

NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 09 March 2016 at 7 pm
at the Grace Darling Campus Newbiggin by-the-Sea.**

PRESENT:

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

Officer: D Earl – Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: 9 members of the public and 2 representatives of Northumbria Police

OPEN SESSION

- A local resident asked the Town Council to explain why the details of the payments over £500 had not been updated on the website when it was a requirement of the transparency code. The Chairman expressed surprise at the question which had already been answered by e-mail. The Town Clerk explained that the code was not a requirement but voluntary and while the Town Council sought to follow the recommendations it did not currently have the resources to update this monthly or even quarterly but it would be done as part of the year-end financial procedures.
- In connection with the development at Dixon's Corner a local resident commented that there had been no improvement with the vehicle parking problem and the hard-standing referred to had not been provided but in fact was already being built on. A large lorry recently depositing bricks over the wall from the main road had caused particular problems. Members referred to the Method Statement and the requirements to be followed which could be raised with the Health & Safety Executive.
- Reference was made to the situation down the main street and that no work was currently taking place on the new development and was informed that the developer was currently seeking tenders for the extensive piling works. The lack of a Post Office continued to be a major concern for traders and elderly residents. The Chairman advised that one was expected to open in April but that was not yet confirmed. An individual with suitable premises and qualified to operate the service was required and that was a commercial decision. The Town Council and the local Member of Parliament had made representations to the Post Office.
- An up-date was requested regarding the Medical Group and was advised that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had met the previous day with the Practice Manager. They had been advised that the practice was trying to overcome the recruitment problem and may operate only in the mornings for the present and were looking to the hospitals for assistance. It was hoped that the issue would improve shortly.
- Representatives of Northumbria Police PC Carly Gibson and Phil Raisbeck Community Support Officer were in attendance and advised that Neil Hall was currently on secondment. There were two Community Beat Managers to cover Newbiggin and they referred to recent action to combat motor cycle disorder. There had been 27 incidents reported with 6 since the last meeting and action had been taken including the service of a Section 59 warning notice on both the person and the vehicle meaning that any further contravention would

result in the bike being uplifted and there had been no problems since then. The use of the 101 reporting system was re-emphasised.

A recent targeted exercise had resulted in 10 vehicles being uplifted from Newbiggin which did not have current insurance. The local officers were working well with the Bernicia Enforcement Officer and were keeping watch on others as the breach of tenancy conditions was often a more successful deterrent and off-road vehicles could not be kept at the premises

Youth Disorder incidents had dropped off but a known group were targeting some residents. More patrols in unmarked cars were being carried out and Anti Social Behaviour Orders would be obtained if incidents were witnessed.

Work with the Horse Environmental Officer was on-going with the access to the Moor off Sea Crest Road being targeted for attention. Another general operation was being planned.

C076/15 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Boon and S Todd.

C077/15 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C078/15 THE WANSBECK BRASS BAND CONTEST & NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFICATION

Tony Griffiths was invited to address the Town Council in connection with a request to support the staging of the Wansbeck Brass Band Contest at Newbiggin Sports and Community Centre on Sunday 24th April.

He advised that in the brass Band World, 'The Wansbeck' which had been held in Newbiggin Sports Centre since it first opened was an established and well-loved contest but it was a constant struggle to fund. The expenses for the event included venue, percussion hire, adjudicators' fees and expenses, as well as all the hidden costs admin printing etc. and they wanted to develop a professional programme to promote the area. Three championship level bands would be attending the Newbiggin event.

A second element related to his position as the regional Secretary of the North of England Brass Band Championships and sought support for a regional event held annually in March at the Gala theatre with 46 bands from the North of England. There they competed for the honour of qualification for the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain with the highlight being the finals held at the Royal Albert Hall in October.

Members spoke favourably of the leadership provided locally in promoting music in the town and of the attraction of such a high standard competition and agreed to provide financial support. It was unanimously agreed to provide support from which the local organization could contribute to participation in the regional event.

RESOLVED that: the Town Council support the competition and promotion of the town with a grant £1,000.

C079/15 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS There were no new declarations of interests.

C080/15 ENHANCED SERVICES FOR 2016 – NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

The Town Clerk reported on the outcome of discussions with Environmental Services managers to agree details of the arrangements for enhanced environmental services in the town for the coming season.

Issues concerning the profile of the local service; the scope of work to be undertaken; setting priorities and monitoring completion had been agreed and an early start would be made with a dedicated team before Easter. A Team Leader and two permanent staff would be supplemented by the two temporary employees.

Neighbourhood Services had provided a Memorandum of Understanding to set out the respective roles and responsibilities of each authority and the initial enhancements required. Members discussed the need to monitor problem areas and have an input to developing the enhancements and the Town Clerk explained the management process and contact between the nominated representatives.

RESOLVED that: the Town Council agree the enhanced services and the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding with County Neighbourhood Services.

C081/15 EVENTS LEAFLETS AND NEWSLETTER

Members were advised that both the Events Leaflet and Newsletter incorporating the events for local residents had been finalized and were with the printers with distribution targeted before the Easter holidays. It was pleasing to note the increase in local events again this year.

Newbiggin Heritage Partnership had highlighted the opportunity to raise the profile of Newbiggin as a destination for visitors during the Tall Ships Regatta hosted in Blyth in August. As the leaflet promoted visitor attractions in the town it was suggested that additional copies could be distributed there. It was also intended to establish an annual 'Maritime festival' in Newbiggin by-the-Sea.

RESOLVED that: the Town Council provide additional copies of the Events Leaflet for distribution in connection with the Tall Ships Regatta.

C082/15 COMMUNITY LEISURE PROGRAMME 2016-17

The report on the outcome and attendance at the first three quarters of the 2015-16 programme set out in Appendix 1 had been circulated together with proposals from Active Northumberland for a similar programme for 2016-17 set out in Appendix 2.

A councillor requested comparison of previous years' statistics and another raised concerns about an influx of children from outside the area. The organizers of events for the Easter holiday programmes had already been requested to monitor addresses for participants.

RESOLVED that: the Town Council agree the school and community leisure programme to be delivered by Active Northumberland for 2016-17.

C083/15 TALL SHIPS REGATTA – TRAINEE BURSARY

County Councillor Simpson had advised that in connection with the Tall Ships North Sea Regatta there was an opportunity to provide a bursary for a local young person from the town to take part in the regatta as a trainee on one of the ships. County Councillors had been given the option to fund a bursary from their 2016-17 Small Schemes allowance which she would do and had invited the Town Council similarly to provide another bursary.

Further information has been provided by the County Council Engagement Manager as set out in Appendix 3 and each trainee bursary would cost proximately £1500.

Members were fully supportive of this life-changing opportunity which they hoped would be open to disabled applicants.

RESOLVED that: a bursary for a local trainee to participate in the Tall Ships Regatta be agreed at a cost of £1,500.

C084/15 RISK ASSESSMENT

The annual risk assessment had been carried out by the Town Clerk and circulated to Members with virtually all categories including financial and member propriety and liability assessed as low risk with only two projects assessed at medium risk both of which would be addressed shortly.

RESOLVED that: the Risk Assessment be agreed.

URGENT BUSINESS The Chairman invited item of urgent business:

C085/15 MARITIME FRINGE FESTIVAL

Reference was made to discussions by local groups looking to develop events in Newbiggin with perhaps yachting events taking place by the Coquet and Newbiggin Sailing Clubs around the Tall Ships events in August. The groups would be looking to the Town Council for funding; licensing; marketing; leafleting as they considered events to be the top priority.

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