

NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11 November 2009
at 7 pm at the Sports and Community Centre Newbiggin.**

PRESENT:

Councillors: W Rogers (Chair)
 L Anderson M Kirkup
 M Boon R Mc Cready
 M Cholerton A Thompson

Officer: D Earl – Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE:

12 members of the public and 1 member of the press

OPEN SESSION

The following issues were raised:

- Queries were raised regarding the intention of the Town Council to involve young people and whether school councils would be invited to attend meetings. While they would be welcome to attend some felt it was more appropriate for members to go to meet school children in their own environment and this would be investigated.
- A request was made for freepost facilities to be made available so that constituents could get in touch with the Council as not all had electronic contact.
- A constituent had encountered a lack of co-operation from the local planning authority over planning issues and footpath closure at a new property adjacent to the promenade. Works should have been completed by September and the planning and highways enforcement aspect would be pursued.
- The Town Council's views were sought concerning the future of the Triplets Woodhorn Trust that had provided assistance towards local young people's apprenticeships as there would be a meeting of existing trustees in December. Members indicated that they were in favour of continuing the trust and would look to assist with the administration.

CO57/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor M Peden

CO58/09 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2009 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

The following matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting were considered:

The newly appointed Town Clerk Dennis Earl was introduced at his first meeting of the Town Council and gave a brief resume of his previous experience.

Councillor McCready reported back on the costs for providing trees for the Tree O'Clock Initiative. The costs of planting individual trees had doubled since consideration at the last meeting and this was felt to be excessive so this initiative would not proceed.

The latest edition of the newsletter had been printed and distributed at a cost of only £141 on this occasion. Members expressed their appreciation of the high quality work undertaken by Councillor McCready.

CO59/09 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interest.

CO60/09 LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

The Town Clerk reported on the nomination process for parish representatives to the South East Area Partnership of Northumberland Strategic Partnership (NSP). This would be conducted through the Northumberland Association of Local Councils (NALC).

RESOLVED: that the Chairman Councillor W Rogers be nominated as parish representative to NSP.

CO61/09 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE

Members considered the need to appoint a Committee to consider financial matters and report on budget proposals ahead of fixing the Council Precept.

RESOLVED: that Councillors Anderson; Boon; Cholerton; McCready and Thompson be appointed members of the Finance Committee.

CO62/09 FINANCIAL DELEGATION

The Town Clerk sought delegated authority from the Council to incur expenditure on its behalf in accordance approved budgets to expedite financial business.

Reference was made to schemes for identification badges and business cards for members; Web Site hosting through Sound

Ideas at a cost of £120 and registration of a domain name for the authority for £100. Councillor McCready would be able to undertake the necessary work to edit and establish the Web Site initially.

RESOLVED that:

(1) the Town Clerk be delegated authority to incur expenditure on behalf of the Town Council in accordance with approved budgets;

(2) the schemes for identification badges only (£100); Web Site hosting and registration of the domain name be approved.

CO63/09 PLANNING CONSULTATION – THE PLANNING PORTAL

Members considered the report of the Town Clerk concerning the arrangements for the county council's consultation with Town and Parish Council's through the Planning Portal using the e-consultation hub. The consultation period was only 21 days and members would need to advise the Town Clerk of their comments on planning applications within 14 days of notification.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk:

(1) be given delegated authority to respond formally to planning applications;

(2) make the necessary arrangements for registration and training regarding the Planning Portal and acquire any necessary equipment.

CO64/09 LOCAL SERVICE DELIVERY – NORTHUMBERLAND CHARTER FOR LOCAL COUNCILS

Following a joint meeting of Northumberland County Council's South East Area Committee and Town and Parish Councils the Town Clerk gave a verbal update on the intended arrangements through the Charter for Local Services. This covered consultation at Local Council level; Parish Services and possible devolved service delivery.

Some service delivery was intended to transfer to the Town Council on 01 April 2010 and 2011 and details and costs were awaited from the county council. These matters would need to be taken into account in the budget deliberations and some views were expressed that the arrangements were working back to pre 1974 arrangements within known communities.

CO65/09 NEWBIGGIN FREEHOLDER STINTS

A decision was required on the offer of the transfer of the four stints that the county council had inherited from the former Wansbeck

Council and it was thought that while there would have to be a formal legal conveyance there should be little or no cost attached.

RESOLVED that the Town Council agree to accept the four stints.

CO66/09 CIVIC SERVICE

The Chairman advised that the arrangements had been finalised for the civic service for the inauguration of the Town Council with involvement of the new Academy. The service would be held at St. Bartholomew's' Church on Thursday 10 December 2009 at 7.00 pm.

RESOLVED that a donation of £75 be made to the church to cover their costs of hosting the service.

CO67/09 OTHER BUSINESS

It was reported that after a long absence a Newbiggin Brass Band had restarted and that they could take part in the Civic Service.

Garry Smith Northumbria Police Newbiggin Beat Manager was in attendance and responded to matters raised by the public. He confirmed that the local CCTV cameras were generally working and that the crime figures for the area were well down although anti-social behaviour was still an issue. As police cars were high visibility he requested consideration of funding two bicycles for use by police and community service officers.

Neighbourhood Watch was still promoted and he requested the public to continue to pass on information. His approach continued to be one of developing relationships with local young people. There were still issues with parking in disabled bays and whether this would be tackled through caution or as an offence. Traffic problems continued at the yellow lines at the school campus and with motor cycles at the Welfare and Spittal estates.

Signed by the Chairman:

Date:.....