

NEWBIGGIN BY-THE-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13 October 2010 at 7.00 pm at the John Dobson Campus Gibson Street Newbiggin.

PRESENT:

Councillors: R McCready (Mayor)
L Anderson M Boon M Cholerton
W Rogers A Thompson

Officer: D Earl – Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE:

7 members of the public and 1 member of the press

OPEN SESSION

The following issues were raised by members of the public present at the meeting:

- The Traders Association Chair reported on the successful fund-raising taking place in the town towards the Christmas tree lighting. £1100 including a number of donations had been received and they were confident of reaching their target.
- The Mayor asked those present to think about a possible area being set aside for memorial trees in the town as this would be considered in principle later in the agenda.
- An approach had been received by the Town Council from a county council officer to maintain an interactive road sign to be placed on the B1334 entrance to the town as a councillors capital scheme. County Councillor J Lang was requested to make a presentation to the next meeting on the value of the scheme and likely maintenance and replacement costs. A number of points were raised about means to control the speed of traffic around the town.
- A resident enquired whether a Christmas lights competition was to take place this year but no decision had yet been made.
- The future participation of the town in Northumbria in Bloom had been queried but again the matter had not been considered.

C64/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Kirkup and M Peden.

C65/10 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 08 September 2010 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

C66/10 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

No declarations were made.

C67/10 LOCAL TRANSPORT – TOWN BUS SCHEME

Following the decision in principle from the previous meeting to support the trial of an in-town bus service Councillor Cholerton introduced the new hail and ride service suitable for the elderly to operate between Spital Welfare and Collingwood Estates. The pilot would be launched on Tuesday 26 October with the first bus at 9.15 am and operate until 1.00 pm on Tuesday and Friday through to 31 March 2011.

Volunteers were making arrangements for the operation of the necessary travel club and Councillor Cholerton thanked Carol O’Conner; County Councillor Lang; Andrew Harding the county Transport manager in particular for their work to establish the pilot that would require financial assistance from both the Town Council and county council for WATbus to operate. Service monitoring would take place and be assessed before further decisions were taken as part of the budget process for both councils.

Some further success had been achieved in Arriva being persuaded to operate a direct service to Newcastle via Woodhorn Road; the hospital; Ashington then express from North Seaton that would be welcomed by those who worked in Newcastle in particular.

Members were appreciative of the work carried out with the community by Councillor Cholerton and felt that the pilot service would be seen as a great example of local service delivery. Information regarding the continuation of the service was requested in time for the budget setting in January.

RESOLVED that the Town Council:

- i) Agree the financial contribution of £1,012.50 to operate the trial of the Newbiggin Nipper bus service;**
- ii) Appoint Councillor M Cholerton to the Management Committee and for day-to-day liaison with the contractor.**

C68/10 NORTHUMBERLAND ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (NALC)

Members considered the report deferred from the last meeting concerning the NALC annual general meeting and county committee.

RESOLVED that the Town Council appoint:

- i) Councillor W Rogers as its representative on the newly constituted county committee of NALC;**
- ii) Councillors L Anderson and W Rogers be delegated to vote at the annual general meeting.**

C69/10 FARMERS' MARKET

The Town Clerk reported on the successful operation of the trial Farmers' Markets when the general feedback had been very positive. A further market had been arranged for October and arrangements were in hand for an evening Christmas Market to run alongside the switch-on of the Christmas lights. The Newbiggin traders were supporting this approach and fund-raising for lights for the tree that had been donated.

RESOLVED that a further budget allocation of £1,000 be made to operate these markets including advertising.

C70/10 CHRISTMAS DECORATION ARRANGEMENTS

Arrangements were now in place for a Christmas tree to be erected at a site chosen on the Quaywall/Piazza and the Chamber of trade anticipated raising £2,000 to cover the costs of acquisition and erection of lights. An official order needed to be placed at an early date to ensure everything was in place for the anticipated switch-on ceremony on Friday 27 November.

Orders were being placed for the street lighting motifs but the current budget of £6,000 was not sufficient to underwrite all costs at present so a contingency was requested.

RESOLVED that the budget for Seasonal lights be increased by £1,000.

URGENT BUSINESS

Owing to the planning consultation time limits the Chairperson agreed to the consideration of the following items of urgent business.

C71/10 PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR FORMER PETROL FILLING STATION SITE

The Town Council had been consulted by the county council regarding planning applications involving the above site. The first application related to an extension of time for implementation of a previous approval for housing development and the second for the temporary use of the same site for vehicle sales.

Members expressed some concerns over the scale of development following local objections and the overcrowded conditions arising from the current sales operations and discharge of detergents into the water course.

RESOLVED that:

- i) The Town Council object to the granting of application no. 10/S/00536/VARYCO on the grounds of the height of the development; adequacy of on-site parking and access to the scouts hut;**
- ii) While not opposing application no. 10/S/00531/COU the county council be requested to impose conditions regarding the discharge of water and detergents from the site; to control the volume of vehicles displayed for sale; provide adequate on-site visitor parking and arrange vehicle display and signs so as not to be a hazard or distraction to motorists at the adjoining road junction.**

C73/10 WOODHORN CHURCH WORKING GROUP

Reference was made to the ongoing work of the group and possible downgrading in status of the building although not affecting its Grade 1 Listed status. Attempts were continuing to hold a new window dedication service and carol concert. It would be important to consider any conclusions and budget implications ahead of the councils' budget setting process.

RESOLVED that a report on the conclusions of the Working Group be submitted to the next meeting.

C74/10 PLANNING SITUATION AT FRONT STREET PIZZA SHOP

Members expressed concern over the decoration of commercial premises in the conservation area that were referred to as the Orange Pizza Shop which had been painted out of character with the other good work to the local chops.

RESOLVED that the matter be raised with the county planning enforcement officer.

C75/10 TREE MEMORIALS

A request had been received for the planting of a memorial tree and plaque in Newbiggin following the death of a former resident. Members generally were supportive of the idea and identified an area of grassland opposite the Memorial Park as a suitable site although further investigations and agreement with Northumberland County Council would be necessary.

RESOLVED that:

- i) The request be agreed in principle;**
- ii) The county council be approached for consent;**
- iii) A further report be submitted to a future meeting to consider the implications and arrangements necessary.**

Signed by the Chairperson

Date: