

NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12 October 2011 at 7 pm at the Grace Darling Campus Newbiggin by-the-Sea.

PRESENT:

Councillors: R McCready (Mayor)
L Anderson M Boon M Cholerton
M Kirkup W Rogers A Thompson
Officer: D Earl – Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE:

5 members of the public and 1 member of the press

OPEN SESSION

There were no questions raised by members of the public.

- It was reported that a meeting relating to older persons issues was being hosted by the county council a week on Friday.
- It was confirmed that the new footpath scheme to the Academy Campus which was now on site did not include funding for lighting installation. This would be considered later.

C043/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M Peden.

C044/11 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2011 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

The Chairperson advised that Age UK were not able to organise and host the proposed conference for older persons groups this autumn so she proposed that it be postponed and incorporated into the Annual Town Assembly in April.

C045/11 MINUTES OF THE MARKET COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Market Committee held on 05 October 2011 were received and the recommendation approved.

C046/11 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

Councillor M Boon declared a personal interest as Secretary of the Newbiggin and District Allotment Association and Councillor A Thompson as a member of the Royal British Legion.

C047/11 EVENTS LEAFLET REVIEW

Members reviewed the production and publication of the Events Leaflet for the town and the Chairperson confirmed that the process had not been as slick as she had hoped and was time consuming. It was hoped that all events could be incorporated next year with work starting earlier in December so that it would be designed by February so that printing and distribution could be achieved by Easter.

It was also felt that a professional designer and professional distribution were required with a sub editor required to check content and dates. More tourist information points needed to be targeted and an increase in the budget would be required. It was suggested that local business adverts could be incorporated at a token cost if this could be co-ordinated in time.

RESOLVED that arrangements as outlined above be agreed for production of an Events Leaflet for 2012.

C048/11 REMEMBRANCE WREATHS

Budget provision had been made for the annual Remembrance Service and members considered the acquisition of two wreaths to be placed at the Colliery War Memorial and Memorial Park. Members felt that the Town Council should support welfare activities of the local branch of the British Legion and Councillor M Boon indicated that he would purchase the two wreaths.

RESOLVED that a donation of £150 be made to the local branch of the Royal British Legion.

C049/11 REVIEW OF DOG BEACH BAN AND FACILITIES

There was a need to undertake an end of season review of the new Dog Exclusion Order and there was a reserved budget available for educational and practical issues. It was suggested that this be undertaken through a group of local people that would also investigate educational matters and the provision and location of waste bins and enforcement signs.

Contributions from members included that special bins were not now required; warnings could be stencilled onto the footpaths; sand on the promenade exacerbated the problem of dog fouling; signage was considered misleading and a survey was suggested during the exclusion period. The meeting was reminded that a review was to be undertaken to report to the Council by February and not a survey and that education had produced an immense difference in the town compared to a few years ago although there was still an early morning dog fouling problem in other areas of the town also.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Councillors Anderson and Boon be appointed to the Review Group to report back by February;**
- (ii) Representatives of the local dog owners; the Bay Environmental Strategy Group and the Coastal Warden be invited to participate.**

CO50/11 INCLUSION PROJECT – BVAL

An interim report on the play schemes being provided through Blyth Valley Arts and Leisure in the town was given by the Chairperson which showed participation throughout the summer exceeding 1000. The majority had focused on the Triathlon and Badapples events leaving some sessions that were not attended and otherwise averaging six children over the thirty four sessions provided.

Feedback on the programmed sessions identified that some rotation was required; dodge-ball had been the same for several years; golf and tennis sessions were required and more beach programmes which had been successful.

The October half term programme including Halloween activities was coming up shortly and members felt that there was a need to look at the charging policy that was perhaps deterring attendance. It was suggested that the Town Council should cover the further costs so that the events could be provided free of charge to local children.

There was a need to address parent and child engagement of what looked like a good programme and advertising through leaflet distribution and engagement of local scouts brownies and girls brigade. The schools could be approached to post out information to parents from their databases but February would have to be targeted for that.

The Inclusion Programme would be targeting teenage cyclists and be a joint scheme with partners Northumbria Police; Sustrans; Jigsaw and Positive Futures each Friday evening in November and December. This would be designed to provide leadership and training with an opportunity to perform at the Olympic Open Weekend in July 2012.

RESOLVED that the Town Council make a further contribution to offset the additional costs of the October programme to provide free attendance for local children.

CO51/11 ALLOTMENT WIND TURBINE PROJECT

The meeting was advised of a scheme being developed to provide electricity to the site which was becoming increasingly expensive to operate requiring electricity to operate the cctv system and special gate locks had to be provided. Solar panels which could be installed on the containers at the Associations hut had been investigated but a cheaper solution was a 4 kilowatt turbine that was a cheaper solution and would produce future income by providing electricity to the grid with feed in tariffs being generous at present. One could be located 120 metres from the nearest properties in Spital Estate and would be no higher than the surrounding trees.

Councillor Boon having declared his personal interest as Secretary of the Newbiggin and District Allotment Association withdrew from the meeting. Councillors Anderson and Rogers declared interests as members of the Association.

The Town Clerk advised members that it was approval to the scheme as owners of the site that was required at this stage and consultation would be carried out through the planning process as full planning consent was required. The Chairperson considered that this was an environmentally friendly scheme that the Town Council should also consider providing a contribution for match funding as it had £2,000 available in the budget.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Approval of the scheme be given in principle;**
- (ii) A match funding contribution of £2,000 be approved.**

CO52/11 BULB AND TREE PLANTING AT THE DEDICATION GARDEN

It was reported that the tree replacement at the Dedication Garden was in hand by the county council and likely to be carried out in November. There was still a balance from the budget for the establishment of the Garden and members wished to have bulbs planted in the area for the spring season.

Volunteers would be sought to undertake the planting scheme as soon as possible.

RESOLVED that approval be given to use the balance of the budget for the acquisition of bulbs for planting in and around the Dedication Garden.

Signed by the Chairman:

Date:.....