

NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10 June 2015 at 7 pm at the St Bartholomew's Church Centre, Newbiggin by-the-Sea.

PRESENT:

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

Officer: D Earl – Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: 13 members of the public

OPEN SESSION

- The County Councillor for Seaton and West Newbiggin referred to statements by the Chairman and minutes of the previous meeting and questioned what authority the Town Council had to indicate that the Portas Town Team was closing down. He indicated the Town Team was not closing although the Portas element had ended last year the company had money in the bank and had requested an extension to complete schemes. The Chairman explained his understanding following discussions with Portas directors and that he felt it was important to ensure that a new team was brought together to progress Newbiggin initiatives.

C012/15 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor A Thompson.

C013/15 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 May 2015 were agreed as a correct record.

C014/15 MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP

The minutes of the meeting of the Working Group held on 20 May 2015 had been circulated and approved. The Chairman thanked the Group for the amount of work undertaken and the thoroughness in the way it had been dealt with.

C015/15 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS No new interests were declared at this point.

C016/15 PRESENTATION – RESTORATION OF THE ROCKET HOUSE PROJECT

Three of the Heritage Trustees attended the meeting to provide details of the proposed scheme to restore the historic property which dated from 1866 only one year after the oldest Rocket House at Tynemouth. A lease for fifty years had been agreed with the Freeholders and the application to the Heritage Lottery for £220,000 for full restoration and interpretation project had been successful. The first phase provided a grant of £26,000 towards the cost of £41,000 to work up the delivery and business plans while some of the balance was committed from the time of volunteers. The Town Council was requested to support the scheme and contribute £1,000 towards the initial costs.

The restoration of the Rocket House attached to the Lifeboat House would add to the attractions for visitors to the town. The aim of the project was to have the building ready to open to the public for the Heritage Weekend in 2016 as that would coincide with the 150th anniversary.

All Members expressed their support for this fantastic project for Newbiggin and were grateful for the work of the local trustees and in particular for the work undertaken by Dave Futers prior to his recent death.

RESOLVED that: the Town Council welcomed and supported the project to restore the Rocket House and agreed a contribution of £1,000.

C017/15 PRESENTATION – NEWBIGGIN GENEALOGY PROJECT

Hilton Dawson updated the meeting on the developing work of the Newbiggin by-the-Sea Genealogy Project undertaken by a voluntary organization with membership open to anyone who was interested. It represented the only known community attempting to create a database of everyone who had lived in Newbiggin and there were in excess of 28,000 names currently which increased daily. It was available to view on the internet.

From the summer it would also be possible to access an information kiosk to be installed in the Maritime Centre. Five stories had already been published and a sixth was being prepared. A musical had been inspired and a musician Tim Dalling employed to develop songs about local characters. The first performance of 'Haalin' the Lines' would take place at the Picnic at Woodhorn on 13 June then at St Mark's Community Building on 24 June. It would feature local choirs with the Jayess Newbiggin Brass Band and local soprano Susan Robertson to showcase the town and would be recorded for subsequent release.

The Project was seeking support for a network of public information storyboards to portray local history around the town when funding was obtained. These were being designed by the Woodhorn Reprographic staff. The Town Clerk advised that he had approached Neighbourhood Services and had agreement in principle for storyboards to be placed on County Council sites to be agreed and confirmed that planning permission would not be required unless on private land.

RESOLVED that: the Town Council welcomed and supported the expansion of the Project and the intended Storyboards.

C018/15 TOWN PLAN REVIEW

The Chairman outlined to the meeting that the initial five year period of the first Town Plan was coming to an end and that it was being reviewed by the Members who would look at what had worked during that period. It was felt that there may be a need for a longer term outlook for the new plan as a number of potential larger issues would need to be addressed with the County Council and Health Authority.

The conclusions would be taken to the community and the process would take some time with continuing consultation and sharing with other bodies. It was recognized that there were many more positive comments about the town now.

RESOLVED that: Members review the Town Plan with the Town Clerk and continue consultation to develop a new one.

C019/15 SKATEPARK/MUGA FLOODLIGHTING

The Town Clerk reported that after a long delay a floodlighting scheme for the Skatepark and MUGA had been designed by County Street Lighting with cost estimates slightly more than the budget allocation. The scheme was capable of being implemented in two phases but Members wished to proceed with the whole scheme if possible following receipt of quotations. When the design plans were received a planning application could be submitted and a scheme implemented hopefully by autumn.

Consideration would also be given to incorporation of CCTV.

RESOLVED that: the Town Clerk submit a planning application for the full scheme and obtain quotations following approval.

C020/15 URGENT BUSINESS The Chairman agreed to consideration of the following item owing to the timescale for response

C021/15 NCC PLANNING TRAINING

Members were advised of a training session to be held by the County Council regarding the Development Management process and were requested to advise the Town Clerk if they were able to attend the local session at Choppington Welfare.

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