

NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 08 June 2016 at 7.00 pm at the Grace Darling Campus, Newbiggin by-the-Sea.

PRESENT:

Councillors: S Todd (Mayor)
M Boon L Burns M Cholerton
R Dixon W Rogers A Thompson
Officer: D Earl – Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: 19 members of the public

OPEN SESSION

- A local resident had six questions to raise and tabled a copy:

Re today's announcement on the NCC website that Newbiggin will not be getting a new library:

(i) Was the chair of the TC made aware prior to the announcement today that no new library will now be provided?

(ii) If so on what date did he receive this information, from whom and when was it communicated to the rest of our Town Councillors?

(iii) On what date was the Town Clerk, who is an officer of Active Northumberland become aware of this decision and on what date was this communicated to his employers in Newbiggin Town Council?

(iv) I would ask that in the light of this decision the Town Council revisit their decision to contribute £100,000 of our money to a project which will no longer provide us with a new library. Will the TC agree to do this?

With regard to the formation of the Newbiggin Development Trust Ltd:

(i) There has been no TC resolution supporting the formation of the NDT Ltd and the only Council minute about this recorded that councillors wanted further information before making a decision. Why then was the documentation for registration of the Trust, of whom the mayor and deputy mayor are the only directors first submitted to Companies House in February without a resolution supporting this from the TC as the decision making body? The company registered at the end of May.

(ii) Why has the Company given its registered address as the Town Council Offices when no resolution has been proposed or accepted by the Town Council resolving to undertake this course of action?

The Chairman replied and confirmed that he had not seen the announcement by NCC (to relocate the library with one-stop services in the Sports and Community Centre) and had not been involved in any discussions. Following a phone call the previous night he had contacted the Town Clerk who immediately met with Arch.

He advised that the Town Clerk was not an officer of Active Northumberland. The Town Clerk

emphasised that he had not received any information from the County Council or Active Northumberland.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman had a meeting arranged with Arch and would then discuss the matter with the other Councillors.

Regarding the Development Trust there had been no Town Council resolution.

- A representative from the Little Gem Arts and Crafts Gallery operating at Woodhorn Villa sought permission for a banner advertising the Centre facilities and available toilets to be displayed in the town centre to assist with visitor flow. He was advised that the Town Council could not authorise this as it was in the County Council remit but did support the idea and small versions could perhaps be displayed on the notice board and at the Church Centre.
- The ongoing lack of Post Office facilities in the town was again raised by a resident in view of the impact on elderly residents in particular. The Chairman advised that the Town Council County Council and MP had all made representations without any impact on the Post Office although applications had been made by two local businesses. There was a need for a range of services for a vibrant community and a further request would be made.
- Referring to bus shelter repairs a local resident advised that some vandalism had occurred at another shelter at the entrance to Woodlea. This had not been reported previously but would be referred for repair.

C014/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Peden and Councillor A Thompson.

C015/16 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2016 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

C016/16 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

Members were reminded of the need to declare any new interests in relation to business to be considered at the meeting.

C017/16 MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP

The minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Working Group held on 18 May 2016 were received for information.

C018/16 MINUTES OF THE GRANT COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Grant Committee held on 25 May 2016 acting under delegated powers were received. The Chair of the Committee referred to Application 16/05 requesting that additional funding should be allocated for intended Bank Holiday events but it was felt that the Grant Committee should consider as normal and come back to Council if funds proved to be insufficient in due course.

C019/16 ROCKET HOUSE PROJECT

Following on the successful development phase of the project to restore the Rocket House the Town Clerk reported receipt of a formal request from the Newbiggin Heritage Partnership for the Town Council to contribute to the delivery phase and help support the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Members were unanimous in their support of the heritage project and agreed to provide financial support.

RESOLVED that: a contribution of £3,000 from balances be agreed for the delivery phase of the project.

Councillor Thompson joined the meeting at this point.

C020/16 URGENT BUSINESS

The Chairman agreed to consideration of the following items of urgent business to consider carrying out safety works and town centre summer planting.

C021/16 CHURCH POINT STEPS

A request had been made for the installation of handrails to the steps at the end of the promenade leading to the Church Point headland and an estimate of costs provided by the County Council Neighbourhood Services that had responsibility for the area. A quotation from their approved contractor amounting to £750 was acceptable and it was felt that the area at the top of the steps should be examined with a view to providing a platform to the steps where ground material had been washed away.

RESOLVED that:

- i) the quotation for the works from the County contractor be accepted and the works proceed as soon as possible;**
- ii) the Environmental Working Group be given delegated powers to make suitable arrangements for the land at the top of the steps.**

C022/16 SUMMER PLANTING FOR THE TOWN CENTRE

There were a number of areas throughout the town centre where beds and tubs had been tended and planted by Newbiggin In Bloom in previous years and Members were invited to consider whether the Town Council should make arrangements for this summer. It would be necessary for Neighbourhood Services to buy in bedding plants and have the work undertaken through the enhancement employees. The estimate for the purchase of plants amounted to £750 and could be met from the local services budget.

Members felt that this work should be arranged and the costs met by the Town Council this year pending arrangements to reinvigorate a local volunteers group and that the small tubs were not sustainable and should be removed and the ground cleansed.

RESOLVED that: the town centre planting scheme be approved at a cost of £750.

C023/16 WOODHORN CHURCH CONCERT

Councillor Rogers advised of a concert by Prelude to take place at Woodhorn Church that weekend.