated lifespan of 100 years and made a significant contribution to the visual amenity of the area.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

C081/13 CONSULTATION BY NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL – CORE STRATEGY

The latest stage in the development of Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy had produced the county council's Preferred Options which the Town Clerk advised was an important document to shape planning decisions over the next 10 – 20 years. The Town Council had made previous submissions regarding employment and housing during initial consultation and there was a small window to consider and comment in key areas of Housing; Employment; Green Belt during current consultation which closes on 02 January.

A substantial 135 page document had been published plus 7 supporting documents on disc. Discussion sessions were being held around the county

with the nearest at Ashington on 5th December between 6.30 – 8.30 pm and Stakeholder Workshop at Ashington Welfare 11th December between 10 am – 1.30 pm.

The Green Belt alterations defined new boundaries around Morpeth and modest reviews around Hexham, Prudhoe and Ponteland.

Proposals for Employment identified imbalance of land supply and where businesses want to locate and changes were proposed at Alnwick; Blyth; Cramlington; Hexham; Morpeth; Ponteland; Prudhoe. Other main towns and service centres had an adequate supply of some 140 hectares with the total available South East Northumberland including strategic sites some 326 hectares.

Major policy and strategy issues for Housing included:

- Increase in housing provision by 24,310 dwellings (average 1,216 pa)
- Focus growth on Main Towns and service centres
- SE Northumberland 12,820 dwellings (average 641 pa)
- Allocations by town – Newbiggin categorized as Service Centre – 320 total
- PDL – Previously Developed Land important but reducing
- Density higher in urban accessible areas
- Affordable Housing percentage – 30% across county 25% SEN based on identified need

Members had various views concerning green belt around the town separating Ashington and Newbiggin; lack of employment land allocations within the town accepting that the former Alcan site was within the parish boundary; housing requirements for the regeneration of the town.

RESOLVED that: powers be delegated to a Working Group consisting of Councillors Peden Thompson and Todd to agree Core Strategy representations on behalf of the Town Council.

Councillors Peden and Thompson withdrew during consideration of the following item.

Councillor Cholerton in the Chair.

C082/13 ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

References were made to another well attended Remembrance Parade and Services organized by the Royal British Legion. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor had laid wreathes on behalf of the Town Council.

RESOLVED that a donation of £100 be made to the local branch of the Royal British Legion.

C083/13

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items on the Agenda as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act relating to financial and business affairs.

Councillors Burn and Thompson withdrew during consideration of the following item.

C084/13

PORTAS YOUTH ART HUB – WOODHORN VILLA

The Town Clerk outlined the arrangements for hosting the Portas Youth Art Hub at Woodhorn Villa throughout the summer and the changing requirements extending into November. In view of the overall budget limitations for the project it was necessary to consider a concessionary room hire charge.

RESOLVED that: a concessionary room hire charge be agreed at £2,250.

Signed by the Chairman:

Date:.....