

NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 20 September 2017 at 7.00 pm at Newbiggin by-the-Sea Sports and Community Centre.

PRESENT:

Councillors: M Peden (Chairman)
M Boon A Bromwich-Alexandra L Burns
M Cholerton S Harrison E Hartley A Thompson

Officer: D Earl – Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: 19 members of the public; NALC Chief Officer;
Vice-Chairman AFC Newbiggin

OPEN SESSION

A member of the public asked if the Environment Group had an action plan to deal with the environmental areas around the town citing the condition of the flower beds in front of the shops spoilt by rubbish and weeds and the beds at the west end needing attention. It was confirmed that these matters would be taken up with the Neighbourhood Services Team.

There was also a problem of the electricity company having dumped asphalt on the precinct and taken up the paving blocks which needed to be replaced. It was felt that these were probably temporary measures and would be referred to the County Council.

C040/17 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C041/17 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 26 July 2017 were received for information.

C042/17 MINUTES OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 12 September 2017 were received for information.

C043/17 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

No new interests were declared by Members at this stage.

C044/17 SUPPORT FOR AFC NEWBIGGIN

It was agreed to vary the agenda so that the Vice-Chairman of AFC Newbiggin could give a presentation regarding a project to provide the club with its own premises. He outlined the history of the club established in 1911 and moves to merge the seniors and juniors to provide eight teams for progression from under 7's through to the first team.

Recent issues with damage from vandalism and lack of amenities that other clubs benefited from combined with significant cost increases in hire charges led the club to plan towards the development of the former Welfare grounds back to a full sports facility. The project included the provision of modern changing facilities and clubroom which would help to make the club sustainable. There were very good volunteers associated with the club which had seen success over recent seasons but there was a need to retain players by providing better facilities and a need to provide a safe set up for the juniors in particular.

Recent meetings with the NFA and favourable pitch studies meant that funding should be accessible if the community was behind the project and the support of the Town Council to the principle of the project was sought.

The report highlighted the property and funding issues and support from the Football Association.

The Chairman invited Members to comment and all expressed their support in principle.

It was **RESOLVED that:** the Town Council support AFC Newbiggin in developing the project to provide the new sporting facilities at the former Welfare.

C045/17 NALC WEBITE ARRANGEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed Stephen Ricketts the Chief Officer of Northumberland ALC to give a presentation to Members of the current need for parish councils to have a web site and the hosting and set up arrangements available through NALC.

A Northumberland system had been established through government grant based on the requirements of small parish councils with the principle of ease of set up for Clerks and for the public to read. He advised that it was not all singing and dancing and not going to score highly on Google but met the audit requirements and government aspiration for the public to look at local information. If information was published on a web site then the Information Commissioner was happy that was sufficient to refer persistent enquirers to and minimize officer time dealing with enquiries.

The presentation used the Meldon web site to demonstrate the facilities working through from the home page which could accommodate three pictures although NALC had to deal with those and would incorporate a map with parish boundaries. The ease of uploading documents in pdf format to cover agenda; minutes; policies; were demonstrated and two administrators per council were permitted access. Removal of documents was also very straight forward but owing to a number of compromises the system did not incorporate e-mails; could not be a .gov site; existing documents had to be transferred one at a time and some councils were not including historic documents.

There were 45 parish councils signed up to the NALC scheme and the annual cost was expected to be £75-80.

Members were appreciative of the information provided during the demonstration and would give serious consideration to the site. The Town Council would proceed to consider what was needed from its web site and look at the options.

C046/17 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN PROGRAMME 2018-19

The report advised that the County Council would be reviewing its Local Transport Plan Programme for 2018-19 and had requested any input on priorities from the Town Council by the end of the month. Those submitted would be marked according to the LTP criteria and those with the highest score overall would then be considered for inclusion in next year's programme.

The schedule of requests received by the Highways Department had been circulated and other possible schemes were referred to in the report and raised by Members. The Town Clerk confirmed the previous submissions had been made and were still outstanding and it was thought that the suggested rearrangement and marking of the Church Point car park could be requested outside of this process.

It was **RESOLVED that:** the Town Council makes the same submission as last year covering:

- i) vehicle speed - a town-wide 20 mph speed limit;
- ii) pedestrian safety - moving the Woodhorn Road pedestrian crossing lights; footpath improvements at Spital Farm; Central Park Way entrance crossing; and
- iii) parking restrictions - Sea Crest Road on bend of bus route.

C047/17 NCC CONSULTATION – ICE CREAM CONCESSION

The Countryside and Green Spaces Manager had requested the Town Councils views regarding the possible operation of a concession for the sale of ice cream at a pitch on the promenade at the centre of the bay and the Town Clerk explained the basis of the consultation and provided further information set out in the report.

Members discussed the relevant aspects and there was a consensus over safety concerns.

It was **RESOLVED that:** on safety grounds the Town Council was against the introduction of vehicles providing concessions on the promenade

C048/17 NEW OFFICE FITTINGS AND FURNISHING

The report of the Town Clerk updated Members on the progress with the construction of the new office/meeting room in the town centre development on Front Street and set out the additional requirements to complete the unit for occupation. Some works were being investigated which could be completed while the builder was still on site together with fascia and window treatment. There was a consensus to proceed with these works and defer consideration of furniture requirements and it was recommended that these matters be approved and an allocation made from balances.

It was **RESOLVED that:**

- i) the works and fittings set out in the report be approved up to a value of £5,000 allocated from balances;
- ii) the Town Clerk make the necessary arrangements in consultation with the Chairman.

C049/17 SUPPORT FOR EVENTS – NEWBIGGIN TRADERS ASSOCIATION

Further information had been obtained from the Traders Association regarding its programme of events as set out in the report and appendix and Members were invited to consider support in principle for a contribution to cover the events throughout the year; activities for the Christmas lights switch-on; the erection of the Christmas tree.

Representatives of the Traders Association outlined the ongoing events programme and Members were supportive of the principle of the approach to contribute to the events programme.

It was **RESOLVED that:** the Town Council agreed in principle to support the Traders Association events programme.

C050/17 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 personal financial and business affairs.

C051/17 GRANT CONTRIBUTION TO NEWBIGGIN TRADERS ASSOCIATION

Members considered the financial aspects of the requests from the Traders' Association covering the installation of the Christmas tree this year and the range of events throughout the financial year.

It was **RESOLVED that:**

- i) it was agreed in principle that the Town Council arrange for the installation of the Christmas tree and the Chairman would investigate arrangements;
- ii) a grant contribution of £3,000 be approved for events in the financial year 2017-18.

C052/17 GRANT CONTRIBUTION TO AFC NEWBIGGIN

The Town Clerk outlined the meeting with the representatives of AFC Newbiggin and the approach for financial support towards the major project to establish new facilities in the town and assist the club to be sustainable.

Members were advised of the property arrangements with the County Council cost estimates and funding sources. It was recognized that evidence of financial commitments was required as match funding towards the significant grant support to be obtained from the Football Association. It was unlikely that any financial contribution would be required in the current financial year as the scheme was developed and subsequent contribution could be spread over two financial years.

It was **RESOLVED that:** the Town Council agreed to contribute a grant of £25,000 as match funding for the project.

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