

## NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance Committee held on Wednesday  
12 January 2011 at 7 pm at the Town Council Cottage Newbiggin.**

### **PRESENT:**

Councillors: R Mc Cready (Chairperson)

L Anderson M Boon M Cholerton

Officer: D Earl – Town Clerk

Also present: Councillors M Kirkup M Peden and W Rogers

### **FC14/10 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Thompson

### **FC15/10 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 December 2010 be approved as a true record

### **FC16/10 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Councillor Boon declared an interest as Secretary of the Newbiggin & District Allotment Association. Councillors Anderson and McCready declared interests as members of Newbiggin in Bloom.

### **FC17/10 INTERNAL AUDIT**

The Town Clerk referred to the need to put in place Terms of Reference for the Internal Audit arrangements at the Town Council as requested by External Auditor.

The main requirements were to provide access to records and completion of the audit of accounts for submission prior to the end of June each year as set out in Appendix 1 circulated to members.

**RECOMMENDED that the Terms of Reference for Internal Audit be approved.**

### **FC18/10 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 1 and 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act relating to personal financial and business affairs.

#### **FC19/10 PROJECTS AND ESTIMATES FOR 2011/2012 BUDGET AND PRECEPT**

The Chairperson outlined to the Committee the approach towards the budget and precept for 2011/12 following on from discussions at the previous meeting and the desire not to increase the amount of the precept.

Members proceeded to review the detail of the likely administrative expenses of the Council and debated some local service delivery and minor project funding allocations to be recommended to the Council meeting and contained within the amount of the precept.

While the detail of the county council's budget and service reduction proposals would not be known until the following week there was a desire to see the Special Charge imposed by the county council in the current financial year for play areas removed. Discussions had been held with officers identifying the cost of service level arrangements if this were to be incorporated into the Town Council Precept which would mean no overall increase to local people. A contingency would be required in case of major repair or replacement and members wanted to explore service delivery options.

It was projected that there would be significant balances carried over to fund a range of projects to be aligned to the priorities of the Town Plan and allocations were identified. Previously successful events and projects would be supported and others that would contribute to the Aims and Objectives would be developed in the following financial year.

#### **RECOMMENDED that:**

- 1) The Budget allocations set out in Appendix 2 amounting to £134,610 be adopted as the Town Council Budget for 2011/2012;**
- 2) There is no increase in the Precept for 2011/2012 which would remain at £113,110.**

#### **FC20/10 NORTHUMBERLAND CHARTER FOR LOCAL SERVICES – LOCAL SERVICE DELIVERY POSITION AND COST ESTIMATES**

The Town Clerk reported that some cost estimates for local service delivery of a range of Streetscene services had been rushed out the previous day ahead of budget discussions scheduled at the Area Committees throughout the county the following week. While Town and Parish Councils were being pressed to make their precept decisions known to the county council by 24 January it would not finalise its service arrangements and budget provision until a month later.

The revised Charter was still not finalised and insufficient time was again available to properly consider these matters and any service delivery arrangements would have to await discussion later in the year.

**RESOLVED that:**

- (i) The current position local service delivery be noted;**
- (ii) Members attend the South East Area Committee to be held in Cramlington on Wednesday 19 January if possible to obtain information regarding the county council budget proposals.**

Signed by the Chairperson: .....

Date:.....