

NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 09 September 2015 at 7 pm at the Newbiggin Sports and Community Centre.

PRESENT:

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

Officer: D Earl – Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: 12 members of the public

OPEN SESSION

- A local resident referred to the need for Food Banks and support required for provisions for those who could not help themselves particularly when recently redundant with a long wait for assistance; the expected flow of Syrian refugees to the region; sponsorship through his Grandson running the Great North Run in aid of Cancer Research. He requested any information regarding the provision of Post Office facilities returning to the town citing the knock-on effect to other businesses and was disappointed to note no reference to building projects for Newbiggin in a recently circulated newsheet.

The Chairman took on board the points regarding meeting the needs of others. The Local Member of Parliament was pursuing the return of Post Office services which were needed particularly by the elderly and reported that the Post Office was in discussion with interested parties and prepared to have business conversation with anyone able to deliver the service.

It was queried whether in the interim a local bus service could be operated to take pensioners to North Seaton and return to the town centre to shop. This matter would have to be considered by the County Council and Watbus and County Councillor Lang undertook to pursue the request. Councillor Cholerton was pleased to announce that the current Nipper Bus Service was confirmed to operate with support for the next five years.

- Neil Hall the Newbiggin Beat Manager from Northumbria Police attended together with Phil Raisbeck the Community Support Officer and reported a slight increase in crime in the town but was in contrast to a much larger increase across Northumbria during the summer. Following some dwelling burglaries the Police had launched an operation targeted at known offenders resulting in one being evicted and leaving the area which dealt with the problem. He advised that Newbiggin was the best performing area in the sector.

Anti-social behaviour with motor cycle disorder in three areas of the town was being tackled by plain clothes officers using the threat of tenancy enforcement and section 59 Orders were being used with one cycle uplifted. Alcohol seizures had taken place at the Skatepark.

Four additional officers had been announced for the Neighbourhood Team with one dedicated for Newbiggin which was good news. In response to a question from a member of the public he advised that burglaries were invariably between 10 pm and 7 am. The Police welcomed formal reports so that problems could be tackled and problems with horses were being taken by County Officers in a new operation.

Councillor Boon thanked the Police for their recent work in Spital Estate.

C034/15 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 08 July 2015 were agreed as a correct record.

C035/15 MINUTES OF THE GRANT COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Grant Committees held on 15 July 2015 and 20 July 2015 had been circulated including recommendations on the operation of the scheme for approval.

RESOLVED that: the recommendations of the Grant Committee be adopted

C036/15 MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP

The minutes of the meeting of the Working Group held on 08 July 2015; 15 July 2015; 04 August 2015 had been circulated and actions noted.

C037/15 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS No new interests were declared at this point.

C038/15 ANNUAL RETURN – EXTERNAL AUDIT

The Town Clerk advised of the completion of the external audit and signature of the certificate by BDO raising no concerns regarding the Annual return and Accounts.

A minor issue relating to comparative figures in Section 1 and not adding up by £1 were drawn to Members attention and the Town Clerk explained that a direct comparison of the two Annual Reports showed exactly the same figures and the £1 discrepancy was the result of the requirement to round all amounts to full pounds for audit.

The Annual Accounts were currently being advertised for the public and were available on the web site.

RESOLVED that: the Town Council note the comments and accept the audited Annual Return and Accounts for 2014-15.

C039/15 COUNTY COUNCIL – LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2016-17

The County Council would be revising its Local Transport Plan for 2016-17 and had requested the Town Council to consider its three top highways and transport priority issues. Information regarding details of local requests from the Directory of Requests database was outlined by the Town Clerk for Members information.

RESOLVED that: Members of the Town Council advise the Town Clerk of their priority views.

In relation to the following item Councillors Cholerton and Todd declared their membership of St Bartholomew's Church which were not pecuniary interests..

C040/15 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

The Chairman reported a request from the Reverend Sinclair for assistance in changing the Church Newsletter into a community publication with wider free circulation and contributions from the Town Council both in terms of financial support and content. Members generally supported the proposal in the interests of communication and community leadership with one concern over a possible precedent for similar requests.

RESOLVED that: that the Town Council supports the Community Newsletter.

C041/15 DATA PROTECTION AND PUBLICATION POLICIES

The Town Clerk referred to the proactive stance of the Town Council in making information available to the community and reported on the need to adopt policies both regarding Freedom of Information and Data Protection for personal information in compliance with the Data Protection Act and the Freedom of Information Act. While most information would be available to download from the website copies could be requested at a modest cost.

RESOLVED that: the Freedom of Information and Data Protection Policies be adopted.

C042/15 NEWBIGGIN TRADERS ASSOCIATION

Two applications had been made on behalf of the Newbiggin Traders Association regarding a possible Christmas Market at the Quay Wall Piazza on 12/13 December in conjunction with the Living Nativity and placing Traders stalls onto the promenade on certain events dates throughout the year. Both were designed to attract additional visitors to the town and would need to take account of layout maintaining pedestrian thoroughfare and weather factors. The Town Clerk explained that the consent of the County Council would be required.

RESOLVED that: the Town Council agrees in principle to the requests.

C043/15 TOWN PLAN REVIEW

Members had spent considerable time reviewing the aims and outcomes of the current Town Plan and looking forward to achieving improvements for the community with partners over the next ten years with milestones. They had that afternoon considered with County Council; Newbiggin Traders; Newbiggin Portas town team representatives a range of ideas and would now be open to the public for further ideas before adopting a new Town Plan which would be put in place by the end of the year. Consultation would take place through a newsletter to the whole community.

RESOLVED that: the Town Clerk continues the process for a Town Plan for 2016-2026.

URGENT BUSINESS There were no items of urgent business requiring decisions of the Town Council and the Chairman agreed to the following information items:

Councillor Rogers advised that the Jayess Brass Band would perform at the Bandstand on Saturday and Woodhorn Church would be open for Heritage Days from Thursday to Sunday incorporating a celebration for Newbiggin Women's Institute Centenary.

C044/15

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items on the Agenda as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act relating to financial and business affairs.

C045/15

NEWBIGGIN BOXING CLUB

An application for grant assistance referred by the Grant Committee was circulated for consideration. Members considered that the requested grant was particularly high and needed to consider the possible impact on the grant fund for the year but were mindful of the dedication and achievements at the club. In many similar situations members and families had to self fund attendance at regional and national events and there was a general agreement to encourage participation. It was proposed that a one-off contribution of £600 should be made to the club.

RESOLVED that: a one-off grant of £600 be approved for the Newbiggin Boxing Club.

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