

NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11 March 2015 at 7 pm at the St Bartholomew's Church Centre.

PRESENT:

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

Officer: D Earl – Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: 7 members of the public

OPEN SESSION

- There were no questions from members of the public.
- Northumbria Police Sergeant Neil Hall attended to give a verbal report on the safer community with crime statistics down from 366 to 277 for the year in a period of greater scrutiny. There had been much work behind the scenes regarding criminal damage and targeting problem families stopping local burglaries. A clamp down on anti-social behaviour had seen two motor cycles seized and he praised some partnership work with Bernicia where issues had arisen.

A mobile Police Station had been set up at the Quay Wall giving a presence and providing crime prevention materials. NP would be targeting some youngsters before the summer and good work was taking place with social and private landlords moving some problems on.

In the NP Programme of Change six Area Commands were reducing to three with all local police officers based at Ashington now. The 'hubing-process' was to provide streamlining but he stressed that the Neighbourhood Team was not affected and there would be no less cover available.

Issues regarding recurring traveller caravan problems were raised and he confirmed it was the same family and was being tackled through the County Council processes and the Courts.

C060/14 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2015 were agreed as a correct record.

C061/14 PRESENTATION - VINTAGE NEWBIGGIN EASTER BY-THE-SEA

Kate Holt of Happening Up North engaged by the Portas Town Team attended to give a presentation of the programme of events being arranged in Newbiggin for an Easter by the Sea Bank Holiday weekend aiming to attract visitors and raise money for the Lifeboat Station.

The Kite Festival would again be held at the Maritime Centre and a boat haul competition and events focused on the Lifeboat Station. Music dance and food events would be complemented with a Gala Ball at the Sports Centre on Saturday and a wide range of events throughout Sunday with traditional Easter Bonnet sandcastle competition and children's party. On Monday

The Vintage Car Rally and Market would be held throughout the town centre. Traders were being encouraged to provide vintage window displays and there would be a range of competitions. Significant media interest was anticipated from the local press radio and television.

Vintage dustbins would be distributed and arrangements were being made for a litter sweep each day. The overflow car park would be available and shuttle-buses.

There were many organizations involved and supporting the programme which would provide a thriving weekend in Newbiggin by-the-Sea.

C062/14 **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS** No new interests were declared at this point.

C063/14 **NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION – BUS SUBSIDY**

The meeting was advised of the County Council web based consultation and questionnaire running until the end of the month and then reporting to the Policy Board in April regarding the subsidies provided to a range of bus services across the county.

The Newbiggin Nipper service operated by WATBus on Tuesday and Friday throughout the town to which the Town Council makes a financial contribution each year was one of 55 bus services that would not run without subsidy. NCC had targeted savings of at least £200,000 to be made in the next financial year after assessment against corporate priorities which potentially put the local service at risk.

The sustainability criteria were set out in Appendix 1 to the report and the intended priorities covered:

Priority 1 – Supporting Economic activity, enabling residents and visitors to get to key centres during peak times

Priority 2 – Supporting social activity, enabling residents to access essential services during the day, on a minimum of one day per week

Priority 3 – Enable children to travel to the nearest suitable school or college (this includes both those children eligible for free home to school transport and those who are not eligible for home to school transport)

Members felt strongly that the both priority 1 and 2 criteria were met by the local Nipper service that was highly valued and supported by elderly passengers in particular who would otherwise be isolated on the outlying estates. This was a leading example of good community transport focused on need and provided at the appropriate times.

RESOLVED that: representations are made to the County Council in support of ensuring continued support of the sustainability criteria and for the essential local service provided by the WATbus Nipper.

C064/14 **ACTIVE NORTHUMBERLAND SCHOOL HOLIDAY AND LEISURE PROGRAMME**

Members considered the report of attendance at events under the leisure programme operated by Active Northumberland on behalf of the Town Council that had provided a range of activities and participation for local children. Similar school and holiday engagement programmes were proposed for 2015-16 for which provision had been made in

the budget. Members commented on the highest participation activity of fishing and hoped to see its inclusion for local youngsters in future programmes.

RESOLVED that: Active Northumberland operate a school and holiday leisure programme again for 2015-16

C065/14 RISK ASSESSMENT

A draft risk assessment for the forthcoming year had been circulated by the Town Clerk and Members agreed with the relatively low risks identified in the document.

RESOLVED that: the Risk Assessment for 2015-16 be agreed.

C066/14 MEETING SCHEDULE 2015-16

A draft Diary of meeting dates and venues had been circulated for agreement.

RESOLVED that: the Diary of Meetings for 2015-16 be agreed.

C067/14 BUS SHELTER REPLACEMENT

The Town Council had since its installation looked to provide a larger facility at Dixon's Corner and that was limited by the highway layout and service requirements surrounding the shelter location. It was a well used facility and the manufacturer had now provided a design solution that did not disturb current footings or services. A new shelter could now be manufactured and installed and the existing one relocated.

RESOLVED that: the quotation from SFS Limited be accepted and the works proceed early in the next financial year.

C068/14 URGENT BUSINESS The Chairman agreed to consideration of the following urgent items

C069/14 BRITISH CHAMPION 2015

Councillor Boon was pleased to report the success of local youngster Josh Turner as British Champion in the under 55kg category at the World Martial Arts Organization. This set a fine example of active participation in sport at the highest level and he was now to compete in international events.

RESOLVED that: a letter of congratulations is sent on behalf of the Town Council.

C070/14 NE WILD DOLPHIN MONITORING PROJECT

Councillor Dixon referred to the information from Dr. Clark regarding the large quantities of wildlife passing along the coast including dolphins seals and occasionally whales and of the need for the project to be promoted. There were suggestions of articles to inform the local community and of web links for wider information.

RESOLVED that: the promotion of the project be encouraged in various forms.

Signed by the Chairman: Date:.....