

NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 08 July 2015 at 7 pm at the Grace Darling Academy, Newbiggin by-the-Sea.

PRESENT:

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

Officer: D Earl – Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: 10 members of the public

OPEN SESSION

- Referring to the County Council programme of replacing street lamps a local businessman asked if extended Christmas Lighting works were being carried out at the same time. The Town Clerk advised that these works would be undertaken by County Street Lighting who had a note of all the lamp columns concerned but they had indicated few if any of these were being replaced.
- A remaining director of Portas Town Team indicated he had no objection to a new Town Team being formed but wanted to know who had instigated this and the freezing of present finances. He referred to arrangements for local events and bookings for bands which may have to be cancelled affecting the local economy and asked why the County Leader was involved.
The Chairman explained his understanding of how the Portas Team had been brought together and time-limited finances attracted with schemes ending in June following an extension. He felt as the new Town Council Chairman that the town needed a Team for continuity and had discussed with other Town Councillors links to the Town Plan and the need to expand this to a 10 year plan.
Funding issues were linked to the County Council and nothing to do with the Town Council except for the income from the wind farm which had initially gone to the Portas Town Team and the County Council recently indicated would now come to the Town Council. He knew nothing of the monies of the Town Team or the freezing of them and had no idea of the plans of the Town Team for this year previously referred to. There had been no approach to the County Council and the Town Clerk confirmed he had received no information concerning these issues either.
In response to a request that the Town Council support the continued expenditure of the Town Team the Chairman advised that the Town Council needed to be at the centre of arrangements.
- A local resident referred to a number of intended events he had become aware of that could raise opportunities for the town. No one had previously been aware of an Amble to Blyth boat race but opportunities regarding the Tour of Britain in September and the Tall Ships Regatta next year at Blyth Harbour would be investigated.
- A local businessman was concerned over the mess with litter and cigarette ends along Front Street in the town centre which was not being dealt with frequently enough. Street cleansing was the responsibility of the County Council and this would be brought to the attention of Neighbourhood Services.
- The Reverend Sinclair asked about responsibility for the Church Point car park and the access road to the church which had suffered from problems of wind-blown sand for some time. As a result funeral corteges were finding difficulty overcoming the

mounds of sand. It was confirmed that this was a County Council responsibility and the Town Clerk referred to ongoing discussions and would report this matter again.

C022/15 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M Peden.

C023/15 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2015 were agreed as a correct record.

C024/15 REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP

The Working Group had met with Neighbourhood Services earlier in the day and issues pursued concerning refuse and litter collection along the promenade following problems at busy weekends. The collection schedule was confirmed for Tuesday and Thursday collections and any weekend arrangements would have to be funded by the Town Council. Additional bin posts were currently being fabricated to again increase capacity on the promenade from Haven View through the Quay Wall Couple Park and the Maritime Centre and this would be monitored over the summer holidays and action taken if necessary. Priority was being given for works associated with next week's judging of Northumbria in Bloom and a number of environmental projects were being developed.

C025/15 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS No new interests were declared at this point.

- Before proceeding with further business the Chairman agreed to take a report from Northumbria Police. CSO Phil Raisbeck introduced himself as the new Community Services Officer for Newbiggin and gave apologies for PC Neil Hall who was unable to attend. He advised that crime in the town was currently low with some youth disorder in the Skatepark area being addressed and homes visited. The theft of the brass plaque from the War Memorial had not been recorded yet as ownership was still to be established.

C026/15 PRESENTATION – YOUTH SERVICES

Mike Kelcey the Senior Area Worker responsible for managing the mid Northumberland sector for Youth Services covering Ashington; Bedlington; Morpeth; Newbiggin attended the meeting to give a presentation regarding the local service.

The aim was to meet the needs of young people and build self esteem and self confidence to impact their current and future development. Programmes were developed to help young people meet aims; build relationships; offer a safe environment; share aspirations. The service recruited a balance of good quality staff and those that needed development through training and the available budget equated to only £8.50 per young person so they needed to work in partnership with a range of other organizations including YMCA; Trinity Youth; Bad Apples. Much emphasis was placed on the need for effective partnership working to achieve outcomes for young people.

Both detached and centre-based sessions were delivered with schools; 1 to 1; c-card; employability; and trips and visits through NCS the National Citizenship Service with intense work for three weeks. He managed the Northumberland's Finest Scheme for the county and had support from high calibre people. It was important to grow and develop individuals and

groups as well as projects to provide benefit for young people and it was well established that spending on youth services resulted in saving much more for other services.

In response to questions it was confirmed that the service operated for young people between the ages of 13 – 19 years and a popular misconception being that Anti-Social Behaviour Orders applied mostly to this group as 66% of all orders went to older people and other problems applied to younger children. There was little interaction with parents although it was recognised that this could help in changing behaviour.

C027/15 COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION – REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

The Town Clerk had circulated a report advising that the Acting Returning Officer had commenced consultation on a statutory review of Polling Districts and Polling Places throughout Northumberland which must be undertaken every five years.

The review would take ensure that all electors in the constituency had such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances and ensure that so far as was reasonable and practicable the Polling Places were accessible to those who are disabled.

Details of the current wards and polling places were set out in the report and the factors that would be considered included: boundaries, size of Polling Districts, population changes and the emergence of new housing developments.

RESOLVED that: any comments from Town Councillors be referred to the County Council.

C028/15 COASTAL COMMUNITIES BID SUPPORT

The Chairman advised the meeting that when he had become aware of a bid process for Coastal Communities support the previous week he had met with Councillor Peden and a bid for Newbiggin by-the-Sea had been quickly put together to meet the deadline for the Department of Communities and Local Government. He sought the support of the Town Council for the bid and referred to a number of linking projects from the Maritime Centre; Rocket House Restoration; Coastal Walk; the extensive Lagoon area with wildlife links and the need to address these areas for the future.

Members were unanimously in favour of this bid and a request was made that a copy of the detail be circulated to them.

RESOLVED that: the Town Council supported this bid for Coastal Communities Support.

C029/15 TOWN PLAN REVIEW

Following earlier decisions to review the current Town Plan before consulting on new one Members' felt that detailed informal consideration of the aims objectives and project status was required.

RESOLVED that: the Members meet informally to progress the review over the summer and report back.

C030/15 GRANT SCHEME REVIEW

The Chairmen invited Members to consider any issues regarding the Grants Scheme which had been in operation now for five years.

RESOLVED that: the Grant Committee meet to consider the parameters of the scheme.

C031/15 URGENT BUSINESS The Chairman agreed to consideration of the following item owing to the timescale for response

C032/15 COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

The Chairman referred to correspondence with the Reverend Sinclair about the development of the Church Magazine towards a Community Magazine for the Church and other organizations with local advertising and a possible regular page for the Town Council and financial support. Members were asked to consider the proposal for future decision.

C033/15 BANDSTAND CONCERTS

Councillor Rogers advised Members that concerts would be held at the Bandstand at the Quay Wall piazza on the next two Saturdays when Apu then the children's Pans Band would perform between 1:00pm and 3:00pm.

Signed by the Chairman: Date:.....