

NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12 June 2013
at 7 pm at the Grace Darling Campus Newbiggin by-the-Sea.**

PRESENT:

Councillors: W Rogers (Mayor)
M Boon L Burns M Cholerton
M Peden A Thompson S Todd

Officer: D Earl – Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: 12 members of the public

The Mayor commenced the meeting with prayers.

OPEN SESSION

- A member of the public raised questions about the responsibility for horses causing danger or damage and was advised that would be covered by the presentation later in the meeting.
- Two members of the public attended to thank Councillors Rogers Peden and Cholerton for their assistance that week. It was stated that while there were a lot of small organizations and events in Newbiggin there was little correlation. The Mayor and the Town Clerk advised that they would continue to encourage co-operation between organizations and provision of advance information.

C016/13 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2013 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

A Member enquired when the vacancy on the Town Council would be advertised and the Town Clerk advised that it had been sent to the News Post Leader the previous week for publication and notices would be placed on the notice boards. The notice was already on the web site.

C017/13 MINUTES OF THE GRANT COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Grant Committee held on 15 May 2013 were received.

C018/13 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

Councillor Burns declared personal interests as the Lead on the Youth Project and the Mary Portas Project.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL HORSE PROJECT

The Chairman welcomed Bob Smith from NCC Environmental Enforcement to give a presentation of the developments of the Horse Project.

The meeting was advised that the Environmental Enforcement Team comprised only six officers for the county with a recent appointment of an Environmental Enforcement Officer (Horses) to tackle the problems at Ashington Lynemouth Newbiggin now spreading to the Cambois/Sleekburn area and leading to Blyth. It was a step, in the right direction with press publicity but action could only be taken in respect of Council land with the Housing Association and the Police having to take action elsewhere.

Signage had been erected and promptly cut down but NCC was now in a position to serve notices having worked with some owners and the Morpeth Vets over chipping and pass-porting horses for identification. The issue was largely among the younger generation and letters were going out to all owners the following week with the intention to uplift horses if not removed. Expert Bailiffs had been engaged but this was an expensive operation although there would be an attempt to recover costs. Stray horses on the highway creating a danger to the public were a matter for the Police and no one was trained to control horses and there was little legislation to assist or prosecute. Private land owners were also being contacted.

Three sites in County Council ownership had been identified two in Newbiggin and one in Ashington where it was intended to offer fenced grazing plots at a small fee to provide proper feeding and animal care responsibilities as a pragmatic solution. To carry out the necessary secure fencing works and landscape tree planting a financial contribution was requested from the Town Council.

A number of key outcomes were outlined to the meeting which should improve arrangements for horses and the local community through organized grazing provision and enforcement action when necessary.

Members expressed their thanks for the report and the on-going work to resolve the horse problem. They were encouraged by the coordinated and pragmatic way forward to tackle the ongoing problem.

YOUTH ARTS HUB

A joint presentation was given by Joanne Burke (BVAL/Queens Hall Arts); Rob Cox (YMCA); Lesley Wood (); Mike Kelsy (NCC Youth Services) who were working together to provide the Youth Arts Hub programme based at Woodhorn Villa for young people in their teens. This had been initiated by the Portas Town Team to provide space for young people to learn creative and life skills with the aims and objectives based on the Young People's Charter for Arts and Culture providing inspirational role models and new audiences for arts activities. The team wanted to empower young people and inspire participation in the arts with a tandem project to create a Youth Council in Newbiggin.

The Youth Arts Hub programme was now fully underway with varied sessions several

evenings each week and it was thought important to tackle local perceptions regarding anti-social behaviour as only one third was attributable to young people and there were local issues of early mortality rates and high degrees of poverty. The programme would run initially through to September with active arts and music sessions. To date 27 sessions had been held providing 20 art forms with 477 young people participating with artists and youth workers engaged for 136 days.

Youth Services and YMCA were developing strategies together for social space and drop-in sessions and a range of networking and partnership opportunities were highlighted. Issues including funding and best fit building for dedicated youth space were being considered with the building of local relationships as there had to be a future beyond the initial programme for a few months.

Members raised a number of questions of engagement and musical ambition and were informed that the DJ workshop had been one of the most successful encouraging contact for inspiration. Engagement in what the young people wanted to do was the key to the success of the project established to regenerate local youths and change perceptions. Local schools were keen to engage in the project and Members were reminded that the Academy had been based on regeneration of the area.

The Chairman thanked the Youth Hub Team for the informative presentation.

C021/13 NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL CAR PARKING PROPOSALS

The Town Clerk reported the receipt of a letter from the newly appointed Leader of the County Council relating to the manifesto promise regarding free parking for all communities across the County.

The County Council Parking Team would be developing local parking plans over the summer and needed to discuss local experience of traffic management problems and the most appropriate methods of managing parking issues.

In previous discussions the need for the regeneration of trade and tourism in Newbiggin by-the-Sea had confirmed the need for adequate free parking in the town centre and for visitors.

RESOLVED that: the continued provision of free parking in the town to support the local economy be emphasised again.

C022/13 FORMER OFFICE AT BANK HOUSE COTTAGE

The Town Clerk advised members of a request from the Bank House Social Club to pay a further two months' rent following the vacation of the office when the keys had been retained to collect post and display public notices.

RESOLVED that: the further payment of £166.66 to the Bank House Social Club is approved.

Signed by the Chairman:

Date:.....