

NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14 July 2014 at 7 pm at the St Bartholomew's Church Centre Newbiggin by-the-Sea.

PRESENT:

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

Officer: D Earl – Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: 9 members of the public

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- A member of the public who had previously submitted a petition regarding the bus shelters reiterated the problems it identified and enquired when any progress was likely. The Chairman explained that further design work and estimates were awaited from the local construction company and the limitations of finance in the current year. Locations and sizes of shelters were determined by the County Council Highways criteria and officers taking account of underground services and sight lines and further consent would be required when designs were agreed.
- A County Councillor enquired about consultation for the review of the Town Plan 2010-2015 and was advised that the process had commenced in April with the Portas Trustees then representatives of local groups and associations ahead of consideration at the Annual Town Meeting. It would progress and be in place for implementation prior to April 2015.
- A local resident asked for information regarding a more detailed breakdown of the Town Council accounts and expenditure; the use of Woodhorn Villa; payments for the toilet project and grants. The Town Clerk advised that the published accounts contained actual expenditure and a schedule of all payments over £500 was published on the web site. Woodhorn Villa was currently the Town Council office and used for a range of community arts groups while the payments related to fees incurred so far in the legal processes for the toilet project. Details of the grants awarded were set out in the minutes of the meetings of the Grant Committee.
- Rumours concerning development proposals were referred to and possible impact of demolition works on the Church Fair. The meeting was advised that details were still formally confidential between the parties and no further information was currently available.

- The local County Councillor Ward Members were invited by the Chairman to report on any county matters. They advised of local work regarding community safety issues and contributions to the Beach Garden Portas Project.
- Reference was made to recent sand extraction works and a local resident enquired about the two dedicated workers and whether this was effective and good value. A good start had been made to the environmental enhancement service with works around the bay and Members confirmed the sterling work being undertaken. The first season scheme would be evaluated later in the year to see the improvements beyond the county basic service levels and the Town Council would look at the possibility of extending it.

C025/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M Boon.

C026/14 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2014 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C027/14 MINUTES OF THE GRANT COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Grant Committee held on 11 June 2014 were received.

C028/14 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

The interests of Councillors Burns Peden and Rogers as Trustees of the Portas Project were noted in relation to the business on the agenda.

C029/14 LOCAL SERVICE REPAIR UPDATE

The Town Clerk reported on the current position regarding local service repairs required at the play grounds and bus shelters. As the design specifications and estimates were still awaited from the local contractor for the significant bus shelter works to be considered it was not known at that stage what further repairs and improvements could be afforded from the current budget. All of the initial promenade schemes would be completed shortly.

RESOLVED that: the report be received.

C030/14 PUBLIC REALM SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS – PARTNERSHIP BOARD UPDATE

As previously reported the enhancement works were well underway for the summer season with initial emphasis on the promenade/town centre ahead of the holiday period. A Strategic Partnership Board consisting of Members and officers from both councils would meet shortly to consider the Partnership Agreement and priorities and it

was suggested that the three members of the Environmental Working Group should represent the Town Council.

RESOLVED that: Councillors Cholerton Peden and Rogers with the Town Clerk represent the Town Council on the Partnership Board.

C031/14 TOWN MAP AND COMMUNICATIONS

It had been agreed at the last meeting to develop a joint project with the Portas Team for the Town Map to be reproduced for display in the bus shelters and on information boards. The design company had been contacted and could undertake the amendments required at a relatively low cost. Additional copies could be obtained now for further locations around the town.

RESOLVED that: the Town Clerk arrange for the Town Map to be updated and amended with copies placed in suitable locations.

C032/14 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 paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act relating to financial and business affairs.

The Town Clerk declared a pecuniary interest and withdrew during consideration of the following item.

C033/14 SALARY INCREMENT

The County Council administered the payroll for the Town Council and required confirmation that the annual increment should be applied to the salary of the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED that: the annual increment be applied.

Signed by the Chairman:

Date:.....