

NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13 July 2016 at 7.00 pm at the Newbiggin Sports and Community Centre.

PRESENT:

Councillors: S Todd (Mayor)

M Boon L Burns M Cholerton
R Dixon M Peden W Rogers A Thompson

Officer: D Earl – Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: 6 members of the public

OPEN SESSION

The Chairman provided information regarding the issues of the library relocation and the efforts to secure a Post Office facility in the town. He read out a letter from the Leader of the County Council apologising for not consulting the Town Council prior to the decision to move the library facility into the Sports Centre rather than the new development. That decision had been taken to protect both the library and leisure services and would introduce a number of additional services for local residents. The Chief Executive of Active Northumberland would be arranging a meeting with Members to explain the plans in detail.

Regarding the Post Office saga Councillor Boon and the Town Clerk had received recent responses to on-going pressure to have the service restored in the town that provided very little information other than a potential new operator was in recruitment. He had spoken to County Councillor Simpson who had received no further information and he suggested that individuals continued to send letters of request and that local traders get together to make further representations.

- A local resident referred to the approaching summer recess and the brevity of the agenda for the meeting and enquired why issues deferred from previous meetings such as the War Memorials; public responses to the Town Plan consultation; Financial Regulations; provision of the Defibrillator; provision of a hand-rail at the steps to the Church Point were not being considered.

The Chairman advised that the Defibrillator would be considered later on the agenda; there were still issues with Neighbourhood Services regarding the War Memorials; several meetings had been held regarding the provision of the hand-rail which had in fact been fitted that morning; advice taken from the recent meeting of the Northumberland Association of Local Councils was that the Financial Regulations was a massive issue and not to be rushed and Members were looking at the detail. The Town Council agenda was for items requiring a decision. Regarding the issues of the Post Office and sand on the promenade meetings took place regularly to progress outcomes while pressures on core services and reductions in county budget delayed matters being sorted out. He referred to recent allotment access road problems and confirmed that behind the scenes many issues were progressing. The Town Council needed County Council consent to do most things the Town Council wanted to do as it controlled the highway and most environmental areas. Pressure continued to get agreed work done and work sheets were being prepared.

- A resident of Gibson Street raised two points in relation to the traffic plan. The first concerned the speed of traffic around the Dixon's Corner area and the difficulty in parking in the Westfield area and enquired about the residents parking scheme in Buteland.

The Chairman advised that the points about parking were shared and evident around the town. These had been raised by himself and a local councillor with the developers at the former school site. The Buteland parking scheme had resulted from parking associated with the Doctors and Dentists and residents' requests to the County Council which had direct responsibility. There was a specific process for parking permits and requirements which could result in insufficient places for permit holders.

C024/16 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 08 June 2016 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

C025/16 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

The Chairman reminded Members of the need to declare any new interests in relation to business to be considered at the meeting. Councillor Burns confirmed her interest as a member of the Portas Town Team in the item regarding the Defibrillator.

C026/16 MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP

The minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Working Group held on 29 June 2016 were received. The Chairman referred to the issue of weed-spraying highlighted at the Northumberland ALC meeting with areas of service missed off the contract. Some areas had been sprayed at the Colliery but not everywhere.

The small environmental projects highlighted were agreed to proceed together with a safety scheme at the top of the steps from the promenade to the Church Point headland where the group had met that morning and agreed further concrete steps and barrier rail were required. It would be opportune to incorporate any works for cabling and ducting for lighting at the horseshoe steps while the paving scheme was being carried out by County Highways.

It was RESOLVED that the schemes at the Pit Wheel; Church Point and Horseshoe Steps including cabling and ducting were agreed to proceed as soon as possible.

C027/16 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN PROGRAMME 2017-18

The County Council was currently consulting Town and Parish Councils regarding their top three priorities for consideration for inclusion in the Local Transport Plan for next year and had supplied a copy of the directory of requests received for traffic schemes around the town.

It was anticipated that the three schemes put forward for the current year would be completed shortly. Of the 25 scheme suggestions many related to speeding traffic matters and Members discussed the possibility of requesting the implementation of a 20 mph limit for the whole town rather than approaching each estate individually and there were issues on the main street itself. The merits of individual schemes were considered and three agreed as priority while enquiries were made regarding the speed limit. In connection with crossing the road near De Baliol Care home it was considered that the redundant crossing lights further up Woodhorn Road could be relocated.

It was RESOLVED that:

- i) A town-wide 20 mph speed limit and moving the Woodhorn Road pedestrian crossing lights be investigated;
- ii) Footpath improvements at Spital Farm; Central Park Way entrance crossing; Sea Crest Road parking restrictions were agreed as the next priority schemes.

C028/16 PROVISION OF DEFIBRILLATOR

Further information had been supplied concerning the provision and location of a Defibrillator on the wall of the Maritime Centre to be available at all times. Its value was £3,000 and insurance cover for loss or damage would be investigated.

RESOLVED that: the Town Council accept the donation of the Defibrillator and arrange insurance cover if possible.

C029/16 INFORMATION

Matters concerning the enhanced services and the alternatives were being investigated for the cost of cutting the grass slops which had been suspended for safety reasons The Chairman advised of meetings arranged with Arch and Persimmon Homes regarding development proposals.

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